Theatre (THEA)

The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre is an academic and practical program that prepares graduates to be 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: acting, directing, design, play-writing, or production management. Theatre is necessarily a collaborative and inter-disciplinary endeavor. 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.

Honors Courses and In-Course Honors

The Department of Theatre encourages its students to undertake honors work. For further information, the student is referred to the sections on Honors Courses (http://catalog.wofford.edu/academics/academic-honors/honors-courses/) and In-Course Honors (http://catalog.wofford.edu/academics/academic-honors/honors-courses/) in the Catalog.

Chair
Colleen M. Ballance

Professors
Daniel J. Day
Maya M. Fein
Mark A. Ferguson

Requirements for the Major in Theatre

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<th>Course</th>
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<td>THEA 202</td>
<td>Basic Elements of Production</td>
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<td>THEA 301</td>
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<td>THEA 350</td>
<td>Stage Management Practicum</td>
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Group A, Design/Technical Theater  6
Select two courses from the following:
THEA 375  Scene Painting
THEA 380  Set Design
THEA 385  Period Styles
THEA 390  Costume Design
THEA 395  Lighting Design
THEA 471  Independent Study - Design/Technical

Group B, Dramatic Literature  6
Select two courses from the following:
ENGL 303  English Renaissance Drama
ENGL 305  Shakespeare’s Comedies and Histories
ENGL 306  Shakespeare’s Tragedies and Romances
FREN 415  French Theater
THEA 328  Contemporary Drama
THEA 424  African American Drama
THEA 425  19th Century American Drama
THEA 433  Modern Drama
THEA 438  Greek & Roman Drama

Group C, Performing & Directing  6
Select two courses from the following:
THEA 303  Directing
THEA 304  Movement
THEA 310  Improvisation for the Actor
THEA 376  Playwriting Workshop
THEA 401  Acting II
THEA 404  Advanced Movement
THEA 410  Theatre for Youth
THEA 413  Devised Theatre
THEA 476  Advanced Playwriting

Upper-Level Electives  6
Select two courses from the following:
ENGL 303  English Renaissance Drama
ENGL 305  Shakespeare’s Comedies and Histories
ENGL 306  Shakespeare’s Tragedies and Romances
FREN 415  French Theater
Any Theatre (THEA) course at the 300 or 400-level (except THEA 300)

Total Hours  39

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.

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Group A, Design/Technical Theater  3
Select one course from the following:
THEA 375  Scene Painting
THEA 380  Set Design
THEA 385  Period Styles
THEA 390  Costume Design
THEA 395  Lighting Design
THEA 471  Independent Study - Design/Technical

Group B, Dramatic Literature  3
Select one course from the following:
ENGL 303  English Renaissance Drama
ENGL 305  Shakespeare’s Comedies and Histories
ENGL 306  Shakespeare’s Tragedies and Romances
FREN 415  French Theater
THEA 320  Dramatic Theory
THEA 328  Contemporary Drama
THEA 424  African American Drama
THEA 425  19th Century American Drama
THEA 433  Modern Drama
THEA 438  Greek & Roman Drama
THEA 300. Wofford theatre production. Attendance at all rehearsals, performances, and performances, including monologues and scene-work. Students will speak like an actor, and perform in a variety of solo and group projects. 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 communicate regarding the production including the design/technical aspects and acting/directing. 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 301. Acting I. 3 Hours. This course is a continuation and extension of THEA 212, consisting of the further development of the basics of acting technique. Areas of focus will include training concepts such as ease, honesty, ensemble acting, sense memory, concentration, listening, imagination, risk-taking, and the actor’s exploration and use of the social world. All students will participate actively in laboratory productions.

**Prerequisite:** THEA 212 with a minimum grade of D.

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 introduce students to the basics of acting for the 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 305. Shakespeare’s Comedies and Histories. A study of major contemporary drama (1970 to present). Authors considered include Foreman, Churchill, Rabe, Kushner, Zimmerman and others. Also listed as English 328.

THEA 306. Shakespeare’s Tragedies and Romances. A course in creative writing focusing on plays. Cross-listed with ENG 376. **Prerequisite:** Any 200-level ENGL course with a D or better.
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 395. Lighting Design. 3 Hours.
Electricity, lighting instrument engineering, control functions and features, and real life hang and focus techniques of basic scene lighting will be taught. Students will create light plots for at least two texts, using both manual drafting and CADD. Finally, students will create their own lighting design project for display by utilizing the Black Box light lab.

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.
Continuation and extension of THEA 301, Acting I, with particular emphasis on character development. Through intensive scene work and special projects in characterization studies, we will expand the actor's 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 424. 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. Cross-listed with English 424.
Prerequisite: Any 200-level ENGL course with a D or better.

THEA 425. 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. Cross-listed with English 425.
Prerequisite: Any 200-level ENGL course with a D or better.

THEA 433. 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. Cross-list with English 433.
Prerequisite: Any 200-level ENGL course with a D or better.

THEA 438. Greek & 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. Cross-listed with English 438.
Prerequisite: Any 200-level ENGL course with a D or better.

THEA 440. Lighting Design. 3 Hours.
Continuation and extension of THEA 305, Lighting I, with particular emphasis on advanced lighting design techniques. This course will cover the design and execution of complex lighting designs for full-length plays, musicals, and other theatrical productions. Students will learn advanced techniques for creating and integrating stage lighting, including lighting plot design, technical theatre, and lighting design for specific performance venues.

THEA 471. Independent Study - Design/Technical. 0 to 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. Cross-list with English 433.
Prerequisite: Any 200-level ENGL course with a D or better.

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. Instructor permission required.
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. Instructor permission required.