Theatre Courses

Theatre

THTR 101  Devised Theatre (1)
Students will work as a cohort to create and perform a piece, borrowing from the idea of the Living Newspaper, where the script originates from the entire group rather than from a specific writer, and pulls inspiration and material from current events.

THTR 129  Costume Stagecraft I (2)
Theory and techniques of stage costuming and theatrical makeup. Practice in costume construction and design, wardrobe maintenance, and stage makeup techniques. Offered alternate years. Must be taken concurrently with THTR 129L. (WCore: WCFAH)

THTR 129L  Costume Stagecraft I Lab (0)
Lab for THTR 129 Costume Stagecraft I. Must be taken concurrently with THTR 129.

THTR 145  Stagecraft I (2)
For every actor on stage in the professional theatre, as many as 20 people work behind the scenes. Who are these people and what do they do? This course introduces the basic theories and techniques used in stage scenery, props, lighting, and sound. Students will learn the terminology, tools and practices used in technical theatre as they work on practical projects while mounting theatrical productions. Must be taken concurrently with THTR 145L. (WCore: WCFAH)

THTR 145L  Stagecraft I Lab (0)
Lab for THTR 145 Stagecraft I. Must be taken concurrently with THTR 145.

THTR 160  Computer Aided Drafting for the Theatre (3)
This course is designed to introduce theatre majors to the essentials of theatrical design application on computer software. In this course, students will become proficient in computer aided drafting for the stage utilizing current software programs such as Softplot and Vectorworks.

THTR 161  Visual Design (3)
This course is designed to introduce theatre majors to basic art and graphic design skills utilized by theatre designers and technicians and how those arts and graphic design skills are applied to communication with a production team. Topics covered will include but are not limited to: figure drawing, perspective drawing, rendering light and shadow, design package presentation, and methods of research and collaboration.

THTR 180  Acting I (3)
A study of the acting techniques of Stanislavski, Strasberg, and Hagen applied to monologues and scene.

THTR 190  The Holistic Artist: A Guide to Creative Wellness (3)
Like an athlete, stage performers need to care for themselves in ways unique to their profession. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of health issues related to stage performance and to encourage the application of this knowledge in order to thrive on stage. Subjects that will be covered are mind/body awareness, overcoming fatigue, stress management, relaxation, creativity, and building resilience.

THTR 200/300  Special Topics in Theatre Arts (1–4)
A changing topics course offering special areas of interest not covered in regular courses. Topics include Theatre Management, Reader’s Theatre, Modern Dance, special focus on particular styles of theatre or dramatic literature as well as travel/study programs.

THTR 217  Costume Design I (3)
The basic or human right to life enjoys widespread endorsement, though just what sort of life is considered a basic right may vary from one society to another. While exploring some of these varieties of the conception of “life” which all human beings putatively have a right to (and thus someone or other has a duty to support such a claim), we will focus in this course on the role which health and adequate health care play, anywhere, as necessities, for human beings who are trying to enjoy the substance of such a basic right to life. Other necessities for a substantive life as a matter of right will be discussed as well. (WCore: WCFAH, RE)

THTR 218  Stage Makeup  (2)
This course explores the fundamental principles of stage makeup research, design, and application. Must be taken concurrently with THTR 218L. (WCore: WCFAH, RE)

THTR 218L  Stage Makeup Lab  (0)
Lab for THTR 218 Stage Makeup. Must be taken concurrently with THTR 218.

THTR 220  Stage Management  (3)
This overview of the art and business of stage management examines the skills of personnel management, organization, delegation, and scheduling as required tools of an effective stage manager. Students will develop an understanding of the technical infrastructure of the theatre and an awareness of how the theatre hierarchy functions. Graduates of this course are prepared to successfully stage manage productions, from auditions, to rehearsals.

THTR 221  The Yogic Experience  (4)
This course is designed to help students discover the benefits of yoga. Students will study the history, culture and philosophy of yoga while concurrently practicing the tools of asana (poses). Class time is dedicated to experiencing yoga’s beneficial moving and breathing principles, and discussing how to expand their practice beyond the mat by bring increased awareness into their lives. Reading and reflective journaling will assist this process. Students will be guided to adapt and modify yoga poses suit their need and intention. Relaxation is part of the daily curriculum; as students improve their ability to fully and actively rest, learning is absorbed and students become better students. (WCore: WCFAH)

THTR 224  Scenic Design I  (3)
This course will teach students beginning approaches to scenic design and modeling. Topics covered will include: text analysis and interpretation, the elements and principles of design, visual composition, research methods, rendering techniques, and modeling building.

THTR 225  Lighting Design I  (3)
This course is designed to help students gain an understanding of the fundamentals of stage lighting: basic electrical theory, light and color theory, instrumentation, control systems, drafting, and special effects. It is required that each student serve as an electrician or as master electrician on a production during the semester.

