THEATRE

Departmental Guidelines

The goals of majors in theatre are twofold: first, to provide students with a working knowledge of the fundamental principles of each of the several arts of the theatre, offering opportunities for practical application of those principles in stage production; and second, to develop analytical skill, facility in problem-solving, historical perspective, and appreciation of aesthetic form.

The programs in theatre aim to develop the skills of thoughtful inquiry, informed judgment, and imaginative response that are fundamental to the rewarding pursuit of any profession. In addition, these programs aim to provide a sound basis for graduate study in theatre.

Faculty

Associate Professor Mark Evans Bryan, Chair

Professor Cynthia Turnbull; Associate Professors Mark Evans Bryan, Cheryl Kennedy McFarren, Peter Pauzé; Assistant Professor James Dennen; Visiting Assistant Professor Elieni Papaleonardos; Technical Director of the Eisner Center Andrew Johns; Costume Shop Supervisor Joyce Merrieles; Academic Administrative Assistant, Holly Breymaier

View faculty profiles and contact information (https://denison.edu/academics/theatre/contacts)

Theatre Major

Required Courses - B.A. - 40 Credits

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>THTR 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Theatre-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>THTR 370</td>
<td>Theatre Seminar</td>
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<td>THTR 400</td>
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<td>One of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>THTR 230</td>
<td>Acting: Realism I</td>
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<td>THTR 250</td>
<td>Acting: Pre-20th Century Styles</td>
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<td>THTR 330</td>
<td>Acting: Realism II</td>
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<td>THTR 360</td>
<td>Acting: Special Topics</td>
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<td>Two of the following:</td>
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<td>THTR 371</td>
<td>History, Literature, and Theory of the Theatre: Premodern World</td>
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<td>THTR 372</td>
<td>History, Literature, and Theory of the Theatre: Early Modern Europe</td>
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<td>THTR 373</td>
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<td>THTR 374</td>
<td>History, Literature, and Theory of the Theatre: Theatre of the Americas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three elective courses in Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>A total of four credits of Practicum from at least two different Practicum courses</td>
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Theatre Minor

18 credits

To minor in Theatre, students must take

- THTR 101 - Introduction to Theatre-making; one each:
- Acting course THTR 230 - Acting: Realism I, THTR 250 - Acting: Pre-20th Century Styles, THTR 330 - Acting: Realism II, or THTR 360 - Acting: Special Topics,
- and one elective Theatre course,
- as well as two credits of Practicum from different Practicum courses.

Courses

THTR 101 - Introduction to Theatre-making (4 Credit Hours)
An introduction to theatrical design and performance that engages the questions "How and why is theatre made?" conducted in a combined discussion/workshop format. Students will be exposed to visual methods of interpreting a text (or idea) and will work collaboratively in weekly "Co-Labs" to create, to solve problems, and to apply skills discussed in their other sessions. The course seeks to establish a vocabulary for understanding basic theatrical conventions, roles, and practices, and provides opportunities for exploring the making of theatre through building student capacities in creativity, communication, and collaboration.

THTR 105 - Theatrical Style and Creation (4 Credit Hours)
This course will explore theatrical style and innovative theatre artists who have influenced theatrical production practices, and will investigate the process of various theatre artists within the framework of their goals, choices, and the historical moment.

THTR 106 - Presenting Theatre (4 Credit Hours)
This is an introductory course which will explore theatrical style, and innovative theatre artists who have influenced theatrical practices in historical and contemporary productions. Students will investigate the process of theatre artists within a framework of goals, choices and the historical moment. In addition, students will study the principles and skills of effective oral communication and develop those skills in discussion and presentation opportunities in class.

THTR 120 - Practicum: Scenery Construction (2 Credit Hours)
A workshop laboratory in which students learn the fundamentals of scenic stagecraft through practical application in the department's scenic shop.

THTR 125 - Practicum: Lighting and Electrics (2 Credit Hours)
A workshop laboratory in which students learn the fundamentals of electrics stagecraft through practical application in the department's lighting and electrics shop and theatres.

