

Theatre (THEA)

The BA in Theatre is an academic and practical program that prepares graduates to be not exclusively actors, designers or directors, but well-rounded theatre artists, in a liberal arts context. The major is based on a thorough grounding in four fundamental areas of theatre, after which students may tailor the program to suit their needs and interests. Theatre is necessarily a collaborative and inter-disciplinary endeavor. The Wofford Theatre is both a producing organization and a degree-granting program.

Students pursuing the major or minor in Theatre must take and pass an appropriate introductory-level course in Music or Art to fulfill the General Education requirement in Fine Arts. Courses taken to fulfill General Education requirements cannot also apply to the Theatre major or minor.

Chair

Mark A. Ferguson

Professors

Colleen M. Ballance

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Requirements for the Major in Theatre

THEA 202	Basic Elements of Production	3
THEA 301	Acting	3
THEA 320	Dramatic Theory	3
THEA 300	Theatre Production	3

Students must take 24 credit hours from those listed below including 24 at least two from each group:

Group A

THEA 380	Set Design	
THEA 385	Period Styles	
THEA 390	Costume Design	

Group B

ENGL 303	Early English Drama and Lyric	
ENGL 305	Shakespeare's Comedies and Histories	
ENGL 306	Shakespeare's Tragedies and Romances	
THEA 325	Modern Drama	
THEA 328	Contemporary Drama	
THEA 360	Greek and Roman Drama	
THEA 361	African-American Drama	
THEA 362	19th Century American Drama	

Group C

THEA 303	Directing	
THEA 304	Movement	
THEA 376	Playwriting Workshop	
THEA 401	Acting II	
THEA 404	Advanced Movement	
THEA 410	Theatre for Youth	
THEA 476	Advanced Playwriting	

Total Hours 36

Additional Non-Course Requirements

Students majoring in Theatre are also required to:

1. Serve as stage manager for one show.
2. Pass a comprehensive final exam based on the major reading list.
3. Participate in annual auditions/design presentations.

Requirements for the Minor in Theatre

Courses taken to fulfill requirements of the Theatre minor may not be used to fulfill the Fine Arts General Education requirements.

THEA 202	Basic Elements of Production	3
THEA 300	Theatre Production	1

Students must take 15 credit hours from the following, with at least one from each group. 15

Group A

THEA 380	Set Design	
THEA 385	Period Styles	
THEA 390	Costume Design	

Group B

ENGL 303	Early English Drama and Lyric	
ENGL 305	Shakespeare's Comedies and Histories	
ENGL 306	Shakespeare's Tragedies and Romances	
THEA 325	Modern Drama	
THEA 328	Contemporary Drama	
THEA 360	Greek and Roman Drama	
THEA 361	African-American Drama	
THEA 362	19th Century American Drama	

Group C

THEA 303	Directing	
THEA 304	Movement	
THEA 376	Playwriting Workshop	
THEA 401	Acting II	
THEA 404	Advanced Movement	
THEA 410	Theatre for Youth	
THEA 476	Advanced Playwriting	

Total Hours 19

THEA 201. Introduction to the Theatre. 3 Hours.

This class covers script analysis, dramatic structure, production styles, and an introductory over-view of acting, directing, design, and the technical elements of production. Crew hours on the current departmental production may be required.

THEA 202. Basic Elements of Production. 3 Hours.

This course covers the basics for set, lighting, and costume design for the stage. Learn drafting, some drawing, rendering and model making skills, design processes, and some backstage technologies.

THEA 210. Stagecraft. 2 Hours.

An introduction to the technical aspects of live theatre and the creative problem solving skills necessary to successfully make the leap from page to stage. Students will be exposed to and gain practical experience in a variety of areas, including: set construction, lighting operations, sound systems, scenic painting, and stage management.

THEA 212. Acting for Non-Majors. 3 Hours.

This class will introduce students to the basics of acting for the stage. Over the course of the semester, students will learn and participate in practical and challenging acting games and physical exercise, be exposed to the basics of character analysis, learn to think, move, and speak like an actor, and perform in a variety of solo and group projects including monologues and scene-work.

