Theatre Arts

Director, Division of Performing Arts
• Alan MacVey

Chair, Department of Theatre Arts
• Alan MacVey

Undergraduate major: theatre arts (B.A.)
Undergraduate minor: theatre arts
Graduate degree: M.F.A. in theatre arts
Faculty: http://theatre.uiowa.edu/people
Web site: http://theatre.uiowa.edu/

The Department of Theatre Arts offers academic programs for undergraduate and graduate students. It also stages live performances throughout the academic year and during the summer.

The department is one of three academic units in the Division of Performing Arts. Students have the opportunity to earn a major in theatre arts and a second major in one of the other units within the division—dance or music. It also participates in offering the division's Certificate in Performing Arts Entrepreneurship.

Undergraduate Programs of Study

• Major in theatre arts (Bachelor of Arts)
• Minor in theatre arts

The undergraduate program in theatre arts is based on the philosophy that the best way to develop future artists is to expose them to rigorous professional practice within the framework of a liberal arts and sciences education.

Department of Theatre Arts students take workshop courses in acting, directing, design, technical theatre, stage management, and playwriting and complement them with classes in dramatic literature, history, and criticism. Students also are encouraged to explore a range of courses throughout the University. Around 25 public productions are staged each year, providing additional opportunities to learn the theatre craft and to develop a personal artistic vision.

The department also educates students who plan to enter other fields in which understanding of the arts and experience with theatre skills are useful. Some earn a major in theatre arts, occasionally with a second major in another discipline. Others take theatre classes as nonmajors or earn a minor; see "Minor" and "Courses for Nonmajors" in this section of the Catalog.

Bachelor of Arts

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in theatre arts requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

The curriculum for the theatre arts major listed below constitutes the basic experience for all undergraduate theatre arts students. Registration in some courses for the major requires special permission. Contact the Department of Theatre Arts for details.

Students who transfer to the University from other accredited two- or four-year institutions must demonstrate that they have successfully completed course work equivalent to the basic requirements of the Department of Theatre Arts and the University of Iowa before they may take advanced-level electives. If a student completes the courses listed for the approved 2 Plus 2 theatre arts program at Kirkwood Community College, Iowa Central Community College, or Indian Hills Community College in Iowa, those courses are automatically counted toward requirements for the theatre arts major at the University of Iowa. Consult the department's director of undergraduate studies for more information.

In planning course work, especially electives, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a B.A. or B.S. may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the course work is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average; but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students majoring in theatre arts may count a maximum of 23 s.h. earned in Department of Theatre Arts elective courses (prefix THTR) toward the Bachelor of Arts. Theatre arts elective credit beyond 23 s.h. is listed on the transcript but does not count toward the 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students must complete a course's prerequisites before registering for the course. They normally complete the following required courses (from the "Theatre Foundation Courses" list below) within their first four semesters in the major:

THTR:2140 Acting I, THTR:2402 Script Analysis, THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I, and THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II.

Students who complete THTR:1400 Theatre and Society: Ancients and Moderns or THTR:1401 Theatre and Society: Romantics and Rebels before declaring a major in theatre arts must consult the undergraduate director before they may register for THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I or THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II.

The theatre arts major requires the following course work.

THEATRE FOUNDATION COURSES

All of these:

THTR:2140 Acting I 3 s.h.
THTR:2215 Theatre Technology 3 s.h.
THTR:2402 Script Analysis 3 s.h.
THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I 3 s.h.
THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II 3 s.h.

Elective theatre arts courses (approved courses include THTR:2301 and all courses numbered 3000 or above)

Design—one of these:
THTR:2200 Elements of Design 3 s.h.
THTR:3230 Scene Design I 3 s.h.
THTR:3240 Costume Design I 3 s.h.
THTR:3250 Lighting Design I 3 s.h.
THTR:4240 Costume Design II 3 s.h.

Dramatic literature—one of these:
THTR:1410 Musical Theatre 3 s.h.
THTR:3276 Medieval Drama 3 s.h.
THTR:3277 English Renaissance Drama 3 s.h.
THTR:3287 Shakespeare 3 s.h.
THTR:3403 Free-Style Writing: Poetry, Plays, and Performances 3 s.h.
THTR:3410 African American Theatre I 3 s.h.
THTR:3411 African American Theatre II 3 s.h.
THTR:3415 Cultural Diversity and Identity 3 s.h.
THTR:3420 Sex and Gender in Performance 3 s.h.
THTR:3421 Performing Autobiography 3 s.h.
THTR:3440 American Drama Since 1900 3 s.h.
THTR:3462 African American Drama 3 s.h.
THTR:4401 American Women Playwrights: 1776-Present 3 s.h.
THTR:4402 Dramas of the Spirit 3 s.h.
THTR:4403 Studies in Drama 3 s.h.
THTR:4410 Shakespeare the Dramatist 3 s.h.
THTR:4420 Dramatic Theory 3 s.h.
THTR:4630 London Performance Study 3 s.h.

