



The minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) offers a coherent curriculum designed to support Brandeis undergraduates with interests in the arts and creative expression as well as commitments to understanding and advancing social justice and the transformation of conflict.

Interested in learning more about CAST, getting on our email list, or declaring the minor?

Contact Tom King, CAST Co-Chair and Undergraduate Advising Head: tking@brandeis.edu, Rabb 244, x62149 or Toni Shapiro-Phim, CAST Co-Chair and professor of the CAST core course: tonishapiro@brandeis.edu, ASAC 311, x67744.

Core course

CAST 150B — Introduction to Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation

How can music, theater, dance and visual and other arts contribute to community-building, coexistence, and nonviolent social change? In the aftermath of violence, how do artists help communities reconcile? Students explore these questions through interviews, case studies, and projects.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR (See the University Bulletin for a full list of requirements):

Completion of the minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation requires the successful completion of 5.5 courses.

A. The core course, CAST 150b *Introduction to Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation*.

- Ideally, this should be the first course taken for the minor, since it offers students an overview of the contributions of arts and cultural work to social justice and to the creative transformation of conflict, and frameworks that will help them bring subsequent courses into relationship.

B. Four elective courses, at least one each from the creative arts, humanities, and the social sciences.

- At least one of these four electives must be a course designated as a “core elective” in the minor.
- Students may complete the requirement for one of the electives by taking two 2-credit courses.
- In addition to the 5.5 courses required for the minor, CAST students are encouraged to take at least one course in disciplines such as Creative Writing; Film, Television and Interactive Media; Studio Art; Music; and Theater Arts that engage students in ‘hands-on’ art-making in any genre.

C. A two-credit capstone practicum, either CAST 181b “Ethics of Community Engagement Capstone Practicum,” offered every fall, or CAST 189a, “Capstone Project Design Practicum,” offered every spring.

- The capstone practicum is normally taken after completing all five required four-credit courses for the minor, or in the same semester that the students will complete those requirements.
- Supervised projects in both practicums provide opportunities for minors to reflect on and integrate learning from the five required courses; to propose, design, and implement projects in the field of arts, culture, and social transformation; to work in and engage community ethically; to provide and learn from peer feedback; and to develop skills in documenting and evaluating projects.
- CAST minors may take both practicums if they wish. CAST 181b, “Ethics of Community Engagement Capstone Practicum,” offered each fall, may be of interest especially to students planning to work in community as researchers, activists,

documentarians, artists, and other practitioners, and who would benefit from a group process of developing and evaluating projects. While it explores similar issues and offers a similar group process, CAST 189a, “Capstone Project Design Practicum,” may be of interest especially to students already in the process of undertaking a significant individual project.

- Students enrolling in either practicum are required to speak with the instructor prior to enrolling in the course. In addition to the practicum instructor, a member of the CAST affiliated faculty with relevant expertise will mentor student projects.
- All students will be required to present on their capstone experience in a setting open to members of the campus community.

CAST AFFILIATED FACULTY AND STAFF

Cameron Anderson, Assistant Professor of Theater Arts

Elizabeth Bradfield, Associate Professor of the Practice of English, and Co-Director of the Creative Writing Program

Jen Cleary, Senior Lecturer in Theater Arts

Cynthia Cohen, Director, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at the Ethics Center

Emilie Diouf, Assistant Professor of English

Judith Eissenberg, Professor of the Practice of Music

Robin Feuer Miller, Edytha Macy Gross Professor of Humanities

Dorothy Kim, Assistant Professor of English

Thomas King (*Co-Chair and Undergraduate Advising Head*), Associate Professor of English

Kristin Parker, Associate, Ethics Center; formerly with Rose Art Museum

Fernando Rosenberg, Professor of Hispanic Studies and Comparative Literature

Toni Shapiro-Phim (*Co-Chair and CAST Associate Professor*), Assistant Director, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at the Ethics Center

David Sherman, Associate Professor of English

Faith Smith, Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies and English

Leigh Swigart, Director of Programs in International Justice and Society at the Ethics Center

Ilana Szobel, Associate Professor on the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Chair in Hebrew Literature

Sabine von Mering, Professor of German and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Director of the Center for German and European Studies