THTR 228  Beginning Theatre Workshop  (1–4)
Student involvement in Westminster Theatre Program’s productions, either as performers or as technicians. May require an audition and consent of instructor.

THTR 230  Beginning Dance and Movement  (2)
This class is an introduction to basic elements of movement and dance. Explores body alignment, core support, weight, momentum, movement quality, connectivity and more in relation to time, space, and energy. The class is structured as a series of dance sequences and designed to carry over into every day practice. Same as HPW 230.

THTR 255  Script Analysis  (3)
This course studies methodologies of script analysis to help students develop greater skill in the technical and theoretical skills of script analysis using a formalist approach. Using dramatic literature from naturalism to the avant garde, students will dissect how the plays work structurally. Analytical methods provide students with glimpses of plays’ underlying structural principles, leading to deeper understanding of overall meaning. The course offers general guidelines for reading and thinking about plays and understanding the basic potentials of a play’s construction.

THTR 260  Design for the Theatre  (3)
Examines design concepts in terms of theatrical production. Script analysis for the design of sets, costumes, and lighting design are studied.

THTR 275 Period Styles (3)
Historic architecture, interior design styles, and fashion are essential areas of knowledge for theatre designers. Many productions are not only set in historic periods and locales, but also draw on historic inspirations. This course will introduce theatre majors to a range of historic and global period styles in architecture, decor, and fashion for application in theatre design. Students will learn basic terminology of architectural features, furniture, and fashion. Students will also learn about research methods and historical and cross cultural influences in fashion and architecture (WCore: RE, WCBS).

THTR 280 Acting II (2)
A study of the acting techniques of Meisner and Adler applied to scene work.

THTR 280L Acting II Lab (0)
Lab for THTR 280 Acting II. Must be taken concurrently with THTR 280. Prerequisite: THTR 180 or consent of instructor.

THTR 303 Performance Studies (1)
This course rotates each semester in its focus, based on the needs of the program and the students registered. Common offerings include Suzuki, Stage Combat, Contact Improv, and Performance Studies.

THTR 317 Costume Design II (3)
This course is designed to introduce students to more in-depth processes of costume design including: research, advanced rendering techniques, design collaboration, process organization, and portfolio preparation. Students are required to purchase basic art supplies and small amounts of miscellaneous supplies for this class.

THTR 318 Advanced Stage Makeup (3)
This course will build on skills and principles taught in THTR 218 Stage Makeup and expand into advanced stage makeup techniques including: wig/facial hair ventilation, life casting, prosthetic makeup, and advanced special effects makeup techniques.

THTR 321 Creative Writing: Plays (3)
Workshop in playwriting which examines structure and style in dramatic literature as a starting point for student’s work in scene writing.

THTR 324 Scenic Design II (3)
This course will build on skills learned in Scenic Design I including: text analysis and interpretation, the elements and principles of design, visual composition, research methods, rendering techniques, and modeling building. New skills emphasized will include model building techniques, advanced drawing and rendering, and digital and CAD rendering.

THTR 325 Lighting Design II (3)
This course will build on skills and concepts learned in Lighting Design I principally color and design theory. Students will develop collaborative skills through class projects. Students will also develop lighting design projects that begin building their lighting design portfolio.

THTR 327 Advanced Acting Workshop (1–4)
Advanced study of acting techniques through participation in on-campus productions. Requires consent of program director.

THTR 328 Advanced Workshop in Technical Theatre (1–4)
Advanced work in technical theatre or stage management through participation in on-campus productions. Requires consent of program director.

THTR 329 Costume Stagecraft II (3)
This class is designed to familiarize students with the materials and advanced techniques used in the design and construction of theatrical costumes which may include millinery, mask making, and the dyeing and painting of fabric. In this course the student will deepen their understanding of the principles and elements of design, play analysis, research, costume period and style, design problems, construction and organization skills. The course includes a laboratory component during which students will apply these skills to departmental productions.

THTR 330 Dance for Theatre (2)
This course will incorporate elements of jazz, tap, and ballet found in the majority of musical theatre choreography.

THTR 335 Scenic Painting and Properties (3)
This course is an introduction to methods of painting scenery for stage productions, characteristics of various scene painting materials. The course includes a study of color, perspective and techniques. The course includes a laboratory component during which students will apply these skills to departmental productions.

THTR 340 Sound for Theatre (3)
This course is designed to introduce students to sound for theatre including: principles, methods, and techniques of sound design. Students will gain knowledge of audio engineering, audio systems, and storytelling through sound through continued participation in audio engineering and sound design projects. Work will be centered in the theatre production spaces of the theatre department (Dumke Student Theatre and The Courage Theater).

THTR 345 Stagecraft II (3)
This course is a continuation of the theories and applications of construction techniques for the scenic environment. Special emphasis is placed on stage machinery and rigging, welding and scenery building. The course includes a laboratory component during which students will apply these skills to departmental productions.

THTR 358 History of Theatre and Dramatic Literature I (3)
Study of the history of theatre and dramatic literature from 1800 to the present.

