

SIMPSON COLLEGE
2010 MAY TERM OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL COURSE PROPOSAL

Date: 1-9-09

Completed forms should be submitted to the Office of International Education no later than Jan. 15, 2009 for international travel courses and no later February 17, 2009 for domestic travel courses.

Name of proposer(s):

Steven Mclean

Department(s):

Theatre

Please check one of the following:

INTERNATIONAL Off-Campus Travel Course

DOMESTIC Off-Campus Travel Course

I. Course Information

A. Course number, if course has been offered previously:

THTR 197/HUM 197

B. Course title:

(Note: The name of the place of study should appear in the title)

Theatre, Arts and Culture in Great Britain

C. Transcript Course Title (max. 21 characters):

Theatre in Great Britain

D. Course level (100/200/300): What is the rationale for offering the course at this level?

100 Level: Though content-specific knowledge of Theatre, Theatre History, and the Culture and Arts of Great Britain might be useful, the objectives and content of the course are scalable so that while they might gain different levels of understandings of their experiences, both the neophyte and the student with solid foundation in theatre and the arts in great Britain will have equal opportunity to gain knowledge and insight from the course content.

E. Minimum enrollment:

(For 1 instructor, must be at least 10 students; for 2 instructors, must be at least 20 students.)

If proposed minimum is less than the requirement, provide a rationale for receiving variance.

12

F. Maximum enrollment:

25

II. Course Description

A. Course goals and objectives: Given that Simpson May Term Off-Campus Travel Courses aim to provide students with an active learning curriculum that integrates a rigorous academic program with experiential immersion activities, please outline the learning objectives for your course.

- To introduce students to British Theatre and to appreciate the variety of forms formats and venues that it is produced in,
- To travel to Edinburgh, Scotland, London and Stratford, England for firsthand experience with the history and culture that gave rise to rich traditions of contemporary theatrical production
- To introduce students to the modes and challenges of international travel and to the vitality of a major metropolitan city.
- To attend and share response to theatre produced on Edinburgh, London & Stratford stages.
- To heighten and enrich the student's understanding of and aesthetic response to theatre.
- To strengthen and further the student's earlier study of performance and production topics, including: theatre history, play analysis, acting, directing, production and design.
- To expand the cultural and aesthetic awareness of the student.

B. Rationale for the course: Please explain how the course fits in with your department and/or the college's curriculum.

Students from the Midwest generally have lived a sheltered life; and while often curious and interested in travel and embracing new experiences outside of their comfort zones, tend to have a reluctance to do so independently. This course offers any student the opportunity to engage in foreign travel in a "safe" manner with the intention of fanning that interest in exploring the world and modeling strategies for doing so in the hopes that the experience will enable them to seek out or create future travel opportunities in an independent manner.

Theatre students with a Midwestern background have a tendency to be likewise sheltered. They often have the desire to experience the glorious variety of theatrical styles, but often are hampered by the perception that the quality and variety of theatrical experience available to them is lacking. It is true that much immediate community theatre is often lacking in aesthetic variety and quality; the higher quality community and touring theatre can become prohibitively expensive. Consequently, many of our students haven't been exposed to as much theatre as they should be in order to become informed and responsive theatrical artists. This course is also designed to give students an opportunity to sample a variety of theatrical styles and venues in the context of a major metropolitan environment.

While the culture of Great Britain is closely related to that of the United States, it is quite different in so many small but significant ways. From accent, to the use of language to customs and even to the side of the road that they drive on, the culture of Great Britain can be extremely foreign to the Midwestern mind. Nor is Great Britain the monolithic society that one might imagine it to be. Regional differences abound and can be extreme. Differences can be discerned from the significance placed upon events, and how the stories of those events are presented and the emphasis details in the telling. Likewise, within a region such as London, diversity abounds. Within a stone's throw of the affluent banking district, Muslim populations seethe with unrest in blocks first settled by Jewish immigrants. This course is also, therefore, intended to expose the students to the nuances of such diversity with an eye toward a greater appreciation and a more accurate and informed worldview.

C. In-country activities: Describe how the planned immersion activities (these could include home stays, service learning opportunities, interviews with locals, Q & A sessions with local guest lecturers/speakers, etc.) will be integrated into educational goals of the course.

In-country activities:

Theatrical Production:

Students will attend approximately 12 theatrical events in a variety of places, venues, etc. These will include:
2 or more performances at London's National Theatre.

This is a major state-subsidized theatre with excellent production aesthetic and is a good value.

2 or more performances on London's West End

This is the theatrical equivalent of a major Broadway production and may include productions that have transferred to Broadway already or productions that could reasonably be expected to transfer at a later time.

1 performance at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London

This company performs in a reconstruction of the outdoor Elizabethan era Globe theatre and stages with a varied and interesting modern aesthetic.

2 or more performances of London's "Fringe" theatre.

This is the theatrical equivalent of an Off-Broadway production. There are several critically acclaimed producing organizations that produce theatre that falls in this classification.

2 or more performances in Stratford-upon-Avon by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

This is also a major state-subsidized theatre with excellent production aesthetic and has the added of cache of producing theatre in the town in which Shakespeare was born and lived much of his life.

