

## Sabbatical Leave Report (Spring 2022)

(to be completed upon return from sabbatical leave and returning to full service in Spring 2022; you must complete as described below)

Email \*

wgunn@miracosta.edu

### PART I - Signature Page

A hard copy with signatures to be completed upon return from sabbatical leave and submitted to the SLC Administrative Assistant separately. Download and print the Signature page here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1prXfgN2882dp4eX2eMwcfxCloi9zO8zN/view?usp=sharing>

Name \*

William (Billy) Gunn

Department \*

Theatre and Film

Date Submitted: \*

MM DD YYYY

02 / 19 / 2022

Academic school year in which leave was taken: \*

2020/2021

2021/2022

Semester in which leave was taken: \*

(Do not include any unbanking as part of a sabbatical leave)

Fall

Spring

Full-year

Check the type of sabbatical leave: \*

Advanced Academic Studies, or

Self-directed studies

**PART II - Restatement of Sabbatical Leave Application.**

COPY and PASTE original Sabbatical Leave abstract that was submitted with your application here:

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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 CTCS 504 (Television History) at USC. 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 auxiliary materials for a zero-cost Introduction to Film textbook, such as assignments, a film clip library (and/or video links), publicly accessible Canvas site, etc. 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.

**PART III - Completion of Objectives, Description of Activities.****OBJECTIVE #1: \***

a) Copy and paste objective from application.

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) State the means by which you accomplished objective #1 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

Because I was unable to enroll in the class I had originally planned on, it became necessary make a small revision to my plan for Objective #1. This change was approved by MiraCosta College President, Sunita Cooke, on August 13, 2021. Objective #1 was accomplished through enrollment in a film theory course at the University of Southern California: Survey of Television Studies (CTCS 504). On a weekly basis, I attended lectures on campus at USC, read assigned texts, and watched required (and supplemental) viewing materials. I took detailed notes and completed all required assignments, including a presentation on the quiz show scandals of the 1950s and a project about how breakfast cereals have been marketed on television throughout history. Although CTCS 504 was technically a 2-unit course, which should have required only 96 hours to complete, Professor Ellen Seiter informed students during week 1 that the class demands are comparable to a typical 4-unit course. As a result, I ended up devoting much more than 96 hours on Objective #1. To document my activities, I have created the following materials that are available to view in my documentation folder:

1. Daily calendar to log hours spent on each objective
2. Weekly summary table for each objective
3. USC transcript and grade report
4. Folder with class notes and assignments.

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c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #1:

236

**OBJECTIVE #2 (if applicable):**

a) Copy and paste objective from application (if applicable)

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

b) State the means by which you accomplished objective #2 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

I accomplished Objective #2 by enrolling in Elementary Spanish (SPAN 101) at MiraCosta College. Professor Pilar Hernandez created an outstanding online course with all class materials provided on Canvas, including a zero-cost textbook. I read and watched all required materials, took detailed notes, and completed all required assignments. To document my activities, I have created the following materials that are available to view in my documentation folder:

1. Daily calendar to log hours spent on each objective
2. Weekly summary table for each objective
3. MiraCosta transcript
4. Folder with class notes and assignments.

c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #2 (if applicable):

192

**OBJECTIVE #3 (if applicable):**

a) Copy and paste objective from application (if applicable)

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) State the means by which you accomplished objective #3 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

In the summer of 2021, it became necessary to revise my plan for Objective #3 due to the discovery of a new, zero-cost textbook for Introduction to Film (FILM 101) courses. This change was approved by MiraCosta College President, Sunita Cooke, on August 13, 2021. After finding Moving Pictures, (<https://uark.pressbooks.pub/movingpictures/>), which was recently published by Russell Sharman as a free, open-source textbook, I decided to focus my activities for Objective #3 on creating materials that would make it easier to adopt this text at MiraCosta College and throughout the California Community College system. I worked through a Canvas course on OER Basics (<https://ccconlineed.instructure.com/courses/7709>), met with other film instructors at MiraCosta to discuss textbook needs, created quizzes for the first half of the textbook, and completed an audiobook for the first five chapters of Moving Pictures. Although I did not get as far into this project due to unanticipated demands of the coursework for Objective #1, I will have a course package that will include quizzes, powerpoints, and a complete audiobook of Moving Pictures by May 2022. These materials will be shared via Canvas Commons and made accessible to all film instructors at MiraCosta and beyond. To document my activities for Objective #3, I have created the following materials that are available to view in my documentation folder:

1. Daily calendar to log hours spent on each objective
2. Weekly summary table for each objective
3. Folder with materials for Moving Pictures course pack, including quizzes and audiobook chapters.

c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #3 (if applicable):

226

**OBJECTIVE #4 (if applicable):**

a) Copy and paste objective from application (if applicable)

b) State the means by which you accomplished objective #4 and provide a description of any materials that you produced/courses completed in the fulfillment of the objective;

c) Indicate the total number of hours dedicated in the accomplishment of objective #4 (if applicable):

#### **PART IV. - Contribution to District**

In this section the individual who has concluded his/her sabbatical leave will restate and elaborate upon how the sabbatical activities contribute to the District by addressing the following:

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a. Explain how the study or project contributed to the professional development of the applicant.

