Department/Program  Theatre Department

1)  Have formal learning outcomes for the department’s Core courses been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect students completing its Core courses to have acquired?)
   a.  To serve the University as a Fine Arts Core requirement
      i.  New proposed description of University Arts Core:

      “The critically engaged practice and study of the arts, arrived at through rigorous training, uniquely nurtures creativity and innovation. The arts are integral to human experience and expression, the development of critical interpretive skills, an understanding of creative processes, and the fostering of imagination and empathy. Anchored in experimentation and creative problem-solving, the arts challenge students to make connections across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

      Three credits of coursework in art history, studio art, film, music or theater are required and will address some combination of the following criteria: students will acquire a greater understanding of the technical skills required to create works of art, students will gain knowledge of the aesthetic questions raised by works of art, and students will understand the historical contexts in which such works were created. As a result students will be able to engage meaningfully with art through creative work and/or to articulate their understanding of art in oral and written expression.”

   b.  Departmental goals: To serve the Theatre Department and its needs
      i.  To inform students about the value and nature of theatre in and of itself in the hope that they will be able to enjoy theatre in the future; it is also to encourage them as playgoers and future supporters of the arts in general.
      ii. To learn to approach variety of types of plays from a theatre perspective analytically, introduce students to the fundamentals of theatre practice, all with an eye toward providing a foundation upon which more advanced theatre classes can be built.
      iii. To build an audience for our own Theatre Department productions via Intro student attendance at our productions.
      iv. To encourage non-theatre students to take additional theatre courses here, perhaps even consider pursuing theatre as a major or minor.

2)  Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific. (Where are the department’s expected learning outcomes for its Core courses accessible: on the web, in the catalog, or in your department handouts?)

    www.bc.edu/core for university goals

These Core Theatre Department outcomes are not published and are being re-examined by the department in the coming year along with evaluating the new pilot core classes.
Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether students have achieved the stated outcomes for the Core requirement? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes have been achieved more or less well?)

A survey was sent to the Introduction to Theater classes at the end of the Spring Semester. The questions address the core objectives for the arts. The results of this survey for 2016 are as follows. (The response rate was approximately 50% of all the students in all sections of the Introduction to Theatre Classes for a total of 156 surveys completed. There were also 8 responses from Devising Theater, Scott Cummings new Core course pilot. Approximately 50% response rate overall.)

Responses:
1. Were you exposed to the art form of Theatre and the methods with which it is created?
   - Definitely 123 79% (88% 2015) 8 100%
   - Somewhat 26 17%
   - Not at all 5 3%
   - no answer 2

2. Do you think that you are now able to have an intelligent discussion about theater and its practice?
   - Definitely 71 46% (65% 2015) 5 62%
   - Somewhat 74 47% 3 38%
   - Not at all 11 7%

3. Are you able to discern how theatre has been used through history to both teach and entertain its audience?
   - Definitely 116 74% (81% 2015) 2 25%
   - Somewhat 35 22% 6 75%
   - Not at all 5 3%

4. Do you feel your theater study has enhanced your awareness of the human experience?
   - Definitely 48 31% (54% 2015) 7 88%
   - Somewhat 80 51% 1 12%
   - Not at all 28 18%

5. Were you introduced to new concepts and methods of artistic expression through exposure to theater and theatrical practice?
   - Definitely 110 71% (85% 2015) 8 100%
   - Somewhat 36 23%
   - Not at all 10 6%

6. Do you feel you better understand how quality theater is produced?
   - Definitely 112 72% (80% 2015) 7 88%
   - Somewhat 33 21% 1 12%
   - Not at all 11 7%

7. Do you feel your theater study has enhanced your awareness of your own culture and other cultures unlike your own?
   - Definitely 57 37% (57% 2015) 4 50%
   - Somewhat 76 49% 3 38%
   - Not at all 23 15% 1 12%
8. Are you more likely now to see a play than before you took this class?
   - Definitely 68 44% (63% 2015) 4 50%
   - Somewhat 59 38% 2 25%
   - Not at all 28 18% 1 13%
   - no answer 1 12%

9. Do you feel you have gained new skills that help you creatively solve problems?
   - Definitely 32 21% (new question) 4 50%
   - Somewhat 55 35% 2 25%
   - Not at all 69 44%
   - no answer 1

10. Have you found any connection between the Theater Core course and other disciplines on campus?
    - Definitely 44 28% (new question) 7 88%
    - Somewhat 73 47% 1 12%
    - Not at all 39 25%

11. Which class were you enrolled in this past semester? (new question)
    - Devising Theater 8
    - Intro to Theater 147
    - no answer 1

12. Would you have taken this course if it did not fulfill the Core requirement? (new question)
    - yes 15 10% 4 50%
    - no 100 64% 1 12%
    - maybe 41 26% 3 38%

13. How do you feel about what you have learned in this course? (new question)
    - Very satisfied 82 8 100%
    - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 62
    - Dissatisfied 11
    - no answer 1

4) **Who interprets the evidence? What is the process?** (Who in the department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum or assignment changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

The survey will be given at the end of each semester. (This past year it was only sent at the end of the Spring term.) The Chairperson and the Assistant Chairperson will evaluate the data at the end of the academic year. If changes are warranted, they will be discussed with all of the teachers of the core courses (*Introduction to Theater THTR1170; Dramatic Structure and Theatrical Practice THTR1172;* and *Elements of Dance*THTR1120) at the beginning of the academic year or earlier if necessary.
Results:

- Questions 3, 4, 5, & 7 address the student’s enhancement of the human experience in a variety of ways. These questions also address awareness of and sensitivity to the role of theater in the formation and expression of a culture, the third point in the learning objectives.
  - Over 80% of the students feel they have definitely or somewhat enhanced their awareness of the human experience and culture while only 18% or less feel they did not become more aware at all.
  - 96% of the students felt they definitely or somewhat gained knowledge of theater through history.
  - 94% felt they were introduced to theatrical methods of artistic expression.

- Questions 1, 2, 3, 6, & 8 addresses sensitivity to the theatrical craft and skills.
  - Students overwhelming agreed that they were exposed to theater as an art form but have less confidence about their ability to discuss it intelligently.
  - They clearly understand its historical significance.
  - 82% said they were more likely to see a play again in the future because of this class.

- Eight students responded to the survey from the new pilot core course, Devising Theater. Since the number was so small, many differences in percentages from the Intro to Theatre class are not statistically significant. The main variations are not a surprise due to the intentions of this class. The Devising Theater class felt they connected with other disciplines on campus and learned how to solve problems creatively at a significantly higher rate. However, there was much less emphasis on learning the history of theater and that is reflected in their answers.

It is the consensus of the Chair, Crystal Tiala, and the Assistant Chair, Luke Jorgensen, that these are very positive results. We are not recommending changes at the current time. The Theatre Department is also heavily invested in the Core Renewal project. Scott Cummings taught Devising Theater to a class of 19. Luke Jorgensen and Crystal Tiala will be teaching complex problems courses next year (Performing Politics and Can Creativity Save the World) that will have enrollments of 76 students each. Patricia Riggin and John Houchin have both expressed interest in developing more pilot courses. If Patricia and John are accepted into the program it would mean 5 out of 8 full time faculty would be involved in the Core Renewal project. We would like to see the outcomes of those courses before we make any changes in our current system.

These results will be shared with all teachers of the core in Theater and their feedback will be encouraged.