THTR 160 - Practicum: Costume & Makeup Running Crew (1-2 Credit Hours)
A workshop laboratory in which students serve on the costume and/or makeup running crew for a departmental theatre production.

THTR 165 - Practicum: Scenery & Lights Running Crew (1-2 Credit Hours)
A workshop laboratory in which students serve on the scenery and/or lights running crew for a departmental theatre production.

THTR 170 - Practicum: Performance (1 Credit Hour)
A workshop laboratory in which students perform in a departmental theatre production.
THTR 175 - Practicum: Special Topics (1-4 Credit Hours)
A production workshop and directed study in which a student serves in some special capacity for a departmental theatre production.

THTR 180 - Costume Crafts I (2 Credit Hours)
An introductory hands-on course for students interested in learning construction techniques used in the creation of costumes for the stage. Students will develop their sewing skills and learn basic concepts in patternning, fitting, fabric modification, and corset construction.

THTR 185 - Costume Crafts II (2 Credit Hours)
A hands-on course for students interested in learning construction techniques used in the creation of costumes for the stage. Each student will be developing more advanced sewing and costume construction skills. The course will cover draping and millinery and accessories construction.

THTR 195 - Special Topics in Theatre (1-4 Credit Hours)
This course will explore a variety of special topics in the Theatre Arts.

THTR 199 - Introductory Topics in Theatre (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

THTR 200 - Fashion: History, Culture and Identity (4 Credit Hours)
An introduction of basic fashion theory and the visual communication of clothing through the study of Western dress with emphasis on how the "fabric" of each period (i.e., the trends in thought, art, culture, politics, and economics) made its impression on the fashion of the day.

THTR 230 - Acting: Realism I (4 Credit Hours)
A studio course in the fundamental techniques of realistic acting. The course explores the demands and conventions of realistic acting through the theories and writing of Konstantin Stanislavsky. Students will study and carry out numerous in-class exercises, pioneered by Stanislavsky, that develop actor skills through exploration of "work on the self and work on the role." Character will be explored through the use of vocal and physical control, script analysis, and the active pursuit of objectives. Participants in this course will perform improvisations, monologues, and scenes. Written work will include character analyses, research papers, and critical review of outside performances.

THTR 250 - Acting: Pre-20th Century Styles (4 Credit Hours)
A studio course in the fundamental techniques of stylized acting traditions popularized before the twentieth century. Exploration of the vocal demands created by the patterns, images, and rhythms built into verse and heightened dialogue. Physical life is defined through the examinations of historical space, time period, and costume. The creation of character is linked to the development of mask and dramatic personae. Periods and styles of exploration may include Greek, Shakespeare, Comedy of Manners, Commedia, and Farce. Performances will include sonnets, soliloquies, and scenes.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 230.

THTR 290 - Playwriting: Form, Structure, Narrative (4 Credit Hours)
An introductory course in the writing of drama. The course will involve the reading and discussion of assigned play texts as well as of peer-student writing. Students will complete weekly reading assignments, weekly written response assignments, and a series of creative exercises focused on technique, structure, and storytelling. Students will also have in-class workshop opportunities and the responsibility to engage in critical dialogues with their classmates. The final project is a short, original script.

THTR 295 - Special Topics in Theatre (1-4 Credit Hours)
This course will explore a variety of special topics in the Theatre Arts.

THTR 299 - Intermediate Topics in Theatre (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.
THTR 371 - History, Literature, and Theory of the Theatre: Premodern World (4 Credit Hours)
This course explores the relationship among theatrical storytelling traditions and the cultures and audiences that produced them from ancient Africa, Turkey, and Greece to medieval Europe, and the Middle East. Major topics of investigation will include evidence of prehistoric theatre forms, ancient Egyptian and pre-Hellenistic theatre and drama in the Mediterranean world, classical and late Hellenistic drama and performance, republican and imperial Roman drama and theatre, civilization, the religious and secular theatre of medieval Christian Europe, and the early theatre forms of the Islamic world. Course readings combine primary sources, secondary analyses, and drama and theory texts. Sophomore-Junior-Senior status.