PRODUCTION COURSES

Required production lab:
THTR:2220 Production Lab 3 s.h.

Students must earn a total of 3 s.h. in THTR:2220 Production Lab. The course requires students to work backstage on a department production. All students must serve as a crew member on at least one production (normally earning 1 s.h. per production). They have options to earn 2 s.h. for serving as a crew chief or taking on other advanced responsibilities.

Elective production courses:
THTR:3221 Technology for the Entertainment Industry 3 s.h.
THTR:3501 Stage Management I 3 s.h.

With the instructor’s approval, students who enroll in one of these two elective production courses (THTR:3501 or THTR:3221) also may enroll in the required production course THTR:2220 Production Lab during the same semester or session and may complete an additional project, earning 1 s.h. for THTR:2220 in addition to the credit they earn for the elective course. Students may earn a maximum of 1 s.h. of required production course credit for THTR:2220 this way.

CAPSTONE COURSE

One of these:
THTR:4180 Directing I 3 s.h.
THTR:4690 Senior Seminar 3 s.h.

Student Auditions for Theatre Arts Productions

Theatre arts majors are encouraged to audition for the department’s productions in general auditions at the beginning of the fall semester. Students normally present a three-minute audition consisting of two contrasting pieces. From this audition, callback lists are posted for major productions offered during the first semester. Additional general auditions normally are scheduled in early November and in March.

Students in other majors are welcome to audition for the department’s productions, as are community members (see "Productions and Auditions" later in this section). For academic considerations, theatre arts majors are given first consideration for roles.

Materials and information about the general auditions are available from the Department of Theatre Arts office in August. Notices of auditions for all subsequent productions are posted on the department’s call board.

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: three courses in the major chosen from THTR:2140 Acting I, THTR:2402 Script Analysis, THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I, and THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II

Before the seventh semester begins: three more courses in the major, two semesters of production credit, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: two more courses in the major and one more semester of production credit

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Iowa Degree in Three

University of Iowa majors who are strongly motivated can graduate with a degree in three years under the Iowa Degree in Three. The program is available to students who can complete more semester hours each term than they would on the Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Students sign an agreement during their first semester of enrollment; meet with an advisor at least once a semester to review their plans and progress; take courses during summer sessions, if necessary; meet specific course checkpoints; and maintain the grade-point average required for the major.

Students are allowed to bring Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or transfer credit upon admission to reduce the number of semester hours required for their degree. They should consult their advisor about the program.

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in theatre arts have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students who wish to graduate with honors should declare their intention to the department’s honors advisor. To graduate with
honors in the major, students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in the major; complete at least 12 s.h. of work in Department of Theatre Arts honors courses, which must include THTR:4692 Honors Theatre Arts; and give a creative presentation or performance or write an honors thesis.

Students who elect to give a creative presentation or performance must have senior standing and must complete at least one honors course before their proposed project may be approved. They must apply to the director of theatre for approval of their project by April 1 of the year before the project is to be scheduled (projects are not guaranteed a production slot). They also must enroll in THTR:4692 Honors Theatre Arts during the semester in which they complete their presentation or performance.

For more information about theatre arts honors requirements, contact the Department of Theatre Arts office.

In addition to honors in their majors, undergraduate students have a variety of opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program; visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

**Minor**

The minor in theatre arts requires a minimum of 15 s.h. in theatre arts courses, including 12 s.h. in courses considered advanced for the minor taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor and in all UI courses for the minor. Course work in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass. Students must complete all prerequisites for the courses they choose for the minor.

All theatre courses are open to students minoring in theatre arts except THTR:2140 Acting I, which is normally reserved for students earning the theatre arts major.

Theatre arts minors who are interested in acting usually take THTR:1140 Basic Acting and THTR:1141 Basic Acting II. Then they may request permission to enroll in THTR:3140 Acting II. When enrollment allows, they also may request permission to take THTR:2140 Acting I.

The following courses are considered advanced for the minor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:1141 Basic Acting II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2140 Acting I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2200 Elements of Design</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2215 Theatre Technology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2301 Playwriting I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2402 Script Analysis</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses numbered 3000 or above, excluding THTR:3220 and THTR:3287 (some courses require special permission).

Contact the Department of Theatre Arts for more information about how to meet the requirements for the minor.

**Courses for Nonmajors**

Most theatre arts courses are open to all students, regardless of their majors, and are appropriate for nonmajors interested in theatre. The following courses are designed specifically for nonmajors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:1141 Basic Acting II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:1410 Musical Theatre</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:1412 The Arts in Performance</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2120 Movement: Special Topics</td>
<td>2-3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3150 Public Speaking</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3210 Makeup Design for the Stage</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3301 Playwriting II</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3510 Introduction to Arts Management</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3520 New Ventures in the Arts</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3521 Acting for Singers and for Dancers</td>
<td>2 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete list of theatre arts courses, see "Courses" below.

Several of the department's courses are approved for General Education; look for courses with the prefix THTR in the area lists under "Culture, Society, and the Arts" in the General Education Program section of the Catalog.

