

PROGRAM IN THEATRE

FACULTY

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program in theatre provides a comprehensive background in this multifaceted discipline. The study of theatre illuminates, enriches, and interprets human existence. It allows the student the opportunity to gain knowledge of both the process of theatre production and the ideas explored in the literature of the theatre.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A student graduating with a theatre major from Saint Mary's College will be proficient in the following aspects of the art form of theatre:

- **Theory:** Students will be able to identify, understand, and discuss the theories and analytical techniques which underlie the art form of theatre and its component elements: dramatic literature, design, and performance;
- **Practice:** Through experiential course work and participation in departmental productions, students will develop the skills needed to create effective works of theatre.

A student is required to explore three basic areas of theatre: its historical and literary foundations; the techniques of translating theory into action; and the translation itself, that is, production. The course work will be applied in practice through production assignments under the close supervision of faculty.

ADVANCED WRITING PROFICIENCY

Students complete this requirement by submitting a portfolio in the fall of the senior year. The papers in the portfolio include: an analysis of a one-act play and two other papers written for courses which fulfill the requirements for the major in Theatre.

SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE

The Senior Comprehensive in theatre takes place during the fall and spring semesters of the senior year. In the fall, the student chooses a one act play to research and analyze on both literary and theatrical levels. This work is then synthesized into a paper. During the spring, the student actualizes the production, serving as both director and designer, for a live performance before an audience.

PROGRAM IN THEATRE

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Theatre—THTR (36 hours)

All of the following (22 hours minimum):

THTR 205	Introduction to Acting	3 hours
THTR 245	Stagecraft	3 hours
THTR 265	Play Analysis for the Theatre	3 hours
THTR 355	Voice and Movement	3 hours
THTR 375	Rehearsal and Performance	1–3 hours
THTR 380	History of Theatre	3 hours
THTR 475	Stage Directing	3 hours
THTR 480	Production Projects	3 hours

One of the following courses in dramatic literature :

THTR 378	Contemporary Women's Drama	3 hours
THTR 410	Advanced Topics in Theatre (Tennessee Williams)	3 hours

Three of the following not used to satisfy the above requirements (9 hours):

THTR 135	Introduction to Theatre	3 hours
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THTR 305	Characterization	3 hours
THTR 325	Playwriting I	3 hours
THTR 335	History of Western European Cultural Performance	3 hours
THTR 360	Oral Interpretation	3 hours
THTR 365	Fashion and Costume History	3 hours
THTR 378	Contemporary Women's Drama	3 hours
THTR 385	Beginning Fashion and Costume Construction	3 hours
THTR 387	Hair and Makeup for the Stage	3 hours
THTR 405	Styles of Acting	3 hours
THTR 410	Advanced Topics in Theatre (approved topics)	3 hours
THTR 430	Theatre Management	3 hours
THTR 445	Scene Design	3 hours
THTR 455	Costume Design	3 hours
THTR 477	Playwriting II	3 hours
THTR 490	Special Topics in Theatre Studies	3 hours
THTR 497	Independent Study	1–3 hours
THTR 499	Internship	1–3 hours

Required Supporting Courses:

One of the following courses in dance (2 hours):

DANC 144	Modern Dance Technique: Beginning	2–1 hours
DANC 145	Ballet Technique: Beginning	2–1 hours
DANC 148	Jazz Technique: Beginning	2–1 hours
DANC 150	Tap Technique: Beginning	2–1 hours

Minor in Theatre (Production)—THPR (12 hours)

All of the following:

THTR 245	Stagecraft	3 hours
THTR 265	Play Analysis for the Theatre	3 hours
THTR 375	Rehearsal and Performance	3 hours

One of the following 300-400 level electives:

THTR 305	Characterization	3 hours
THTR 325	Playwriting I	3 hours
THTR 335	History of Western European Cultural Performance	3 hours
THTR 355	Voice and Movement	3 hours
THTR 360	Oral Interpretation	3 hours
THTR 365	Fashion and Costume History	3 hours
THTR 378	Contemporary Women's Drama	3 hours
THTR 380	History of Theatre	3 hours
THTR 385	Beginning Fashion and Costume Construction	3 hours
THTR 405	Styles of Acting	3 hours
THTR 410	Advanced Topics in Theatre (approved topics)	3 hours
THTR 430	Theatre Management	3 hours
THTR 445	Scene Design	3 hours
THTR 455	Costume Design	3 hours

Minor in Theatre (Performance)—THPE (12 hours)

All of the following:

THTR 205	Introduction to Acting	3 hours
THTR 265	Play Analysis for the Theatre	3 hours
THTR 375	Rehearsal and Performance	3 hours

One of the following 300-400 level electives:

THTR 305	Characterization	3 hours
THTR 325	Playwriting I	3 hours

THTR 335	History of Western European Cultural Performance	3 hours
THTR 355	Voice and Movement	3 hours
THTR 360	Oral Interpretation	3 hours
THTR 365	Fashion and Costume History	3 hours
THTR 378	Contemporary Drama	3 hours
THTR 380	History of Theatre	3 hours
THTR 385	Beginning Fashion and Costume Construction	3 hours
THTR 405	Styles of Acting	3 hours
THTR 410	Advanced Topics in Theatre (approved topics)	3 hours
THTR 430	Theatre Management	3 hours
THTR 445	Scene Design	3 hours
THTR 455	Costume Design	3 hours
THTR 477	Playwriting II	3 hours

Minor in Musical Theatre—MUTH (17 hours)

All of the following:

DANC 151	Musical Dance Forms	2 hours
THTR 205	Introduction to Acting	3 hours
THTR 245	Stagecraft	3 hours
THTR 410	Advanced Topics in Theatre: Acting from the Musical Stage	3 hours

One of the following:

MUS 114	Voice (one credit per semester taken for two semesters)	2 hours
MUS 250	Vocal Techniques	2 hours

One of the following:

MUS 101	Class Piano (one credit per semester taken for two semesters)	2 hours
MUS 111	Piano (one credit per semester taken for two semesters)	2 hours

One of the following:

DANC 148	Jazz Technique: Beginning	2 hours
DANC 150	Tap Technique: Beginning	2 hours

THEATRE COURSES (THTR)

135 Introduction to Theatre (3)

A broad and comprehensive view of theatre and how it communicates. Fulfills the fine arts requirements.

