

Thinking Globally Rationale

The Theatre Arts Department seeks “Thinking Globally” approval for a new course in its curriculum, Global Theatre, to be taught by Professor John Blondell. The course has full endorsement of Chair of the Theatre Arts Department, Mitchell Thomas, and has been approved by the Academic Senate Review Committee.

Please find the appropriate documents in support of this proposal, including an annotated syllabus that course activities, readings, projects that follow Thinking Globally certification criteria and outcomes. Global Theatre is important to the department, and will be important to Westmont’s General Education program. The course represents the changes in Global Theatre practice over the last 25 years or so, melds disciplinary study within a Christian context, provides great opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange and engagement, and presents theatre as both product and force in global interconnectivity, expression, and transformation.

The course will be taught by Professor John Blondell, the recently appointed Global Ambassador for the Performing Arts at Westmont. Professor Blondell has as 20-year career in directing Global Theatre experiences, has recently directed in Kazakhstan, Armenia, and North Macedonia; and recently taught at the Skene Centre in Verona, which is an important European center of Global Theatre Research and Scholarship.

One Caveat: At present, a Global Christianity text has not been decided upon. Professor Blondell has sought advice and recommendations from two members of the Religious Studies Department, but has yet to hear back from his colleagues. The syllabus will be amended according with the text/readings suggested or recommended for the unique dimensions of the course.

Sincerely,



John Blondell