THEA 280. Selected Topics in Theatre. 1 to 4 Hours.

Selected topics in theatre at the introductory or intermediate level.

THEA 300. Theatre Production. 1 to 4 Hours.

This course offers students a variable number of credit hours for participation in a Wofford theatre production, either off or on stage. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances required. A maximum of four credit hours may be earned in Theatre 300.

THEA 301. Acting. 3 Hours.

This course deals with the basics of acting technique (vocal, body movement, improvisation). All students enrolled will participate actively in laboratory productions.

THEA 303. Directing. 4 Hours.

Students will develop a fundamental knowledge and skills base about the field of directing for the stage. This will include extensive creative projects; presentations on past and present stage directors; script analysis from a director's perspective; enhancing communication, audition and rehearsal skills; the development of a critical eye for directorial choices; and the performance of two scenes that the student will direct for public performance.

THEA 304. Movement. 3 Hours.

This class will investigate major influences in physical theatre, provide a practical study of the principles of movement for the stage with an emphasis on physical neutrality, and will begin exploration of various physical actor training methods.

THEA 310. Improvisation for the Actor. 3 Hours.

An introduction to one the fundamental tools of the actor's art, this course will offer students a rigorous exploration of the principles, skills, and applications of theatrical improvisation. Although "improv" is often identified in popular culture as a comedic, competition-based form of entertainment, the primary focus in this class will be on Stanislavsky-based improvisation, which emphasizes character, relationships, and collaboration. Improvisation work in this context stresses risk-taking, physical and emotional awareness, observation, intuition, imagination, and spontaneity.

THEA 320. Dramatic Theory. 3 Hours.

This course is an introduction to the analysis of dramatic literature and the history of dramatic theory and criticism.

THEA 325. Modern Drama. 3 Hours.

A course of study which focuses on the work of late 19th to mid 20th century European and American dramatists. Authors include Ibsen, Chekhov, Strindberg, Pirandello, Brecht, Beckett, O'Neill, Miller and Williams. Also listed as English 325.

Prerequisite: ENGL 200 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 201 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 202 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 203 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 204 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 205 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 328. Contemporary Drama. 3 Hours.

A study of major contemporary drama (1970 to present). Authors considered include Foreman, Churchill, Rabe, Kushner, Zimmerman and others. Also listed as English 328.

Prerequisite: ENGL 200 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 201 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 202 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 203 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 204 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 205 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 351. The Art of Film. 3 Hours.

An introduction to the theory, technique, history, and criticism of film with screenings of major works. Also listed as English 351.

Prerequisite: ENGL 200 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 201 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 202 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 203 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 204 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 205 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 360. Greek and Roman Drama. 3 Hours.

Selected Greek and Roman comedies and tragedies will be read in translation. The course will concentrate on the thematic, philosophical, and religious aspects of ancient drama. Also listed as English 360.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 200 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 201 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 202 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 204 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 203 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 205 with a minimum grade of D) and THEA 201 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 361. African-American Drama. 3 Hours.

This class deals with the creation of African American identity on the American stage from the early 19th century through the present. Readings are from the works of Baraka, Kennedy, Wilson, Parks, Hughes, and many others. Students will engage with issues of race, literature, performance, and authorship in class discussion, written work and oral presentations.

Prerequisite: ENGL 200 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 201 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 202 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 203 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 204 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 205 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 362. 19th Century American Drama. 3 Hours.

From James Nelson Barker's *The Indian Princess* (1808), to George Aiken's stage adaptation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, one of the most popular works of its period in both America and Europe, the close reading of nineteenth century American drama opens a fascinating window onto the creation of American identity. This class will address ideas and issues of nationhood, the frontier, gender, race and race relations, and popular and high culture. Also listed as English 362.

Prerequisite: ENGL 200 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 201 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 202 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 203 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 204 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 205 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 376. Playwriting Workshop. 3 Hours.

