Theater Arts

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Eugene, Oregon 97403-1231

About the Department

The Department of Theater Arts offers major curricula leading to the bachelor of arts (BA), bachelor of science (BS), master of arts (MA), master of fine arts (MFA) with a specialization in design, and doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees. The master of science (MS) degree program is currently inactive. Courses in theater arts are available for students majoring in other disciplines who want to develop their communication skills and their ability to appreciate and evaluate what they see and hear.

At the undergraduate level, the department offers a cross-disciplinary and liberal-arts education. Preprofessional courses provide vocational competence in teaching and in some aspects of commercial theater. Some students seek careers in commercial, educational, and community theaters as designers, actors, technicians, stage managers, or theater managers. Many continue specialized training in MFA degree programs or nondegree professional training schools. Some students use their liberal-arts background to pursue vocational opportunities that require advanced skills in communication and organization.

Students may gain practical experience in theater studies through University Theatre productions and other opportunities.

At the graduate level, the department offers intensive study and practical work toward the MFA degree focus areas of costume design, scenic design, and technical theater, with opportunities to also emphasize lighting, sound design, or both. The MA and PhD programs offer an in-depth study of theater and performance through contemporary critical and cultural theories as well as historiography and performance praxis.

Theaters

The James F. Miller Theatre Complex includes the renovated Robinson Theatre, a proscenium theater seating 300, and the Hope Theatre, a flexible venue that can seat 100–150. The complex includes a large lobby and costume and scene shops. The Pocket Playhouse, in Villard Hall, is a small proscenium stage and seats 75 people.

Technical Facilities

The scene shop is well equipped with power tools for wood and metal fabrication. Lighting equipment includes computerized controls and up-to-date instruments. The costume shop has power sewing and serging machines and a laundry and crafts area. Students are encouraged to sign up for production workshop classes or to practice their crafts as volunteers. Those who qualify for work-study financial aid are hired to assist in the shops. The shops are open every day.

Pocket Playhouse

Pocket Playhouse is the site for a series of productions presented by an elected student board.

University Theatre

The department’s season is composed of productions in two venues: the Robinson Theatre and the Hope Theatre. Faculty members and graduate students direct and design as many as six shows a year. Auditions are open to UO students, and admission for UO students is free.

Faculty


Theresa May, associate professor (acting, embodiment, Native American theater); director, graduate studies. BA, 1980, California, Irvine; MFA, 1983, Southern California; PhD, 2000, Washington (Seattle). (2007)


Emeriti

Alexandra Bonds, professor emerita. BS, 1972, Syracuse; MA, 1974, Denver. (1979)


Grant F. McKernie, professor emeritus. BA, 1964, Northwestern; MA, 1965, PhD, 1972, Ohio State. (1979)


The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Minor

Undergraduate Studies

For its undergraduate major program, the Department of Theater Arts has three principal objectives:
1. The attainment, by all of its majors, of a broad liberal arts education
2. Sufficient instruction to provide an appreciation of the different areas of theater
3. Direct experience in several aspects of theater production

Students study acting, directing, design, costume, lighting, stagecraft, history, dramatic literature, and theory. Courses in these fields are available to both majors and nonmajors.

In addition to the BA or BS degree requirements of the university, the following requirements are specified for students with a major in theater arts:

**Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TA 210</td>
<td>Introduction to Design</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 211-212</td>
<td>Theater Production I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 250</td>
<td>Acting I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 271</td>
<td>Introduction to Theater Arts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 367–369</td>
<td>History of the Theater I-III</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 470</td>
<td>Majors Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 490</td>
<td>Theater Capstone: [Topic] (Play Direction, Playwriting, Devising, Dramaturgy)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three of the following: 1

- TA 321 Scenery Production
- TA 322 Costume Production
- TA 323 Lighting Production
- TA 324 Production

Three upper-division courses in acting, directing, design, technical production, or playwriting 12

Three upper-division courses in history, literature, criticism, or dramaturgy 12

Total Credits 67

1. Production assignments are 1–4 credits each.
2. With the consent of an advisor, a student may substitute a course in another department for one of these courses, selected from a list approved by the theater arts faculty.

**Grading Options**

Some courses in theater arts are offered pass/no pass (P/N) only. Work counts toward fulfillment of the 180-credit requirement for a BA or BS only if satisfactorily completed.

**Transfer Students**

Transfer students must complete six 4-credit, upper-division courses and two of the production courses listed in the course list in residence at the University of Oregon.

**Honors in Theater Arts**

At the end of each academic year, the department’s faculty selects certain graduating seniors and confers on them departmental honors. Criteria include academic performance as well as the quality of participation in the production program.