**Graduate Program of Study**

- **Master of Fine Arts in theatre arts**

**Master of Fine Arts**

The Master of Fine Arts program in theatre arts requires 61-82 s.h. of graduate credit, depending on the student's specialty area. Students normally must complete six semesters in residence (internships may be substituted).

The graduate program is dedicated to creative development of theatre artists. Graduates have a solid background in major performance theories, dramatic literature, and practices of the past and present as well as in the craft of their chosen specialties.

Special attention is given to understanding the role and importance of live theatre in society. Interactions among the various theatre disciplines are emphasized, both in classes and through the department's extensive production program. Particular emphasis is placed on the development of new works for the theatre.

Students must make normal progress toward completion of the degree requirements to remain in the program; they must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.00 overall and in all course work within the primary area of concentration, and they must build a record of substantial creative work of high quality. Students who fail to make normal progress are placed on academic probation and given one additional semester to demonstrate their qualifications for earning the degree.

Contact the Department of Theatre Arts for specific information on any of the M.F.A. specialty areas.

**Admission**

Students who demonstrate exceptional ability in acting, directing, dramaturgy, playwriting, design, or stage management may apply for admission to the program of study and production leading to the M.F.A. Admission is based on an interview, audition, and/or a portfolio of relevant work, the undergraduate record or other proof of artistic accomplishment, and letters of recommendation.

Submission of playscripts is the most important element in gaining admission to the Playwrights Workshop.
Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College.

Productions and Auditions
The Department of Theatre Arts presents around 25-30 public productions each year. These include a subscription series of five plays, a festival of new works by students, and other productions, many of them new plays.

Special attention is given to the process of developing new works and to the collaborative process that involves writers, directors, designers, dramaturgs, stage managers, and actors. Graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and visiting guest artists work together on large and small projects throughout the year.

Auditions for Theatre Arts Productions
Auditions for theatre arts productions are open to everyone, including all University of Iowa students and members of the local community. Theatre arts students are given first priority for roles, but many roles are available throughout the year, so many students in other majors and nonstudent actors are cast each season. Occasionally, professional actors are employed.

General auditions are held at the beginning of the fall semester, and callback lists are posted during the semester. Additional general auditions usually are scheduled in early November and in March. Information about auditions is available from the Department of Theatre Arts office in August. Notices of auditions are posted on the department's call board.

Facilities
The University of Iowa has one of the finest educational theatre complexes in the country. The Theatre Building offers four theatres and up-to-date facilities for classroom, laboratory, shop, and performance work.

The E.C. Mabie Theatre, a continental-style, 457-seat proscenium playhouse, is one of the finest theatres of its type in the United States. The David Thayer Theatre is a "black box" production space; its flexible seating units accommodate from 140 to 225 people and allow modification of space and audience relationships. Theatre B, which seats 144, is an open-stage theatre dedicated primarily to the production of new and experimental works. The flexible studio theatre seats 50.

In addition to classrooms for acting and directing, several spaces are designed for teaching particular aspects of dramatic studies. The Cosmo Catalano Acting Studio is for study of movement and motion by acting students. The Arnie Gillette Design Studio serves as classroom and studio workshop for design students.

To support its production schedule and to provide students with an appropriate range of experience, the department maintains shops for building, painting, maintaining, and storing scenery, costumes, and properties. Using these shops, students learn to work in metal, plastics, canvas, and wood.

Courses

Lower-Level Undergraduate

**THTR:1000 First-Year Seminar** 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

**THTR:1001 CLAS Master Class** 1-3 s.h.
Exploration of a single topic in a series of lectures by faculty presenting divergent perspectives; illuminates intellectual adventure inherent in liberal arts and sciences; encourages discovery of majors and other areas of study within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Same as CLAS:1001, RELS:1010, CS:1001, CSD:1001, PHIL:1001, ENGL:1001, BIOC:1001, ARTS:1001.

**THTR:1010 Art of the Theatre** 3 s.h.

**THTR:1120 Basic Acting for Language Learners** 3 s.h.
Development of theatrical creativity to enhance English language skills through acting games, monologues, and scene work; exercises in concentration, relaxation, communication, imagination, observation, sensory awareness. Same as ESL:1950.

**THTR:1140 Basic Acting** 3 s.h.
Concentration, relaxation, imagination, observation, communication, sensory awareness; development of theatrical creativity through objectives, obstacles, action, conflict, spontaneity; development of a scene from scripts. Requirements: non-theatre arts major. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

**THTR:1141 Basic Acting II** 3 s.h.
Continuation of THTR:1140; emphasis on development of scenes. Prerequisites: THTR:1140. Requirements: non-theatre arts major.