Objective #1: By taking a course with one of the leading scholars in Television Studies, I have reestablished currency in my field of expertise (film studies), and I have expanded my knowledge base in the area of television studies, which has become increasingly important over the last decade.

Objective #2: Through my Spanish language studies, I have gained both language and cultural competency skills, which I hope will provide a benefit to me and my students. I expect that this knowledge will increase my ability to connect with Latinx students, as well as serve as a more-effective resource and mentor. One unexpected benefit of my Spanish 101 class was gaining first-hand experience with the implementation of a zero-cost textbook.

Objective #3: As I worked on my third sabbatical objective to create materials for Film 101 zero-cost textbook, I gained additional knowledge about open education resources (OER) and how they can be better implemented within the discipline of film studies, which is currently lacking in OER materials. I have gained strategies for addressing this need in my own classes and the film program more broadly, and I hope to serve as an ASCCC OERI Discipline Lead in the area of Film, Television, and Electronic Media. Through the creation of an audiobook (in progress), I have also gained technical skills in audio recording and editing that will benefit me in the future.

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

Objective #1: Although I initially planned to attend a film theory course that would cover a broad range of topics, CTCS 504: Survey of Television Studies at USC turned out to be extremely relevant to the ever-changing landscape of the film and television industry. Television is more intune with current events, and is therefore more responsive to pressing social and political ideologies that affect the daily lives of our students. Also, with the rise of streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime over the last 10 years, this coursework has filled a gap in my knowledge and 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. I also expect that this coursework will allow me to 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, the topics I studied in CTCS 504 have provided me with strategies to increase representation in course materials and examine challenging topics in creative ways. 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. Thus, the ability to collaborate with non-discipline experts around current film theories will benefit the campus community more broadly.

Objective #2: Gaining additional language skills has provided me with practical tools for communication, as well as the cultural knowledge that comes through study of international languages. I anticipate that this will enable me to become a more effective mentor and advocate for all our students at MiraCosta College. The unanticipated benefit of seeing how to implement a zero-cost textbook in Spanish 101, has given me better clarity on my goals for Objective #3, below.

Objective #3: Over 1000 students take FILM 101: Introduction to Film at MiraCosta College each year (1,164 enrollments in 2020-2021), and the most commonly used textbook for FILM 101 (Looking at Movies by Monahan and Barsam) currently retails for \$92 Used / \$123 New at the MiraCosta College Bookstore. With a potential savings of over \$100,000 to students each year, the adoption and implementation of a zero-cost textbook for FILM 101 presents an enormous opportunity to relieve a significant burden from our students. Upon discovering a high quality zero-cost textbook for FILM 101, Moving Pictures: An Introduction to Cinema by Russell Sharman, I decided to focus on creating supplementary materials that would make implementing this textbook more realistic and less painful for instructors who have come to rely on quiz packages and audio/video resources that are included with the FILM 101 textbooks from major publishers. By providing the resources I have created (and will continue to create) to other faculty as a Canvas course pack, I anticipate that this will have a significant impact on equity efforts in my department, at MiraCosta College, within the California Community College system, and beyond. I intend to take the knowledge and skills I have acquired and apply to become an ASCCC OERI Discipline Lead in Film, Television and Electronic Media.

## PART V. Documentation.

If you performed Advanced Academic Studies, your transcripts are to be attached to this section of the hardcopy of your report. If you performed self-directed studies, attach a weekly log in table form (e.g. generated in Excel or Word program – see sample table HERE (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B65aNZyaBt-IRGowWWtgRkNhVm8/view?usp=sharing>)) for each objective. A column of hours should be dedicated to each objective with a total of calculated hours at the end of each column. The sum of these columns must total 576 hours or more. You may also add a separate column that indicates any hours devoted to additional activities that were not originally provided in your application. These should not be included in your final sum of approved hours completed.

\* Additional Sabbatical Leave Activities may not be counted toward the 576 hours that were originally approved.

Sum total of hours completed for approved activities: \*

654

Link to Google folder with documentation files: \*

Please enter the shareable link to your table of hours or, if applicable, to a shareable folder with other documentation such as transcripts, appendices, etc... Make sure the shareable link is set to "view". Press either the enter key or space bar after each link.

Documentation was reviewed and approved by the SLC task force.

THIS IS THE END OF THE SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

This form was created inside of MiraCosta College.

Google Forms

