New York City College of Technology, CUNY

CURRICULUM MODIFICATION PROPOSAL FORM

This form is used for all curriculum modification proposals. See the [Proposal Classification Chart](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/collegecouncil/files/2014/08/2013-10-09-Proposal_Classification_Chart.pdf) for information about what types of modifications are major or minor. Completed proposals should be emailed to the Curriculum Committee chair.

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| **Title of Proposal** | Minor in Theatre Studies |
| **Date** | September 21, 2020 |
| **Major or Minor** | Minor |
| **Proposer’s Name** | Christopher Swift |
| **Department** | Humanities |
| **Date of Departmental Meeting in which proposal was approved** | October 1, 2020 |
| **Department Chair Name** | Ann Delilkan |
| **Department Chair Signature and Date** | 10-5-20 |
| **Academic Dean Name** | Justin Vazquez-Poritz |
| **Academic Dean Signature and Date** | **10/5/20** |
| **Brief Description of Proposal**  (Describe the modifications contained within this proposal in a succinct summary. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body. | Proposing the creation of a 12 credit Minor in Theatre Studies using existing courses. |
| **Brief Rationale for Proposal**  (Provide a concise summary of why this proposed change is important to the department. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body). | The Theatre Studies Minor Degree is housed in the Humanities department and includes coursework from African American Studies, Communication, Entertainment Technology, English, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Theatre. The program is a 12-credit minor undergraduate degree offered to all City Tech students. The minor is designed to provide students with a robust introduction to the discipline as it is articulated through dramatic texts, history, and performance studies. The interdisciplinary program provides students an opportunity for intellectual and creative exploration of humanities subjects that will round out their undergraduate experience in professional and technological studies. The core and elective courses of the minor fulfill many general education requirements, including the Common Core, as well as Writing Intensive and Interdisciplinary courses. A Theatre Studies minor will add depth and focus to the general education path for students. It will also offer options for alternative career and academic paths to those who seek to work in the arts and entertainment. |
| **Proposal History**  (Please provide history of this proposal: is this a resubmission? An updated version? This may most easily be expressed as a list). | This is the initial submission of this minor curriculum modification proposal. |

Please include all appropriate documentation as indicated in the Curriculum Modification Checklist.

For each new course, please also complete the New Course Proposal and submit in this document.

Please submit this document as a single .doc or .rtf format. If some documents are unable to be converted to .doc, then please provide all documents archived into a single .zip file.

**ALL PROPOSAL CHECK LIST**

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| --- | --- |
| Completed CURRICULUM MODIFICATION FORM including: |  |
| * Brief description of proposal | X |
| * Rationale for proposal | X |
| * Date of department meeting approving the modification | X |
| * Chair’s Signature | X |
| * Dean’s Signature | X |
| Evidence of consultation with affected departments  List of the programs that use this course as required or elective, and courses that use this as a prerequisite. | X |
| Documentation of Advisory Commission views (if applicable). |  |
| Completed [Chancellor’s Report Form](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/collegecouncil/files/2014/08/2013-10-09-Chancellor_Report_Quick_Reference_Guide1.doc). |  |

**EXISTING PROGRAM MODIFICATION PROPOSALS**

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| --- | --- |
| Documentation indicating core curriculum requirements have been met for new programs/options or program changes. |  |
| Detailed rationale for each modification (this includes minor modifications) |  |

**Draft Proposal for a Minor in Theatre Studies Sponsored by Humanities Department**

Minor Curriculum Modification

**Rationale**

Each of the eleven Senior Colleges within CUNY grants a wide range of minors, and City Tech currently grants one minor in Applied Computational Physics. A working group of the General Education Committee has recently recommended that City Tech students would be best served by the creation of new minors offering students from various majors and departments the possibility supplementing their major curriculum with an additional area of focus.

The Theatre Studies Minor Degree is housed in the Humanities department and includes coursework from African American Studies, Communication, Entertainment Technology, English, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Theatre. The program is a 12-credit minor undergraduate degree offered to all City Tech students. The minor is designed to provide students with a robust introduction to the discipline as it is articulated through dramatic texts, history, and performance studies. The interdisciplinary program provides students an opportunity for intellectual and creative exploration of humanities subjects that will round out their undergraduate experience in professional and technological studies. The core and elective courses of the minor fulfill many general education requirements, including the Common Core, as well as Writing Intensive and Interdisciplinary courses. A Theatre Studies minor will add depth and focus to the general education path for students. It will also offer options for alternative career and academic paths to those who seek to work in the arts and entertainment.