**THTR:1400 Theatre and Society: Ancients and Moderns** 3 s.h.
Representative plays as performed in social contexts of ancient Egypt; classical Greece, Rome, India, and Japan; and medieval and early modern Europe. Duplicates THTR:2410. GE: Historical Perspectives; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

**THTR:1401 Theatre and Society: Romantics and Rebels** 3 s.h.
Representative plays as performed in social contexts of revolutionary and modern Europe and postwar United States. Duplicates THTR:2411. GE: Historical Perspectives; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.
THTR:1410 Musical Theatre 3 s.h.
American musical theatre's form, function, evolution; major composers (Berlin, Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Sondheim), lesser-known and contemporary writers; roots of the rock musical, future of musical theatre, how musicals reflect their own eras and cultural attitudes of their times; readings, recordings, videos. Ability to read music not required.

THTR:1411 Comedy and Society 3 s.h.
How comedy reflects, comments upon, and intersects with western culture, society, and identity; roots of western comedy, satire, censorship; stand-up comedians, improv and sketch troupes, satirists; race, gender and sexuality, class perception; how portrayals of African Americans in popular culture evolved from 19th century to present; videos, readings, live performances. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

THTR:1412 The Arts in Performance 3 s.h.

THTR:2120 Movement: Special Topics 2-3 s.h.
Specialized study in movement techniques and movement styles for body conditioning; development of yoga techniques; varied topics.

THTR:2140 Acting I 3 s.h.
Development of creativity, imagination, and openness through exercises to engage mind, body, and voice in theatrical play and scene work. Requirements: theatre arts major, or theatre arts minor and THTR:1140.

THTR:2200 Elements of Design 3 s.h.
Development of visual literacy; manipulation of line, shape, color, value, texture, form; development of designs for theatre through techniques explored in class.

THTR:2215 Theatre Technology 3 s.h.
Theatrical production; technology and backstage operations including sound, projections, lighting, scenery, costumes, stage management.

THTR:2220 Production Lab 1-3 s.h.
Practical experience in physical construction and operation of live theatre; theatre department productions provide lab experiences for applied learning in technical theatre and run crew opportunities in scenery, costumes, lighting, sound, and stage management.

THTR:2301 Playwriting I 3 s.h.
Elements of playwriting; emphasis on analysis and discussion of original student writing. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

THTR:2402 Script Analysis 3 s.h.
Basic skills in critical reading and close analysis of dramatic texts, with focus on dramatic structure, challenges of putting texts into production.

Role of American theatre as a complex tapestry of race, gender, sexuality, and disability; examination of plays and performance outside primarily white-male canon; contemporary social practice and cultural politics in local and national contexts. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I 3 s.h.
Major developments in Anglo-European, Indian, Asian, and African theatre and drama, 3000 B.C.E. to C.E. 1700; sociopolitical, economic, and cultural circumstances of original productions. Offered spring semesters. GE: Historical Perspectives; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II 3 s.h.
Continuation of THTR:2410, 1700 to 1960; revolutionary and modern European theatre and culturally diverse postwar U.S. theatre. Offered fall semesters. GE: Historical Perspectives; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

THTR:2610 Acting for Success 3 s.h.
How skills learned by actors in the theatre world can be applied to presentations and interactions in business, education, and beyond; business world reliance on technology for communication; ability to connect and communicate on a personal level with others as the x-factor to stand out as a team player and a leader; acting techniques traditionally used in theatre to open up communication in office and interviews; presentations and elevator pitches (armed with techniques to avoid stage fright); how to connect and bring authentic self to everything you do. Same as RHET:2610.

Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate

Acting and Directing

THTR:3070 Dance Kinesiology 3 s.h.
Body science related to demands of dance; structural and muscular analysis for efficient, effective dance training and prevention of injuries; investigation of skeletal and ligamentous structure for working knowledge of how the body produces movement; joint actions and restrictions, common injuries to those sites; attachments of the voluntary muscles, pathways and potential actions; neuromuscular analysis of an action; functional skeletal alignment; how individual differences may affect movement performance. Prerequisites: HHP:1100. Same as DANC:3070.

THTR:3110 Voice for the Actor 3 s.h.
Progressive development of voice and speech for theatre; physical awareness, relaxation, breathing, freeing the sound channel, resonance, articulation; application of voice work through prose, poetry, text. Prerequisites: THTR:1141 or THTR:2140.

THTR:3120 Theatre Movement 3 s.h.
The body as a tool for dramatic expression; basic principles and practices of stage movement; approaches to physical technique. Prerequisites: THTR:2140. Requirements: theatre arts major.
Theatre Arts

**THTR:3130 Singing for Actors**  
Skill development for healthy, effective singing in the musical theatre style; techniques of vocal production through breath management, resonance, articulation, flexibility; song interpretation and repertoire. Recommendations: for MUS:3520 — concurrent registration in MUS:1020. Same as MUS:3520.

**THTR:3140 Acting II**  
Extension of work begun in THTR:2140; scene study, with focus on contemporary realism and development of collaborative dynamic. Prerequisites: THTR:1141 or THTR:2140.

**THTR:3150 Public Speaking**  
How to be an effective and confident communicator; exercises designed to develop and improve vocal sound, vocal strength, clarity of speech; appropriate interpretation of text.