A course in creative writing focusing on plays. Cross-listed with ENG 376.
Prerequisite: ENGL 200 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 201 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 202 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 203 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 204 with a minimum grade of D or ENGL 205 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 380. Set Design. 3 Hours.

Working from the page to the stage, students will learn to design scenery based on script analysis, creative visualization, and directorial problem solving. This class also teaches practical skills in drafting, research, and model making. Success in this class may lead to design opportunities for departmental productions.

Prerequisite: THEA 202 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 385. Period Styles. 3 Hours.

Based on Sir Kenneth Clark's timeless classic, *Civilisation*, art, architecture, music, furniture, fashion, literature, and political and social history from Ancient Greece to the early 20th century are explored to inform theatrical productions. Students will learn from slides, lectures and movie clips of the vast imagery available to theatre artists. Research and design projects are required. Instructor permission required.

THEA 390. Costume Design. 3 Hours.

Creativity is emphasized in this project-oriented course. The students will learn the complete process for designing theatrical costumes, hair and makeup. This course covers costume history, design, rendering and artistic conceptualization. Success in this class may lead to design opportunities for our departmental productions. Instructor permission required.

THEA 400. Theatre Practicum. 1 Hour.

A special course of individual study and instruction wherein an advanced student of theatre may pursue a special interest such as set design, lighting, theatrical management, acting, or playwriting, under the direction of the instructor. Active participation in laboratory and major productions required. A maximum of 6 semester hours may be earned in Theatre 400.

THEA 401. Acting II. 3 Hours.

The goal of this course is to apply skills introduced in Acting I to different styles of dramatic texts. Through intensive scene study, we will expand each performer's range of emotional, intellectual, physical, and vocal expressiveness.

Prerequisite: THEA 301 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 404. Advanced Movement. 3 Hours.

This course will provide an in-depth study of physical actor training for the stage. Through the creation of original theatre pieces, monologues, and scene work, the student will implement techniques learned in daily physical training.

THEA 410. Theatre for Youth. 3 Hours.

This course will contextualize Theatre for Youth through the study of the history and significance of this type of performance and then will use in-class exercises to create a strong ensemble of actors who will then collaborate on the creation, rehearsal, and performance of an original children's theatre script.

THEA 413. Devised Theatre. 3 Hours.

Working collaboratively, the class will choose and explore a topic/theme of particular interest to students on this campus and then plan, develop, rehearse, and perform a non-traditional theatrical production based on this theme.

THEA 470. Independent Study. 1 to 4 Hours.

A student initiated project, approved and supervised by a faculty member, integrating learning in the major.

THEA 471. Independent Study - Design/Technical. 0 to 3 Hours.

A student initiated project, approved and supervised by a faculty member focused on set design and/or aspects of technical theatre.

THEA 472. Independent Study - Dramatic Literature. 0 to 3 Hours.

A student initiate project, approved and supervised by a faculty member, integrating the study dramatic literature with theatre production.

THEA 473. Independent Study - Performance. 0 to 3 Hours.

A course in which the student pursues independently, under the guidance of a member of the department, a specific topic of interest.

THEA 476. Advanced Playwriting. 3 Hours.

In this workshop, students will write at least two ten-minute plays and one full-length two-act play, in addition to developing their craft through writing projects and exercises. We also will read and discuss plays by such playwrights as Edward Albee, Tennessee Williams, and Eugene Ionesco. Actors will read each participant's work at a special presentation at the end of the semester. Class is conducted in a workshop format, and participants and the instructor will read, discuss, and analyze script pages in class.

Prerequisite: THEA 376 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 480. Advanced Topics in Theatre. 1 to 4 Hours.

A seminar for advanced students. Subject matter varies from year to year.

Prerequisite: THEA 201 with a minimum grade of D.

THEA 490. Advanced Studies in Film. 3 Hours.

A topics course involving close study of specific directors, genres, or national cinemas. Topics will change from semester to semester. Screenings of feature films may be held outside of class. Students may take Theatre 490 for credit only once.

Prerequisite: THEA 230 with a minimum grade of D.