The minor offers students in Liberal Arts and Arts and Liberal Arts and Sciences a curated set of courses that lay the foundation for further work in the theater discipline at the baccalaureate level. LAA students with a Theatre Studies minor will be better informed about a potential CUNY Baccalaureate degree in Theater. Students enrolled in the LAS degree with a Theatre Studies minor will be better prepared when applying to 4-year programs at City Tech or other CUNY colleges. The minor provides a direct onramp to two existing bachelor’s degree programs at City Tech—Entertainment Technology and Emerging Media—and the degree would significantly enhance the learning outcomes in both programs. There are also excellent theatre programs at other CUNY colleges at the baccalaureate level for transferring students with Associates degrees, and masters and Ph.D. theatre degrees for further academic pursuits, which include Brooklyn College, Hunter College, CCNY, Queens, and the Graduate Center. It is not a coincidence that some of the most well-regarded Theatre programs in the country are in New York City, the home of Broadway theatre and dozens of established non-profit companies. There are many career paths that start at the doorsteps of New York City theatres—dramaturgy, playwriting, directing, stage management, design, technical theatre, and interactive media—and these areas are introduced to students in the Theatre Studies minor.

A strong, cohesive program in Theatre Studies complements major degrees in technology and professional studies at City Tech. For students enrolled in Architectural Technology, Nursing, Law and Paralegal Studies, Health Communication, Hospitality Management, Human Services, Emerging Media, Professional and Technical Writing, Dental Hygiene, Education, Business and Technology of Fashion, Entertainment Technology, Construction Management Technology and Biomedical Informatics degrees at City Tech, a Theatre Studies minor offers a collateral liberal arts program that will help students achieve their professional goals. The degree complements these major programs at City Tech by significantly reinforcing skills in communication, collaboration, and creativity, competencies that are sought by employers in the professional world. The minor offers interdisciplinary courses and is interdisciplinary itself, and so students will engage with a variety of approaches and scholarly conversations on performance topics, heightening their skills in critical thinking and writing. As a collaborative art form, working in the theatre fosters collegiality, cooperation, and productive interactivity, skills that are fundamental to the successful completion of higher education degrees and functioning in the professional world.

Crucially, a Theatre Studies program will engender new extracurricular communities, strong networks of support, and stages for individual expression for students at our commuter college.

The nature of human interaction—in all its historical and cultural specificities—resides at the core of the theatre discipline, where the values and practices of empathy, acceptance, and collaboration are fostered. A minor in Theatre Studies aligns with the College Mission, to provide multidisciplinary education to a diverse urban population, while enhancing the overall undergraduate experience with creative opportunities.

**Description of the Proposed Minor**

The minor requires three core courses, one each in performance, theatre history, and dramatic literature, and one elective in a related field. The minor allows students flexibility within each core area to select courses that appeal to them. THE 2180 (Introduction to Theatre) will be an important course for developing interest in the minor, since it is first in the sequence and typically runs three sections each semester. AFR 1321 (Black Theatre) will also be an excellent gateway course into the discipline, introducing students to the essential elements of the discipline through the lens of the Black experience and performative engagement with social issues in the United States. As well, students from Entertainment Technology who are specializing in theatre technology will be encouraged to enroll in the minor and will be able to apply their ENT 1100 credits towards Theatre Studies minor elective. A few courses in the core curriculum do not have prerequisites (COM 1340, AFR 1321, and ENT 1100), therefore students should be able to declare and begin working on minor courses as soon as their first semester.

The courses that comprise the core curriculum of the Theatre minor all have a singular disciplinary focus on live theatre. The three brackets from which students select their core courses are organized thematically. Group 1 includes introductory courses that engage students with performance studies, broadly conceived; the courses in Group 2 are theatre history courses; and Group 3 courses engage with dramatic texts. Electives either include interdisciplinary studies (THE/LAW 3000, ID), involve learning in areas that include but extend beyond theatre (ENT 1100 and ENG 1143), or employ theoretical methodologies shared among multiple disciplines (AFR 2000 and ENG2180).