205 Introduction to Acting (3)

Exploration of the elements of a realistic acting technique using games, improvisations and exercises, culminating in two-character scenes later in the semester.

245 Stagecraft (3)

An introduction to the techniques of the backstage world. Areas of study include scenic and property construction, scenic painting, stage lighting, theatre safety, and special effects. This course is an introduction to theatrical design and technical production techniques.

265 Play Analysis for the Theatre (3)

Reading and analyzing play texts from theatrical and literary perspectives. Fulfills the fine arts requirement. Offered once every year.

305 Characterization (3)

Exploration of the process of characterization with emphasis on techniques of physical transformation and psychological realism. Prerequisite: THTR 205.

325 Playwriting I (3)

Principles of writing for the stage. Emphasis on dramatic structure, character development, plot management, dialogue and critical analysis.

335 History of Western European Cultural Performance (3)

The History of European Performance is a research and response-based course designed to show the cultural import of performance in each country we visit, and to explore the impact of performance on a viewer. We will look at dance, music, or theatre in each of the countries we visit. There may be reading, discussion, and on-location opportunities at performance venues, historic sites, and museums. Students will learn how to critically analyze a production. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the effects of cultural performance on the viewer and/or the maker via a research paper. Note that some work must be completed prior to departure, some must be completed while abroad, and some must be completed upon return.

355 Voice and Movement (3)

Development of techniques based on understanding and integration of body/mind. Areas of study include body image, body awareness, alignment, relaxation, voice production, and vocal work on literature.

360 Oral Interpretation (3)

The study and analysis of literature through performance. Students will gain experience in the epic, lyric, and dramatic modes of solo performance in addition to a beginning exploration of ensemble work in a performance study (also listed as COMM 360)

365 Fashion and Costume History (3)

This course will give an overview of the history of fashion from prehistoric times to the present day. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to identify appropriate vocabulary terms for garments and their components, silhouettes, how clothing affected manner and style, and how social history affected clothing. We will utilize the elements of design, fashion history, and primary sources to create costume designs, and composing written, critical analyses of professional costume and fashion designs. Students will also complete two short-answer exams to assess their ability to recall and articulate what information has been presented in the course lectures.

375 Rehearsal and Performance (1–3)

Rehearsal and performance of a faculty-directed production. Participation as an assistant director, stage manager, crew member, or actor in a 5–7 week rehearsal/performance period. Prerequisite: Audition, permission of the instructor. May be repeated for up to a maximum of 9 hours of credit.

378 Contemporary Women's Drama (3)

An examination of the texts and movements which comprise contemporary drama in today's multicultural world, as written by contemporary American women playwrights.

380 History of Theatre (3)

A study of the development of theatrical art, including the physical theatre, production practices and cultural contexts, from the beginnings in primitive rituals through contemporary time.

385 Beginning Fashion and Costume Construction (3)

This course will teach basic costume and fashion technology, will examine the main differences in construction for clothing versus costumes, and will let students participate in the garment construction process. The students in the course will research and understand women's contributions to the field of design and technology, and how women, historically, have been an integral part of the manufacturing process.

387 Hair and Makeup for the Stage (3)

Students will gain an understanding of the process of applying practical makeup and will learn age, trauma, weight, and corrective techniques. Students will learn to style wigs and their own hair for a number of periods commonly associated with theatrical productions. This course offers equal focus on research, design, concept writing, and technique.

405 Styles of Acting (3)

Techniques to equip the contemporary actor to deal more comfortably with the textual and stylistic problems of acting in period plays. Prerequisite: THTR 205 and 305.

410 Advanced Topics in Theatre (3)

Possible topics: improvisation, musical theatre, audition techniques, stage makeup, lighting and sound design, literary seminars.

430 Theatre Management (3)

The principles and practice of producing for the commercial stock, resident college, and community theatre. Areas of study may include theatrical unions, stage management, and grant writing.

445 Scene Design (3)

An in-depth introduction to scenic design for the stage from concept to rendering. Students analyze plays for design considerations. Then develop scenic design concepts and learn to communicate design ideas.

455 Costume Design (3)

The theory and practice of costume design, including design projects. Students explore the process of design from script to research, creating paperwork, and finally rendering visual designs.





475 Stage Directing (3)

Emphasis on techniques and styles of directing for the stage. Readings, exercises, and directing project.

477 Playwriting II (3)

Principles of dramatic writing focusing on the full-length form. Experiments with a variety of techniques of composition including improvisation, historical research and oral history. Prerequisite: THTR 377.

480 Production Projects (3)

Planning and execution of a large-scale project. Majors select, analyze, design, direct and produce a one-act play during their senior year of study. This serves as the “capstone” senior comprehensive in Theatre.

490 Special Topics in Theatre Studies (1-3)

Seminars in theatre. Various topics.

497 Independent Study (1-3)

Research for the advanced student. Permission of the instructor. May be repeated.

499 Internship (1-3)

Practical off-campus experience in theatre-related field at an approved site. Jointly supervised by a faculty member and a representative from the sponsoring organization. Graded S/U.