1 theatrical performance at Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum.

Hopefully to include an original production by this outstanding Regional theatre company.

1 or "variety show" performed at a Celiedh dinner in Edinburgh

This is a decidedly "Scottish" cultural event featuring song and dance by exceptional artists.

Additional theatrical performances as available and affordable.

Attendance at these productions provide the primary raison' d'être for the trip is to attend theatre in Great Britain. Students will be very familiar with one or more of the productions (having been required to read it and having discussed it before the trip) Students will be required to discuss their reactions to the production during post-production group discussion sessions and will be required to include reflections upon their theatrical attendance experiences in their journals.

Other Theatrical Immersion Activities:

Visit the Theatrical Museum in London

Take a backstage tour of the National Theatre in London

Attend a tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London

Attend a workshop lead by one of the professionals at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London

Attend a Q & A session with a professional from one of the Fringe or other productions that we attend.

These activities will provide perspective and deeper understanding of Theatre in general and in Great Britain specifically. They all will help to inform and enrich theatrical productions that the students will attend. .

Students will be required to reflect upon these experiences in their journals and some students will likely prepare presentations and papers on one of these sites or activities.

Other Cultural and Tourist activities:

Guided coach tour of Edinburgh

Kilted-guide tour of Edinburgh Castle

Coach tour of Trossachs

Visit Hadrian's Wall site

Guided coach tour of London

Guided walking tour of London's Theatre district

Opportunity to attend Evensong at Westminster Abbey

Guided tour of St Paul's Cathedral

Directed self-tour of London Museum

Directed self-tour of Tate Modern Gallery

Directed self-tour of Tower of London

Guided Jack the Ripper walk (guided by established "Ripper" expert)

Directed self-tour of Stonehenge

Directed self-tour of Roman Baths and/or Jane Austin's House in Bath

Directed self-tour of Shakespeare sites including: Birthplace, Ann Hathaway's Cottage and Mary Arden's House & working Elizabethan farm

Directed self-tour of Warwick Castle

These activities provide students with exposure to a variety of historical and cultural touch-points to inform their experience and to somewhat satisfy the punch-list of must-see "tourist" icons. Students will be required to reflect upon these experiences in their journals and some students will likely prepare presentations and papers on one of these sites or activities.

Lodgings & Meals:

Edinburgh lodging will be in small hotel style accommodations with included "Scottish breakfast"

London lodging will be in student style residential accommodation

Stratford will be in small B & B style accommodation with included "English breakfast"

The variety of accommodation is chosen for a combination of affordability and the opportunity to expose students to a variety of accommodation styles

D. Required course assignments and evaluation

1. Explain specific course requirements and indicate when they would occur (e.g., P=during the on-campus spring semester prep course, O=off-campus, and D=during the de-briefing portion of the off-campus experience; it's possible that some assignments will happen in all of the periods, e.g., Readings could be P-O-D)

- a. Participation: 40%

P: Participation in the preparatory orientation sessions will be mandatory and will include physical attendance as well as successfully meeting deadlines for the various paperwork submissions.

O: Participation in all scheduled on-travel activities will be mandatory and will include attitude, cooperativeness and attentiveness.

- b. Readings (please specify what these will be): 10%

P: Students will read one or more of the plays included in the itinerary
(the exact play(s) will be determined once the available productions are established)

c. Journal reflections: 40%

O: Students will maintain a journal that includes reflections on each visit or scheduled activity.

D: These journals will be due on the return flight and will be available for student retrieval during a de-brief period on the last day of May Term.

d. Exams

None

e. Papers/Presentations/Field reports, etc.: 10%

P: Students will research, write a short 3-page paper and make a presentation to the class concerning locations, venues and other experiences that are either scheduled itinerary events or those that could be taken as optional independent events (time permitting)

f. Other assignments

None

2. Approximately what percentage will each of the above course requirements contribute toward the final course grade?

See Above

E. Catalog course description of about 100 words which includes a statement of expected course work (papers, exams, journal writing, presentations, etc.)

This travel course will combine opportunities to visit many important historical sites in Western culture with opportunities to experience many theatrical performances by important British companies and performers. Students will investigate Edinburgh, Scotland and London, Stratford and Bath in England. Included will be professionally guided tours of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Castle, London and the Covent Garden Theatre area and Shakespeare's New Globe theatre and the "Ripper" district of London. Also included will be visitations to St Paul's Cathedral, London Museum, Tate Modern, National Portrait Gallery and Victoria & Albert Museum, Tower of London, Stonehenge, Bath, and Warwick Castle. Theatrical events will include performances and/or tours of the following: Shakespeare's New Globe Theatre, The Royal National Theatre, Theatrical Museum (London), The Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare's Birthplace and Museum and associated sites (Stratford) and the Royal Lyceum Theatre and Prestonfield Ceildeh (Edinburgh). Additional performances will be taken in at other important venues in London and elsewhere. Students will have ample free time in London and Edinburgh for individual exploration relative the student's personal interests. Students will research and present reports on one of these sites in advance of the experience and will maintain a reflective journal with entries related to each of the required activities.

