

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 wanting to pursue a career 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 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 English, Communication Studies, Music, and Modern Languages.

Requirements for the Minor

Five course units:

Four core courses:

TTR 233/LIT 233/World Drama

TTR 255/COM 255/Acting for Stage and Screen

TTR 368/Production Techniques

TTR 486/Theatre Production Workshop

Selected courses in theatre, drama, music, or modern languages 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 taken for the minor:

COM 176/Makeup for Performance

LIT 321/Foundations of Shakespeare

LIT 347/TTR 347/Modern European Drama

LIT 373/TTR 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
SPA 325/Theater of Spain and Spanish America
WRI 303/TTR303/Playwriting Workshop

TTR 233/World Drama

1 course unit

(same as LIT 233)
(annually)

Study of plays from the classical to contemporary periods as literary texts. Readings, lecture, discussion, and papers also examine aspects of theatrical production, thus providing a broad background in the theory, history, structure, terminology, conventions, and subgenres of drama and theatre. Emphasis is on western drama but examples of nonwestern comedy and tragedy are included.

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, Strindberg, Chekhov, Shaw, Synge, Pirandello, Lorca, Brecht, Ionesco, Beckett, Stoppard, 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 373/American Drama

1 course unit

(same as LIT 373)
(occasionally)

Examines relevance of specific plays to American literature, culture, and history; to theatre and drama in western civilization; and to the human condition. Plays by Glaspell, O'Neill, Odets, Wilder, Williams, Miller, Albee, Shepard, Mamet, Wasserstein, A. Wilson, and Kushner constitute a chronological survey of the most important experiments in dramaturgy and prevailing American social issues of the 20th century.

TTR 486/Theatre Production Workshop

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisites: TTR 233, TTR 255, 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.