**Minor Requirements**

Course work for the minor must be completed with letter grades of mid-C or better. At least 16 credits must be taken at the university. One course in each of the following areas must be included:

- literature and criticism
- performance
- technical theater
- theater history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Upper-division theater arts courses</td>
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**Four-Year Degree Plan**

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

**Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>TA 271</td>
<td>Introduction to Theater Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>WR 121</td>
<td>College Composition I</td>
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<tr>
<td>First term of first-year second-language sequence</td>
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<td>Course</td>
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<td>General-education course</td>
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<td>First term of second-year second-language sequence</td>
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<td>TA 321 Scenery Production</td>
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<td>TA 322 Costume Production</td>
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<td>TA 323 Lighting Production</td>
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<td>TA 324 Production</td>
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<td>&amp; TA 323 &amp; TA 324 or TA 251</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Third term of second-year second-language sequence</td>
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<td>Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher</td>
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Bachelor of Science in Theater Arts

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<th>Course</th>
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<th>Milestones</th>
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<td>WR 121 College Composition I</td>
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<td>TA 250 Acting I or TA 210 or Introduction to Design</td>
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<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td>TA 211 Theater Production I</td>
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<td>WR 122 College Composition II or WR 123 College Composition III</td>
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<td>TA 250 Acting I or TA 251 or Acting II</td>
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<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>TA 212 Theater Production II or TA 210 or Introduction to Design</td>
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<td>Meet with theater arts advisor</td>
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<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Third Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>TA 367 History of the Theater I</td>
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<td>Meet with TA advisor</td>
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<td>TA 368 History of the Theater II</td>
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<td>TA 470 Majors Seminar</td>
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<td>General-education or elective course</td>
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<td>Mathematics course</td>
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<td><strong>Fourth Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>TA 490 Theater Capstone: [Topic] (Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Meet with TA advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TA 321 Scenery Production &amp; TA 322 and Costume Production &amp; TA 323 and Lighting Production &amp; TA 324 and Production</td>
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</table>
Upper-division courses with TA subject code 8

Credits 16

Winter
TA 490 Theater Capstone: [Topic] 4

Upper-division course with TA subject code 4

Elective courses 8

Credits 16

Spring
Upper-division courses with TA subject code Overall 8

Credits 16

Elective courses 8

Total Credits 48

• Master of Arts
• Master of Fine Arts
• Doctor of Philosophy

Graduate Studies
The department offers graduate work leading to the master of arts (MA), master of fine arts (MFA), and doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees. The master of science (MS) degree program is currently inactive. Students entering the master’s degree program should have an undergraduate major in theater arts or the equivalent, while students entering the doctoral program should have completed a master’s degree in theater arts or the equivalent.

Each graduate student is expected to show ability in both academic and production areas. During residence at the university, a student is expected to make a significant contribution in three areas out of the following seven: acting, directing, technical theater, management, playwriting, teaching, and design.

Master of Arts Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate credits in graded theater arts course work</td>
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<tr>
<td>TA 503</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>TA 607</td>
<td>Seminar: [Topic]</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 56

1 Course topic changes every term. The master of arts requires at least 16 credits (four seminars). The student may also take approved 600-level course work.

Additional Requirements
• A minimum grade point average of 3.00
• Language proficiency (course work or examination)
• Completion of approved thesis
• Faculty-guided artistic production in design, acting, directing, technical production, dramaturgy, and playwriting

Master of Fine Arts Degree Requirements

The following are minimum requirements, all of which must be taken for a letter grade with the exception of Research: [Topic] (TA 601) and Practicum: [Topic] (TA 609).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TA 601</td>
<td>Research: [Topic]</td>
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<tr>
<td>TA 607</td>
<td>Seminar: [Topic]</td>
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<td>Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA 609</td>
<td>Practicum: [Topic]</td>
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</table>

Design and technology courses 2 24

Theater history, literature, and theory courses at the 500 and 600 level 8

Related courses outside the department 3 8

At least one course from acting, directing, dramaturgy, or stage management 4

Additional graded graduate-level theater arts course work 16

Total Credits 88

1 Course topics change every term. The MFA requires at least 8 credits. Students may also take approved and graded 600-level course work.

2 Must include at least one course each in lighting, scenery, and costumes.

3 With advisor approval, undergraduate courses at the 300 level may apply.

Additional Requirements
• A minimum grade point average of 3.00
• Completion and approval of a final project and written document

Specialization
Areas of specialization are set design, lighting design, technical direction, and costume design.

The master of fine arts degree does not require proficiency in a second language. Course work is substantially completed during the first two years; the MFA program typically takes three years to complete.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree Requirements

The PhD in theater arts requires nine courses in the first year and seven courses in the second year, which may include as much as 6 credits of independent reading toward the qualifying examinations in winter or spring terms of the second year. Students seeking the PhD must have demonstrated proficiency in a foreign language, either from two years of successful college course work or by passing a basic translation-comprehension exam, such as the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) test.