**THTR:3151 Accents and Dialects**  
Varied topics on a rotational basis, may include vocal study of classical text including Shakespeare, dialects, and voice in classical and contemporary comedy. Prerequisites: THTR:3110.

**THTR:3160 Movement Styles**  
Intensive study of a selected movement style (e.g., mask, clown, commedia dell'arte). Prerequisites: THTR:3120.

**THTR:3162 Movement: Special Topics II**  
Specialized study in movement techniques and movement styles for body conditioning; intermediate development of yoga techniques; varied topics. Prerequisites: THTR:2120.

**THTR:3315 Standup Comedy Practicum**  
Writing and performing standup comedy; emphasis less on creating a comic persona and more on pulling from and articulating personal truth; analysis of contemporary comedians and joke structure; performing original work for multiple audiences in classroom and out in community. Prerequisites: THTR:1140 or THTR:2140 or THTR:2301.

**THTR:3421 Performing Autobiography**  
Write and perform original pieces stemming from personal experiences and interests; readings and videos; genre of contemporary autobiographical performance as established artists have developed it; improvisational performance and writing exercises to foster deeper reflection on personal experiences; final staging of students' original work. Same as GWSS:3421.

**THTR:3521 Acting for Singers and for Dancers**  
Fundamentals of acting technique, with attention to demands on performers in opera, musical theater, and dance. Same as MUS:3521, DANC:3521.

**THTR:3601 Theatre for Social Outreach**  
Use of improvisation, storytelling, readers' theatre to explore complex social issues; participation in Darwin Turner Action Theatre; experience creating works that examine social issues, especially those related to cultural diversity; performances in Iowa schools and communities.

**THTR:3605 Inclusive Theatre**  
Introduction to implementation of performance opportunities for special populations (defined as those with cognitive or physical disability) and underrepresented populations. Same as EDTL:3963.

**THTR:3610 Drama in the Classroom**  
Theories of community, culture, identity in relation to language arts teaching and learning; emphasis on incorporating multiple literacies, both oral and print, into language arts curricula; action research involving oral literacy. Same as EDTL:3180.

**THTR:3850 Introduction to Laban Movement Studies**  
Introduction to Bartenieff Fundamentals (BF) and Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) as methods of organizing and integrating movement to support artistic goals and expanding expressive range; BF teaches body awareness, breath support, developmental patterns, ergonomically-efficient alignment, balancing of muscular strength and stretch, and coordination; LMA teaches vocabulary of expressive movement and nonverbal communication, including effort (use of energy/dynamics for expression, stamina, stress relief) and shape (how posture and gesture communicate); quality of movement that supports individual goals in artistic expression, sound production, and wellness. Same as MUS:3850, DANC:3850, DPA:3850.

**THTR:3851 Introduction to the Alexander Technique**  
The Alexander Technique and "self-use"—how movement choices affect results achieved; improvement of physical skills and presence; principles in support of performing arts (e.g., speaking, singing, playing an instrument, dancing, acting); application to skills in daily life, addressing underpinnings of movement; physical participation (e.g., lying down, rolling, sitting, standing, locomotion). Same as DPA:3851, MUS:3851, DANC:3851.

**THTR:4144 Acting: Special Topics**  
Specialized study in a specific aspect or theory of acting.

**THTR:4180 Directing I**  
Basic elements of stage direction; exercises in composition, emphasis, movement, rhythm, directorial analysis; director's role in production process; short scenes, projects, papers. Prerequisites: (THTR:1140 or THTR:2140) and (THTR:2402 or CINE:1601).

**THTR:4182 Directing II**  
Continuation of THTR:4180; practical work in stage direction culminating in a larger directing project. Prerequisites: THTR:4180.

**THTR:6140 Advanced Acting**  
Preprofessional training; may include psychophysical training in impulse, openness and the "mask," individual and group dynamics, improvisation, repetition, characterization and scene work, Shakespeare and style, on-camera, development of professional work habits and skills, audition and interview. Requirements: admission to M.F.A. program.
THTR:6150 Vocal Technique 3 s.h.
Skills training; voice and speech for the actor, phonetics, dialects, sound exploration, contemporary and classical text analysis. Requirements: admission to M.F.A. program.

THTR:6160 Movement Technique 3 s.h.
Fundamental principles and practices required for physical acting technique; basic stage movement, stage combat, mime technique, Lecoq-based improvisation; a new works project. Requirements: admission to M.F.A. program.

THTR:6170 Graduate Acting: Special Topics 3 s.h.
Specialized study in one aspect or theory of acting. Requirements: admission to M.F.A. program.

THTR:6180 Director's Seminar 1-3 s.h.
Preprofessional training in stage direction; the art and craft of directing; research, practical experience; development of new pieces; approaches to a variety of theatrical materials through concept, type, style. Requirements: admission to M.F.A. program.

THTR:6525 Voice for Performers 2 s.h.
Comparison of Kinesthetic techniques for singing and acting voice; relaxation, posture, breathing, tone quality, diction, interpretation. Same as CSD:6204, MUS:6525.