F. Are there prerequisites for this course? No

If yes, please list them and briefly provide a rationale.

III. Other Information

A. Has this course been offered in a previous May Terms? Yes

If yes, please indicate *when* it was offered and the approximate enrollment.

Last offered 2008 enrollment 30 (2 faculty)

Also offered 2006: enrollment 19 (1 faculty)

Also offered 2004: enrollment 14 (1 faculty)

Also offered 2002 (T Woldt): enrollment 20 (2 adults)

Also offered 2000: enrollment 31 (2 faculty)

Offered approximately every-other year from mid 1980s through 2000 with enrollment of 12-20 each time

B. Department(s) in which credit is to be awarded:

Theatre (traditionally cross-listed as Humanities)

C. If this course will meet requirements for a departmental major or minor, please explain briefly:

Not at this time

D. Proposed dates of the travel course, including dates you anticipate being abroad:

(Note: It is highly recommended that the group should depart no earlier than Sat., May 1, 2010, and should return no later than Thurs., May 20, 2010.)

Mon. May 3, 2010- Thurs. May 20, 2010

E. Proposed location(s) and how the site location(s) relate to the core objectives of the course:

London: The density of theatrical activity and the public support of arts in general and theatre in particular make it arguably one of the most vibrant centers of theatrical production worldwide. Steeped in history (theatrical and otherwise) and culture, London is a very rich, exciting and non-threatening city in which young Midwesterners can explore an important culture very close to and inextricably related to our own. "Monuments" to important historical events abound as well as to important cultural milestones.

Stratford: Shakespeare's birthplace is the "Mecca" of western theatres. In addition to sites important to Shakespeare's legacy, a very rich tradition of theatre found its place there and has continued from the 1800s through today.

Edinburgh: Theatre is also vibrant in this cultural center. It has a long tradition of touring theatre and its homegrown theatre has a "Scottish" twist quite unlike that usually found further south in England. Edinburgh, too, is steeped in history with many historic, cultural and literary connections. The contrast between Edinburgh and London is pronounced and interesting and manifests itself clearly in the culture.

F. Indicate your level of familiarity with the site(s) visited during the course.

I am very familiar with all of the sites that will be itinerary stops on the trip (having been to them one or more times on past trips).

G. Will the off-campus component of this course require a significant amount of physical exertion on the part of the course participants? On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being little physical exertion and 5 being a tremendous amount of physical exertion, please rate the anticipated activities related to this course. Do you anticipate that the course activities would pose any significant challenges for someone with physical disabilities?

All three major destinations Edinburgh, London and Stratford are physically demanding places to visit. The topography of Edinburgh involves a lot of hills, London requires much walking and the public transportation (especially Tubes) involve much climbing up & down stairs as do the subways (the underground passages from one side of a street to another) that are frequently the best ways to cross busy streets. Theatres are often older with less-than-ideal access to the moderately priced and less coveted seating that we frequently have for performances owing to budgetary and late booking (within 3 months of performance date) that we often must be satisfied with.

Students with poor fitness are often quite discomfited by the level of exertion necessary. Someone with physical infirmity requiring wheelchairs or other appliance might find the challenges overwhelming

On a scale of 1-5 with 1 indicating no or little exertion commensurate with riding a tram around Disney-World and 5 being equivalent to scaling mountains in Peru to visit Andean ruins, I would rate the trip as a 3 or a 3 1/2

V. Proposed Budget for the Course
(A more precise estimate is not due to the OIE until September 7, 2009)

First, estimate expenses for instructor(s) and course assistant(s), if any, (in total, not per student)

Air transportation	\$ 1300
In-country transportation	\$525
Lodging	\$900
Meals Stipend & provided meals	\$800
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$500
Any necessary entry visas (ID Card)	\$ 25
Misc.	\$0
Other (explain): Tips	\$50
Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses	\$4,100

Assuming a \$1.80=£1.00 exchange rate

Next, estimate the cost per student, based upon the minimum enrollment number (12) from page 1 of this document:

Air transportation	\$ 1300
In-country transportation	\$525
Lodging	\$900
Meals	\$800
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$500
Honorariums	\$
Tips	\$50
Int'l Student I.D. card is now optional, \$25 each if desired	\$ 25
SC Study Abroad Program Fee	\$100
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Contingency fund (\$100 recommended)	\$100
Other (explain):	\$
Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$4300

Finally, divide the "Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses" by "the minimum enrollment number () from page 1 of this document" to get a "per student instructor cost." Then add

Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$4300
+ per student instructor cost	\$342
= Total per student cost	\$4642

Additional expenses not covered by the program for which students need to budget:

For example, passport @ \$100, books, meals, immunizations, trip cancellation insurance, etc.

Passport, Books Souvenirs, Beverages/snacks, Personal expenses \$300 -\$1000

Total estimated additional expenses not covered by the course: **\$300 -\$1000**

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Div. Head approval: _____ Date: _____
(division of the instructor)

Div. Head approval: _____ Date: _____
(division of the instructor)