Following completion of course work, students wishing to pass to doctoral candidacy must pass qualifying examinations. Within one month after advancement to doctoral candidacy, students must deliver a dissertation prospectus for committee approval. Candidacy may be granted only after an approved dissertation prospectus. The degree is granted only with successful completion and full approval of a dissertation under Graduate School rules and deadlines.
Requirements Summary

- A minimum of 20 graded credits in 600-level graduate seminars
- At least 12 graded credits (or three 500- to 600-level courses) in a related field outside of theater arts
- Proof of reading comprehension in a foreign language (transcript credits or examination)
- Involvement in a faculty-guided artistic production in design, acting, directing, technical production, dramaturgy, and playwriting
- Qualifying examinations, oral defense, and approved prospectus
- At least 18 credits of Dissertation (TA 603)
- Completion of dissertation and approval of oral defense

Courses

TA 121. Scenery and Lighting Laboratory. 1-2 Credits.
Building and painting scenery, hanging lights for productions. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 8 credits.

TA 122. Costume Laboratory. 1-2 Credits.
Building costumes for productions. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 8 credits.

TA 124. Production. 1-2 Credits.
Working backstage for productions. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 8 credits.

TA 196. Field Studies: [Topic]. 1-2 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 198. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-2 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 199. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Freshman seminars. Repeatable.

TA 210. Introduction to Design. 4 Credits.
Introduction to the principles of design as applied to the arts of theater design, scenery, costumes, and lighting. Creative projects to develop concepts of visual imagery. Includes laboratory.

TA 211. Theater Production I. 4 Credits.
Introduction to the mechanics of mounting a theatrical production including basic construction of scenery and props and use of lighting equipment. Includes laboratory.

TA 212. Theater Production II. 4 Credits.
Introduction to costumes and makeup. Costume construction includes basic hand and machine sewing techniques. Beginning makeup covers ingenuity, beards, wounds, and fantasy. Includes laboratory.

TA 250. Acting I. 4 Credits.
Principles of warm-ups, individual inventory, Stanislavski system, character analysis, and rehearsal procedure.

TA 251. Acting II. 4 Credits.
Continuation of performance principles for contemporary realistic theater with addition of dramaturgical scene study.

TA 252. Acting III. 4 Credits.
Development of improvisational skills while establishing a working file of monologue material.

TA 271. Introduction to Theater Arts. 4 Credits.
Play and script structure, contemporary aesthetic attitudes, and the value of theater arts to society and the individual.

TA 321. Scenery Production. 1-3 Credits.
Production or performance crew head for scenery. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 12 credits.
Prereq: TA 211

TA 322. Costume Production. 1-3 Credits.
Production or performance crew head for costumes. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 12 credits.
Prereq: TA 212

TA 323. Lighting Production. 1-3 Credits.
Production or performance crew head for lighting. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 12 credits.
Prereq: TA 211

TA 324. Production. 1-3 Credits.
Stage manager, assistant director, or dramaturgy position. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 12 credits.

TA 325. Performance. 1-3 Credits.
Preparation, rehearsal, and performance of an acting role. Repeatable thrice for maximum of 12 credits.

TA 367. History of the Theater I. 4 Credits.
Development of the theater from its origins to the present. Emphasizes the history of dramatic literature, criticism, theater architecture, design, and performance.

TA 368. History of the Theater II. 4 Credits.
Development of the theater from its origins to the present. Emphasizes the history of dramatic literature, criticism, theater architecture, design, and performance.

TA 369. History of the Theater III. 4 Credits.
Development of the theater from its origins to the present. Emphasizes the history of dramatic literature, criticism, theater architecture, design, and performance.

TA 399. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 401. Research: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable nine times when the topic changes for a maximum of 40 credits.

TA 405. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable nine times when the topic changes for a maximum of 40 credits.

TA 406. Field Studies: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable twice for a maximum of 48 credits.

TA 407. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 408. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 409. Practicum: [Topic]. 1-3 Credits.
Repeatable thrice for maximum of 12 credits.

TA 410. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 411. Costume History I. 4 Credits.
History of Western clothing in cultural context. Egyptian to Renaissance.

TA 412. Costume History II. 4 Credits.
History of Western clothing in cultural context. Mid-Renaissance to romanticism.
TA 416. Costume Design. 4 Credits.
Beginning design concepts and various artistic media as applicable to costume design and rendering techniques.

TA 417. Advanced Costume Design. 4 Credits.
Analysis and interpretation of scripts for costume design. Continuation of development of rendering techniques.
Prereq: TA 416.