Design and Technical Theatre

THTR:3202 Graphic Design and Identity 3 s.h.
Series of projects focusing on creating strong graphic design and graphic identity using Adobe Creative Suite.

THTR:3203 Computer Visualization 3 s.h.
Creation of virtual design using Adobe Photoshop and Google SketchUp.

THTR:3205 Concepts in Drawing 3-4 s.h.
Intermediate-level topics; observation, theory, media, form, content; emphasis on personal direction. Prerequisites: DRAW:2310. Same as DRAW:3310.

THTR:3206 Furniture Design I 4 s.h.
Human interaction with interior and exterior environment. Prerequisites: TDSN:2210. Same as TDSN:3210.

THTR:3208 Mask and Puppet Crafts 3 s.h.
Mask and puppet design; paper mache, plaster gauze, thermal plastics, and soft sculpture techniques.

THTR:3210 Makeup Design for the Stage 3 s.h.
Same as DPA:3210.

THTR:3211 Period Styles 3 s.h.
Survey of design and motifs spanning history of western civilization through development of interior and exterior architecture, furniture, decorative themes, fashion, and fine art.

THTR:3220 Construction Technology for New Works 3 s.h.
Production of scenic and prop elements for the Department of Theatre Arts annual Iowa New Play Festival; basic construction and painting skills in a lab environment; weekly design and production meetings to include each student in the entire production process; run crew assignments, projects.

THTR:3221 Technology for the Entertainment Industry 3 s.h.
Introduction to technology skills that are at the center of the entertainment industry; programming and operating digital lighting and sound consoles, intelligent lighting systems, projection hardware and software; outdoor event rigging, metal construction, and fabrication. Same as DPA:3221.

THTR:3223 Introduction to Lighting Technology 3 s.h.
Training for a career as a touring or resident stage electrician in the entertainment industry; plot organization/shop orders, digital fixtures, power distribution, personal management, console configuration/control, and electrical troubleshooting/maintenance.

THTR:3225 Makeup Design: Body Art 3 s.h.
Advanced techniques in stage makeup design and application through analysis of forms, research, and hands-on projects.

THTR:3230 Scene Design I 3 s.h.
Development of theatre scenery; how to research, conceptualize, and express ideas in 3-D models, simple sketches, and drafting. Same as ARTS:3230.

THTR:3240 Costume Design I 3 s.h.
Introduction to theatre costumes; how to conceptualize and express ideas through rendering and 3-D mannequin projects. May be taken after THTR:4240.

THTR:3250 Lighting Design I 3 s.h.
How to research, conceptualize, and express ideas through light plots, other design paperwork, and theatre lighting design projects.

THTR:3260 Sound Design for the Theatre 3 s.h.
Introduction to digital sound recording and live sound reinforcement techniques for a variety of entertainment venues (theatre, dance, concerts, and industrial projects); creation of soundscapes using Pro Tools software; implementation of designs through the use of SFX/QLab playback systems; documentation of sound design for theoretical or realized production. Offered every other year.

THTR:3270 Entertainment Design 3 s.h.
Introduction to entertainment design and technology; primary focus on contemporary approaches to design and delivery of content in entertainment industry; assignment of practical projects using media servers, projection, LED arrays, video editing software, and moving light technologies. Offered every other year.
THTR:3876 Video for Performance 4 s.h.
Introduction to making video for use in a performance; how video can unlock new artistic possibilities for performance in theater, dance, and performing arts in general; focus on acquiring basic skills necessary to shoot and edit video, and project it during a performance; practices of animation, found or archival footage work, and live performance. No previous knowledge of cameras or editing equipment required. Same as CINE:3876.

THTR:4230 Scene Design II 3 s.h.
Design and execution of increasingly complex projects in a variety of formats, including perspective sketching, detailed drafting, and color models. Prerequisites: THTR:3230.

THTR:4240 Costume Design II 3 s.h.
Conceptual and analysis skills in costuming; fashion history and dress related to individual, cultural, and artistic expression. May be taken before THTR:3240.

THTR:4250 Lighting Design II 3 s.h.
Production styles and venues; skills developed through increasingly complex light plots, more precise paperwork. Prerequisites: THTR:2402 and THTR:3250.

THTR:4270 Scenic Art 3 s.h.
Techniques in scenic art for the theatre; classical trompe l'oeil scene painting, sculpting with nontraditional materials, finishing. Offered every other year.

THTR:5200 Graduate Design Seminar arr.
Graduate design in set, lighting, and costume design; teamwork; meetings with design faculty in specific disciplines; short-term projects in the theatre department; long-term projects, including summer design work, internships, and other professional opportunities during the three-year program and beyond. Prerequisites: THTR:4230 or THTR:4240 or THTR:4250.

THTR:5230 Scene Design III 3 s.h.
Complex assignments; documentation skills, scenic design preparation. Prerequisites: THTR:3230 and THTR:4230.

THTR:5240 Costume Design III 3 s.h.
Advanced projects in costume design and portfolio development. Prerequisites: THTR:4240.

