

Theatre and Drama Interdisciplinary Minor

Coordinators: Hickman, Konkle

The interdisciplinary theatre and drama minor offers introductory-level training in the theatre arts to a variety of students: those seeking professional training for pursuing a career in theatre, the next step of which might be to earn an MFA in theatre; education students wanting to direct and otherwise work to mount productions of plays at the schools where they will teach; and students wanting to continue to be involved in community theatre upon their graduation.

Students minoring in theatre and drama will acquire knowledge of theory, history, structure, terminology, and conventions of theatre and drama; familiarity with a broad sampling of plays that vary widely in both cultural context and subject matter; intellectual and rhetorical skills necessary to analyze, discuss, and write about plays and performances; understanding and experience of voice and body as instruments in performance; knowledge of and experience with production technology (e.g., in lighting, sound, scenery); and appreciation of the collaborative nature of theatre production.

As with studio courses in art and music, and creative writing workshops in English, all theatre courses require evaluation of student performance during class meetings; thus, enrollment for these courses is kept low. Drama courses are, essentially, courses in literature in a traditional classroom setting. A theatre practicum works much like an internship or independent study for other majors. The practicum must be approved by a theatre and drama coordinator and a faculty person, and it is supervised by a theatre and drama faculty or adviser with whom the student fills out the practicum contract.

The interdisciplinary theatre and drama minor program draws upon courses, faculty, and staff from the Departments of Communication Studies and English, and the School of Art, Media, and Music.

Requirements for the Minor

Five course units:

Four core courses:

COM 255/TTR 255/Acting for Stage and Screen

LIT 233/World Drama

TTR 368/Production Techniques

TTR 486/Theatre Production Workshop

Selected courses in theatre, drama, or music fulfill the fifth course requirement. The fifth course may also be earned by practicum or an independent study, approved by the theatre and drama coordinator and supervising faculty. Relevant courses in the student's major may be counted for the fifth course, with approval by a theatre and drama coordinator; however, only one course from the student's major (including any of the core courses) may be used as part of the minor.

Additional courses that may be used for the minor:

COM 176/Makeup for Performance

LIT 321/Foundations of Shakespeare

LIT 347/TTR 347/Modern European Drama

LIT 373/American Drama

LIT 421/Shakespeare: Comedies and Histories

LIT 422/Shakespeare: Tragedies and Romances

LIT 427/Major Writers before 1900 (when on a playwright)

LIT 428/Major Writers after 1900 (when on a playwright)
MUS 265/Music and the Stage
MUS 384/Music Theatre
WRI 303/Playwriting

TTR 255/Acting for Stage and Screen

1 course unit

(same as COM 255)
(every semester)

The role of the actor in the interpretation of dramatic texts for the stage or screen. Acting fundamentals such as voice, body, and movement are introduced and developed. Course work culminates in preparation of individual “audition” tapes.

TTR 347/Modern European Drama

1 course unit

(same as LIT 347)
(occasionally)

Modern Continental, British, and Irish drama from the late 19th century to the present. Critical examination of select plays within contexts of modern European movements in philosophy, the arts, and politics; theater and drama in Western civilization; and the human condition. Study of representative works by major European playwrights such as Ibsen, Beckett, Chekhov, Strindberg, Shaw, Synge, Pirandello, Brecht, Ionesco, and Churchill.

TTR 368/Production Techniques

1 course unit

(annually)

An introductory course in the history and techniques of performance production from the Greeks to the 21st century. In addition to lecture, discussion, and graded out-of-class assignments (papers and exercises), students will tour campus production facilities and observe demonstrations of modern scenery construction, lighting and sound equipment set-up, and other production-related activities.

TTR 486/Theatre Production Workshop

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisites: COM 255/TTR 255, LIT 233, TTR 368

A capstone course providing practical experience in staging scenes or short plays in combination with theory and criticism. Students participate in all aspects of production but choose one particular area in which to concentrate, such as acting, directing, scene design, lighting, etc.