THTR 359 History of Theatre and Dramatic Literature II (3)
Study of the history of theatre and dramatic literature from its origins through the eighteenth century.

THTR 361 Auditioning as a Business (3)
All work as an actor begins with the audition. Emphasizing preparation for classical, contemporary, and musical theatre auditions, this course also covers the business of being a self-employed artist (headshot/resumes, agents, unions, contracts, etc.).

THTR 371 Movement I (2)
This course will focus on an increased awareness and facility with the holding patterns and physical signatures we have as actors. Neutral, larval, and character masks will be utilized in physical and kinesthetic assessments and in the physical creation of characters.

THTR 372 Movement II (2)
Students will improve alignment, flexibility, and body awareness as individuals and how they contribute to the entire physical world of the play. Students will examine various movement enhancers such as Alexander Technique, Feldenkrais, Viewpoints, and Laban Analysis.

THTR 379 Voice for the Actor I (4)
This course utilizes process-oriented work on releasing tension, healthy vocal production, the anatomy of sound, developing their breath capacity and control, resonation, articulation, and the use of pitch, pace, power, and the quality of sound to increase expressivity and clarity of thought and intent. Students will also learn, and transcribe text into, the International Phonetic Alphabet.

THTR 380 Acting III (4)
A study of the acting techniques necessary to perform the heightened texts of Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen, and Shaw.

**THTR 385 Musical Theatre (3)**
This course will survey the history and masterworks, the major composers, lyricist, and choreographers of this quintessentially American art form. Participants will then put feet to their understanding by working solos, duets, and large group numbers from the musical theatre repertoire.

**THTR 400 Theatre Design Studio (3)**
Students will have structured studio time to develop theoretical design projects in the field of interests including projects in: costume design, hair and makeup design, scenic design, sound design, lighting design, and projection design. Students will complete four theoretical projects a semester. For each project, students will present their designs and engage in group discussion and critique of their work.

**THTR 401 Directed Studies in Theatre Arts (1–4)**
A tutorial-based course used only for student-initiated proposals for intensive individual study of topics not otherwise offered in the Theatre Arts Program. Requires consent of instructor and school dean. This course is repeatable for credit.

**THTR 440 Internship (1–4)**
Offers students the opportunity to integrate classroom knowledge with practical experience. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing (for transfer students, at least 15 hours completed at Westminster or permission of instructor), minimum 2.5 GPA, and consent of program director and Career Center internship coordinator. This course is repeatable for credit.

**THTR 450 Dramatic Theory (4)**
Participants in this course will examine the writings of key theorists and critics that have been influential in the history of the theatre. They will develop and articulate their own philosophy and aesthetic principles of the theatre from which to critique individual productions. Student directors, actors, designers, dramaturges, etc., will develop the capacity to analyze a play for production purposes. This writing intensive course will include both critical analysis and creative interpretation. Students will practice critical and analytical writing, complete a dramaturgical project, and write a manifesto of the contemporary theatre.

**THTR 470 Directing (3)**
Study of the theories and practices of staging plays for the theatre. Includes script analysis, production planning, rehearsal techniques, stage composition, and designer/director communication. Each student directs a one-act play for public performance.

**THTR 479 Voice for the Actor II (3)**
Building upon the work done in Voice, Diction, and Dialect, this course utilizes process-oriented work to increase vocal capacity and control, healthy vocal production, and developing an increased awareness and understanding of articulation, resonance, expressivity, pitch, pace, rhythm, and variety. Students will become aware of the function and potential of their vocal instrument in the creation of regionalisms, dialects, and/or accents.

**THTR 480 Acting IV (2)**
This advanced scene study course concentrates on styles of acting. Students will focus on expanding character and style ranges with specific emphasis on High Comedy, Farce, etc., Small and large group scenes will be utilized. Students will also write, produce, and perform their own 10-12 minute passion project.

**THTR 480L Acting IV Lab (0)**
Lab for THTR 480 Acting IV.

**THTR 481 Acting V (2)**
This advanced acting course concentrates on the skills and techniques required when acting for the camera.

**THTR 481L Acting V Lab (0)**
Lab for THTR 481 Acting V.

**THTR 485 Theatre Senior Seminar (2)**

This capstone serves as a final opportunity for graduating seniors to receive faculty evaluation of their portfolio, vitae, resume, and monologues. This course will provide an appraisal of a plan of action for success in graduate school and/or a student's chosen profession. It is a final opportunity for a student to undergo personal, professional, and programmatic assessment. Requires senior standing or consent of the advisor. (WCore: SC)

**THTR 490 Senior Theatre Project (1–3)**

As the culminating project or performance for the BFA, this course provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate the integration of their academic studies and their theatre skills. With guidance from the faculty, students elect to complete their capstone experience as a design project, theatrical performance, directorial work, dramaturgical project, written thesis, or a critical/historical document. Requires senior standing and consent of the advisor.