THTR:5250 Lighting Design III 3 s.h.
Advanced projects in venues such as dance, opera, industrials; preparation of lighting designs for production. Prerequisites: THTR:4250.

THTR:7260 Internship in Design 1-6 s.h.
Experience as designer or assistant designer with a professional theatre, dance, or opera company or with a professional design studio. Requirements: theatre design M.F.A. enrollment.

Stage Management and Arts Management

THTR:3501 Stage Management I 3 s.h.
Duties and procedures of stage management; focus on development of production from preparatory work through performance; role of stage manager in collaboration.

THTR:3510 Introduction to Arts Management 3 s.h.
Nonprofit performing arts management and administrative principles; practical applications, trends in the field; focus on arts organizations and their key administrative positions. Same as INTD:3510, DPA:3510.

THTR:3520 New Ventures in the Arts 3 s.h.

THTR:3550 Stage Management II 3 s.h.
Duties and procedures of stage management; focus on development and understanding of leadership role of stage manager; examination of stage manager's role in a professional theatre; topics may include equity contracts and stage managing for opera. Prerequisites: THTR:3510.

THTR:4510 Arts Leadership Seminar 3 s.h.
Performing arts management and administrative principles, practical applications, trends in arts leadership and advocacy. Prerequisites: THTR:3510 or THTR:3520 or ENTR:2000. Same as ENTR:4510, INTD:4510, DPA:4510.

THTR:5500 Stage Management: Special Topics 3 s.h.
Topics in stage management, arts production, and their professional practice. Requirements: admission to M.F.A. stage management program.

THTR:5510 Production Management 3 s.h.
Organization and supervision of theatre productions; resources, procedures for successfully mounting a theatre production or season; personnel, equipment, facility and budget management, scheduling, communication. Requirements: stage management M.F.A. enrollment.

THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 1-2 s.h.
Practice and techniques of stage management. Requirements: graduate stage management major.

Playwriting

THTR:3300 Advanced Playwriting 3 s.h.
Continuation of THTR:3301; original student writing, extensive rewriting; may focus on specific style, genre, or approach. Prerequisites: THTR:3301.

THTR:3301 Playwriting II 3 s.h.
Application of fundamental skills learned in THTR:2301 to more advanced study of dramatic structure and style; reading of plays, weekly writing assignments; focus on writing one-act play. Prerequisites: THTR:2301.

THTR:3310 Undergraduate Playwriting Workshop 1-3 s.h.
Workshop discussion of original full-length plays, collaborative creation of new plays, work with guest artists. Prerequisites: THTR:2301 and THTR:3301. Requirements: submission of writing sample.
THTR:3200 Writing for Film 3 s.h.
Rigorous writing for film; focus on feature-length screenplay; for students with experience in dramatic writing, fiction, or screenwriting. Requirements: completion of at least 60 s.h. or graduate standing.

THTR:3403 Free-Style Writing: Poetry, Plays, and Performances 3 s.h.
Creative writing lab experience in reading, writing, and performing poetry and short plays; expansion of students' horizons of the self; arc of innovation in African American literature from Harlem Renaissance to present, with texts from Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston to Saul Williams and Jill Scott; role of the artist in society and as outsider and insider; shifting perspectives on race, gender, class; musical influences and models, from blues to house music; sensuality, spirituality; artistic reflections on the cultural moment; effects of these on literary form and performance style; students create and perform a work for an audience. Same as AFAM:3840.

THTR:5300 The Collaborative Process 3 s.h.
Development of new plays, collaboratively created works.

THTR:5600 Orientation to Graduate Studies 1-2 s.h.
Requirements: theatre arts M.F.A. enrollment.

THTR:5610 Collaborative Performance 1-4 s.h.
Collaborative experience with advanced artists from varied disciplines that culminates in a final performance; emphasis on sharing and investigating ideas, artistic intent, personal vision, and creating collaborative projects. Same as DANC:5550, DPA:5550.

THTR:6300 Guest Seminar arr.

THTR:6310 Special Topics in Playwriting 3 s.h.

THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3 s.h.
Development of works by Iowa Playwrights Workshop members. Requirements: playwriting or dramaturgy M.F.A. enrollment.

Dramatic Literature, Theory, and Dramaturgy

THTR:3180 Topics in Digital Media 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3180.

THTR:3276 Medieval Drama 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture. PERIOD: Early Literatures Through 17th Century. Same as ENGL:3276.

THTR:3277 English Renaissance Drama 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture. PERIOD: Early Literatures Through 17th Century. Same as ENGL:3277.

THTR:3287 Shakespeare 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture. PERIOD: Early Literatures Through 17th Century. Same as ENGL:3287.

THTR:3410 African American Theatre I 3 s.h.
Works by African American playwrights and relevant historical documents, Africa through Black Renaissance; themes, history, sociopolitical context; artists forging theatrical paths under oppressive conditions; exploration through discussion, performance; literature-based course, workshop approach. Same as AFAM:3810.

