

## Sabbatical Leave Application (2021-2022)

NOTE: If submitting two plans, you are required to submit two separate applications titled Plan A and Plan B. If submitting a second application because you are unsure the first one will work out, please title your preferred application, Plan A and the second application, Plan B.

Email address \*

wgunn@miracosta.edu

### PART I - Signature Page

A hard copy with signatures to be submitted to the SLC Administrative Assistant separately. Download and print the Signature page here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jntUnjYo3ohXCkxS6JBpgM3hJmArMbm/view?usp=sharing>

Name \*

William Gunn

Department \*

Theatre and Film

Date Submitted: \*

MM DD YYYY

09 / 21 / 2020

Full-time Hire Date (semester and year): \*

Fall 2014

Academic School year of sabbatical leave requested (for example: 2019-2020): \*

2021-2022

Select the period of sabbatical leave requested: \*

- One semester
- One-year at 50% compensation (do not include unbanking)
- Variable (approval of Superintendent/President required prior to submission of application).

Indicate semester of preference \*

- Fall
- Spring

Date of proposed return to full-time service (if unbanking):

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Prior to submitting your application, perform the following steps. Check off each one to acknowledge that you have: \*

- Step 1: Notify your Department Chairperson (or equivalent) of your intent to request a sabbatical leave, giving him/her the opportunity to consider staffing, budgets, previous evaluations and other issues.
- Step 2: Notify your Dean (or equivalent) of your intent to request
- Step 3: Notify your Vice President (or equivalent) of your intent to request a sabbatical leave, giving him/her the opportunity to consider staffing, budgets, previous evaluations, SLO assessment calendar, and other issues.
- Step 4: Submit a hard copy of Sabbatical Leave Application Signature Page with original signatures to SLC Administrative Secretary prior to deadline. SLC will review applications and make recommendations for revisions.

## PART II - Abstract of Sabbatical Leave Application

Check the type of sabbatical leave: \*

- Advanced Academic Studies (Select Advanced Academic Studies only if all 12 semester/18 quarter units are upper division/graduate credit. Otherwise, choose Self-directed studies.):
- Self-directed studies

Abstract: In the box below, clearly state the purpose(s) of the proposed sabbatical leave (try to keep the abstract 200 words or less). \*

The purposes of my proposed sabbatical leave include: (1) discipline-specific academic training through coursework, (2) cultural competency training through language instruction, and (3) an equity-focused project to develop a zero-cost textbook for FILM 101 (Introduction to Film) courses. The first part of my proposed leave will be to take a graduate-level Film Theory course, such as FS 545 (Film Theory and Criticism) at Chapman University. This will be a great opportunity to maintain currency as a discipline expert in film studies. For the second part of my sabbatical, I plan to enroll in a 4-unit Spanish class at MiraCosta College. This will begin the process of achieving a long-standing, personal goal to speak Spanish fluently. For the final part of my sabbatical leave, I intend to develop materials for a zero-cost Introduction to Film textbook. With rising costs of film studies textbooks and the ever-increasing number of students taking film courses at MiraCosta, this project has the potential to impact student success and equity in the Film Program.

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## PART III - Identification of Objectives, Description of Proposed Activities & Documentation

OBJECTIVE #1: \*

a) My objective:

By the end of my sabbatical leave, I will renew currency in the field of film studies by completing coursework in film theory.

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b) How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome:

I plan to accomplish this objective by enrolling in a film theory course, such as FS 545 at Chapman University, attending lectures, and reading assigned texts. Texts may include classical theories developed by formalists such as Sergei Eisenstein and Rudolf Arnheim, and realists such as Andre Bazin and Siegfried Kracauer. More modern film theories, such as those informed by structuralism, semiotics, psychoanalysis, narratology, will also be explored.

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c) Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity:

FS 545 (Film Theory and Criticism) at Chapman university is a 3-unit course, which will require 144 hours to complete. Documentation will include a log of hours, transcripts, and class notes resulting from this activity.

OBJECTIVE #2 (if applicable):

a) My objective:

By the end of my sabbatical leave, I will increase my Spanish language skills by completing coursework in the Spanish language.

b) How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome:

I plan to accomplish this objective by attending lectures, reading assigned texts, viewing and completing required assignments.

c) Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity:

SPAN 101 (Elementary Spanish) at MiraCosta College is a 4-unit course, which will require 192 hours to complete. Documentation will include a log of hours, transcripts, and class notes resulting from this activity.

OBJECTIVE #3 (if applicable):

a) My objective:

By the end of my sabbatical leave, I will develop materials for a zero-cost textbook in film studies that can be used for survey courses in film.

b) How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome:

First, it will be necessary to research existing textbooks that are commonly used in Introduction to Film courses, such as Looking at Movies (Monahan) and Understanding Movies (Giannetti). Next, I will compile free materials from websites, such as The Columbia Film Language Glossary (<https://filmglossary.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/>), YouTube ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/)), and the MiraCosta Library (<https://library.miracosta.edu/homepage>).

c) Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity:

I plan to spend 240 hours researching, writing, and organizing materials for the zero-cost textbook. Documentation will include a log of hours and a draft of the textbook.

OBJECTIVE #4 (if applicable):

a) My objective:

b) How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome:

c) Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity:

Total Estimate of Hours for all objectives (minimum of 576 hours) =

576

PART IV. - Explanation of Contribution to District

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A. Explanation of how my activities will contribute to my professional development:

Between the two courses and the project I plan to undertake, I will remain current in my field of expertise (film studies), gain language and cultural competency skills, and gain experience creating classroom materials that will have tangible equity benefits for MiraCosta students, as well as students at other institutions. Having the opportunity to be a student again and renew my passion for studying film will allow me to update course content and adapt to current trends. Gaining additional language skills will provide me with practical tools for communication, as well as the cultural knowledge that comes through study of international languages. The hope is that this will increase my ability to connect with and mentor students more effectively. Through the process of creating a textbook for Introduction to Film classes, I hope to gain an increased awareness of key topics in the curriculum and become more in-tune with student needs.

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B. Explanation of the anticipated short- and/or long-term benefits of your project on the following groups: students, department, college, and/or community. Include specific information on SLOs, PSLOs, Core Competencies and/or equity, diversity and inclusion.

- (1) Students. The zero-cost textbook project has the potential to have a wide impact, not only at film students at MiraCosta College, but also for other film studies programs that are looking for zero-cost textbook solutions. Currently there are no suitable zero-cost options available for Introduction to Film courses, so the equity benefits could be quite substantial. In addition, the coursework in film theory will help me to find new ways to ensure student success with the FILM 101 SLOs: 1. Identify elements of cinematic language and apply knowledge of production processes to analyze a specific moment in a given film. 2. Critically examine theoretical and ideological issues in the comparative evaluation of films.
- (2) Department. By refreshing my knowledge of film theory and increasing awareness of current issues in the field, I can serve as a leader and mentor for both full-time and associate faculty in the Department of Theatre and Film. As efforts to change the racial and gender inequities in the film industry have gained traction over the last few years, developing strategies to increase representation in syllabi and examine challenging topics will be a benefit to the department.
- (3) College and Community. As the MiraCosta Film Program has experienced unprecedented growth over the last decade, a culture of using film to explore issues in various academic disciplines has also emerged. The ability to collaborate with non-discipline experts around current film theories will benefit the campus community more broadly.

THIS IS THE END OF THE SABBATICAL LEAVE APPLICATION

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