A minor in Theatre Studies will be available to students in major programs with 12 or more credits available in General Education Flexible Common Core and College Option Requirements. Students should be advised by their major departments as to how to how to take minor courses in a way that would help fulfill their contributory credits. A member of the Humanities department designated as the program director/point person will conduct advising for the minor. Theatre faculty will serve as advisors of the Theater Club. Faculty from any of the four participating departments can mentor students and help them organize internships in the profession or independent production at college. As the degree continues to develop, concept-to-production events will emerge from coursework in writing and design, where faculty may mentor performance initiatives through independent studies for credit and Emerging Scholars project funding.

**Required and Elective Courses for the Minor**

Students choose one course from each of the three groupings below, plus an additional course from the list of electives or a fourth core course. Students must earn a C or better in all minor course work in order to be granted a minor designation on their transcripts.

**CORE COURSES (choose one from each group)**

Group 1: Performance

THE 1180: Theories of Acting (CE)\*

AFR 1321: Black Theatre (CE)

THE 2180: Introduction to Theater (CE)

Group 2: Theatre History

THE 2280: History of the Theatre: Stages and Technology (CE) (ID)\*

THE 2280: History of the Theatre: Stages and Technology (CE)

THE 3280: American Musical Theatre (USED)\*

Group 3: Dramatic Texts

ENG 2002: Introduction to Literature II: Drama (CE)

THE 2380: Play Analysis: Texts and Contexts (CE) (WI)\*

**ELECTIVES (choose one)**

AFR 2000: Blacks in Media: Race, Gender & Cultural Representations (IS)\*

ENT 1100: Introduction to Entertainment Technology (WI)

ENG 2180: Studies is Identity and Orientation (USED)

COM 1340: Oral Interpretation of Literature (CE)

ENG 1143: Writing for Screen and Stage (WI)

THE/LAW 3000 Interdisciplinary: Theatre of Law (ID)

\*CE = Creative Expression, Common Core  
\*IS = Individual and Society, Common Core

\*USED = US Experience in its Diversity, Common Core

\*WI = Writing Intensive

\*ID = Interdisciplinary

**Programmatic Learning Outcomes**

 Students will:

* Identify the unique nature of dramatic form and the human needs from which it springs
* Communicate a working knowledge of key concepts in drama, performance studies, and theatre history
* Critically apply performance theories to contemporary and historical examples in order to deepen understanding of the ways in which class, gender, race, politics, economics, and ideology informs theatrical expression and audience response
* Use knowledge about historical information from distinct cultures and societies to contextualize written and visual primary and secondary evidence
* Demonstrate the ability to connect scholarly inquiry about theatre and performance studies to technological and professional contexts

**From:** Marta Effinger  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** Christopher Swift; Ann Delilkan  
**Cc:** Justin Vazquez-Poritz  
**Subject:** Re: Theatre Minor

Dear Drs. Delikan and Swift,

It is my pleasure to offer support for the Minor Liberal Arts Degree in Theatre. I am confident this Minor will provide CityTech students across the disciplines with valuable opportunities in and beyond New York City. My instruction and creative/scholarly projects largely center Black theater and performance. Therefore, I join you in your efforts to continue to provide CityTech students with a focused and robust study of performance, theatre history, and dramatic literature.

(I am now looking for the next dramaturg, the next director of theatre education, the next scenic designer, and so on and so on!)

Warmest regards,

Dr. Effinger-Crichlow

Marta Effinger-Crichlow, PhD

Chair, Professor, and AFR 1321: Black Theater Course Coordinator

African American Studies

meffinger@citytech.cuny.edu

718.260.5205

*she/her/hers*

*We are on the Land of the Lenape*

**From:** Robert Leston  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** Ann Delilkan; Christopher Swift  
**Cc:** Justin Vazquez-Poritz  
**Subject:** Re: Theatre Minor

Hi Ann,

Our faculty have reviewed the proposal and have expressed no concerns. We wish you all the best moving forward. Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review.

Robert Lestón, Ph.D.

English Department Chair

Associate Professor of English

New York City College of Technology, CUNY

English Department

Namm 512

300 Jay Street

Brooklyn, NY 11216

**From:** John McCullough  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 3:18 PM  
**To:** Christopher Swift  
**Cc:** Ann Delilkan; Justin Vazquez-Poritz  
**Subject:** Re: Theatre Minor Proposal

Chris,

This looks promising. I'd be happy to talk with you about it. Next week Wednesday and Thursday between 2pm and 5pm look good for me. Will one of those days work for you?

-John

John McCullough

Associate Professor/Technical Supervisor

Entertainment Technology Department - Chair

New York City College of Technology

ETCP Certified Rigger-Theatre