THTR:3411 African American Theatre II 3 s.h.
Works by African American playwrights and relevant historical documents, Black Renaissance to present; themes, history, sociopolitical context; artists forging theatrical paths under oppressive conditions; exploration through discussion, performance; literature-based course, workshop approach. Same as AFAM:3811.

THTR:3415 Cultural Diversity and Identity 3 s.h.
Nature of personal and cultural identity within a pluralistic society; race, ethnicity, national identity, class, sexuality, and gender as categories of cultural difference. Same as GWSS:3415.

THTR:3420 Sex and Gender in Performance 3 s.h.
Relationship between sex and gender in the performing body across a range of public venues, including stage, film, athletic events, and social spaces; articles, texts, plays, films, television, and videos; attendance at live performances of theatre, sports, and other events scheduled in the University and local community; discussion format. Same as GWSS:3420.

THTR:3440 American Drama Since 1900 3 s.h.
American playwrights and plays after 1900. English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: American Literature and Culture. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3440.

THTR:3462 African American Drama 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: American Literature and Culture. PERIOD: 18th/19th-Century Literature, or 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3462, AFAM:3462.

THTR:4401 American Women Playwrights: 1776-Present 3 s.h.
How women in the United States have expressed themselves in theatre since 1776; diversity of voices in works by African American, Asian American, Latina, Native American, European American, lesbian playwrights; female-authored drama and production in relation to concurrent male-authored traditions and socioeconomic, political, cultural phenomena. Same as AMST:4401.
Theatre Arts

**THTR:4402 Dramas of the Spirit** 3 s.h.
Western and nonwestern dramatic texts that enact or describe journeys of the human spirit; textual analysis, investigation of the notion of spirit and its relation to dramatic form. Prerequisites: THTR:2402 and THTR:2410 and THTR:2411.

**THTR:4403 Studies in Drama** 3 s.h.
Exploration of a specific period of dramatic literature, or the work of specific authors, or dramatic principles central to playwrighting.

**THTR:4410 Shakespeare the Dramatist** 3 s.h.
Exploration of a number of Shakespeare's greatest works; close textual analysis supplemented with historical, theoretical, theatrical, and philosophical considerations; special attention given to Shakespeare's dramatic method and relation of his dramaturgy to profession of theater-making.

**THTR:4420 Dramatic Theory** 3 s.h.
Theoretical questions of interest to dramatists and philosophers in western and nonwestern traditions; metaphysics of play; theories of character, psyche, self; narrative and nonnarrative dramatic forms. Prerequisites: THTR:2402 and THTR:2410 and THTR:2411.

**THTR:4440 Postmodern Theatre** arr.
Exploration of theoretical, creative, and practical issues that arise in working dramaturgically on both established and new plays, and in a variety of collaborative processes; practical dramaturgical exercises in script reporting, dramaturgical research, educational programming, season planning, production documentation, and writing of critical and dramaturgical essays for a general audience. Requirements: admission to M.F.A. dramaturgy program.

**THTR:4440 Classical to Romantic Theatre** 3 s.h.
Representative plays from the Classical to the Romantic periods—in historical context of their original productions, contemporary production potential. Requirements: theatre arts M.F.A. enrollment.

**THTR:4401 Modern Drama** 3 s.h.
Questions of dramatic form and content examined in-depth through close readings of modern plays.

**THTR:4402 Postmodern Theatre** 3 s.h.
Diverse postmodern traditions; emphasis on questions of relation of text.

**THTR:4403 Shakespeare** 3 s.h.
Same as ENGL:6220.

**Workshops, Performances, Special Studies**

**THTR:4630 London Performance Study** 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:4172.

**THTR:4690 Senior Seminar** 3 s.h.
Theatre arts capstone seminar; how personal aesthetic relates one’s work to great theatrical visionaries of the past and present-day practitioners; research culminating in a collaborative theatre piece. Requirements: senior standing and theatre arts major.

**THTR:4691 Projects in Theatre** arr.

**THTR:4692 Honors Theatre Arts** arr.
Development and production of a new work for film or television by writers, directors, actors.

**THTR:4693 Independent Study** arr.

**THTR:4694 Design: Special Topics** 1-3 s.h.
Specialized study in a specific aspect or theory of theatrical design.

**THTR:4695 Performance Practicum** 1-2 s.h.
Perform as an actor or serve as an assistant stage manager in a production of at least an hour's length, rehearsed for at least four weeks, directed by a faculty member or guest artist or graduate student, and produced by the Department of Theatre Arts.

**THTR:6510 Internship in Stage Management** 1-6 s.h.
Experience as stage manager or assistant stage manager with a professional theatre, dance, or opera company. Requirements: stage management M.F.A. enrollment.

**THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced** arr.
Create a special project under the mentorship of a faculty member; projects may include performing in a main stage production, writing, directing, or designing a play performed in the department, developing a research project that intersects production.

**THTR:7601 M.F.A. Thesis** 0-3 s.h.
Work related to M.F.A. thesis projects in theatre arts.