TA 418. Costume Pattern Drafting. 4 Credits.
Designing patterns through flat patterning and draping techniques. Practical experience in pattern development and execution.
Prereq: TA 212.

TA 419. Costume Construction. 4 Credits.
Practical problems encountered in building and decorating costumes for the stage.
Prereq: TA 212.

TA 420. Return and Review for Actors. 1 Credit.
Review foundational concepts and technique by participating, demonstrating, and coaching in Acting I or II. Repeatable for Acting I (TA 250) once for a maximum of 2 credits; for Acting II (TA 251) once for a maximum of 2 credits.

TA 441. Scene Design: Single Set. 4 Credits.
Elements of scene design; the scene designer's role. Creating a ground plan, measured perspective techniques, elevations, design styles. Design process and procedures related to the proscenium stage only.

TA 445. Advanced Projects in Theater Technology: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Specialized areas of theater technology, one topic per term. Topics include scene painting, stage management, props, and computer drafting. Repeatable seven times when topic changes for maximum of 32 credits.

TA 452. Advanced Acting: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics in the performance of a specific genre or authors, or in specific performance technique, including voice, movement, and musical skills. Repeatable when topic changes.
Prereq: TA 251, 252, 271; one from TA 210, 211, 212.

TA 467. Lighting for the Stage. 4 Credits.
Designing lighting for the stage; technical and aesthetic problems.

TA 470. Majors Seminar. 4 Credits.
Capstone seminar for junior theater majors; readings and research in new theater trends, aesthetics, professional and higher academic opportunities.

TA 471. Studies in Theater and Culture: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Dramatic literature and historical cultural concepts. Establishes a cultural context for periods of drama, using arts materials and socioeconomic factors to clarify aesthetic attitudes and practices of theater. Repeatable thrice when topic changes for maximum of 16 credits.

TA 472. Multicultural Theater: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Origins and development of contributions in theater and drama by various cultures including Latino, Chicano, African American, Asian American, and Native American. Repeatable four times when topic changes for maximum of 20 credits.

TA 490. Theater Capstone: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Required for the major and may be fulfilled by successful completion of any one of four topics: Play Direction, Playwriting, Dramaturgy, Devising. Repeatable up to 3 times for a total of 16 credits.
Prereq: TA 210, TA 211, TA 212, TA 250, TA 271, and one from the theatre history series: TA 367, TA 368, TA 369.

TA 503. Thesis. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 507. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 508. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 510. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 511. Costume History I. 4 Credits.
History of Western clothing in cultural context. Egyptian to Renaissance.

TA 512. Costume History II. 4 Credits.
History of Western clothing in cultural context. Mid-Renaissance to romanticism.

TA 516. Costume Design. 4 Credits.
Beginning design concepts and various artistic media as applicable to costume design and rendering techniques.

TA 517. Advanced Costume Design. 4 Credits.
Analysis and interpretation of scripts for costume design. Continuation of development of rendering techniques.
Prereq: TA 416/516.

TA 518. Costume Pattern Drafting. 4 Credits.
Designing patterns through flat patterning and draping techniques. Practical experience in pattern development and execution.

TA 519. Costume Construction. 4 Credits.
Practical problems encountered in building and decorating costumes for the stage.

TA 541. Scene Design: Single Set. 4 Credits.
Elements of scene design; the scene designer's role. Creating a ground plan, measured perspective techniques, elevations, design styles. Design process and procedures related to the proscenium stage only.

TA 545. Advanced Projects in Theater Technology: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Specialized areas of theater technology, one topic per term. Topics include scene painting, stage management, props, and computer drafting. Repeatable seven times when topic changes for maximum of 32 credits.

TA 552. Advanced Acting: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics in the performance of a specific genre or authors, or in specific performance technique, including voice, movement, and musical skills. Repeatable when topic changes.

TA 567. Lighting for the Stage. 4 Credits.
Designing lighting for the stage; technical and aesthetic problems.

TA 571. Studies in Theater and Culture: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Dramatic literature and historical cultural concepts. Establishes a cultural context for periods of drama, using arts materials and socioeconomic factors to clarify aesthetic attitudes and practices of theater. Repeatable thrice when topic changes for maximum of 16 credits.
TA 572. Multicultural Theater: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Origins and development of contributions in theater and drama by various cultures including Latino, Chicano, African American, Asian American, and Native American. Repeatable four times when topic changes for maximum of 20 credits.

TA 601. Research: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 602. Supervised College Teaching. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 603. Dissertation. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 605. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 606. Field Studies: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 607. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 608. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 609. Practicum: [Topic]. 1-3 Credits.
Rehearsal and Performance is a current topic. Repeatable five times for a maximum of 18 credits.

TA 610. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

TA 651. Theory of Dramatic Production. 4 Credits.
Theory of acting.