THTR 372 - History, Literature, and Theory of the Theatre: Early Modern Europe (4 Credit Hours)
This course explores the tremendous changes in dramatic and performance theory, entertainment culture, dramatic literature and performance, and theatrical production during the early modern period in Europe. Beginning with the Italian Renaissance, the course investigates the drama and theatre of the major theatre cultures of the early modern era—Italy, England, Spain, and France, with a special focus on the English drama—in the context of the rapidly changing culture of European nationalism, mercantilism, and colonialism. Course readings combine primary sources, secondary analyses, and drama and theory texts. The goals of this course are: to discuss the major movements and processes of early modern European theatre during the period of the “Renaissance,” exploring drama, contemporaneous performance theory, and the evidence of performance in Italy, England, Spain, and France (and especially in the cities of Florence, London, Madrid, and Paris); to interrogate the received histories of theatre and dramatic storytelling (i.e. the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Euro-American historiographical traditions); to debate and discuss major texts in performance and drama theory; and to practice the craft of the theatre scholar, exercising and refining critical, analytical, and research skills in discussion and four writing assignments (the critical essay, the analytical essay, the prospectus for research, and the research project) in the context of a Writing Intensive seminar at Denison.

THTR 373 - History, Literature, and Theory of the Theatre: Modern World (4 Credit Hours)
This course explores dramatic and performance theory, entertainment culture, and theatrical production during the modern era from the rise of romanticism in Europe at the end of the eighteenth century to the theatre forms that characterized the post-WWII period. Course readings combine primary sources, secondary analyses, and drama and theory texts. Sophomore-Junior-Senior status.

THTR 374 - History, Literature, and Theory of the Theatre: Theatre of the Americas (4 Credit Hours)
THTR 374 explores the history of performance, entertainment culture, and theatrical production from pre-Columbian cultures to the popular theatre/performance traditions of the contemporary Americas. Course readings combine primary sources, secondary analyses, and drama texts in English and in translation. Though a significant portion of this course is devoted to the complicated social and artistic forces that produced the current theatre and entertainment cultures in British North America and the United States, THTR 374 also explores theatre traditions in Spanish-speaking North America, Spanish- and French-speaking Caribbean cultures, and Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking South America. The goals of the course are to introduce the major movements, events, and processes of theatre and performance in the Americas from precolonial evidence to the twenty-first century by exploring drama, performance theory, and evidence of theatrical practice; to assess the historical context and relationships among the theatre and other arts forms in the Americas; to interrogate the received histories of theatre and dramatic storytelling (i.e. the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Euro-American historiographical traditions); to debate and discuss major texts in performance and drama theory; and to practice the craft of the theatre scholar, exercising and refining critical, analytical, and research skills in discussion and four writing assignments (the critical essay, the analytical essay, the prospectus for research, and the research project) in the context of a Writing Intensive seminar at Denison.

THTR 375 - Practicum: Assistant Director (2 Credit Hours)
A production workshop and directed study in which the student serves as Assistant Director for a departmental theatre production.

THTR 376 - Directing: Special Topics (4 Credit Hours)
This course builds on the fundamentals of composition and staging covered in "Directing: Realism." Elements of composition are reviewed, rethought, and applied to Arena and Thrust stage configurations. Simultaneous movement, symmetrical picturization, and other unrealistic techniques are considered in terms of staging. Collaborative processes with designers will be explored as well as further methods of working with actors. Special attention is given to abstract story telling, musical theatre and opera, dreamscapes, and contemporary drama and comedy. Prerequisite(s): THTR 370.

THTR 380 - Practicum: Stage Manager (2 Credit Hours)
A production workshop and directed study in which the student serves as the Stage Manager for a departmental theatre production.

THTR 390 - Reynolds Playwriting Workshop (4 Credit Hours)
An advanced playwriting workshop conducted by the Reynolds Playwright-in-Residence. The Jonathan R. Reynolds Playwright-in-Residence endowment provides for a visiting playwright of national or international renown to teach in the Department of Theatre for one semester, every other academic year. The course's content is dependent upon the visiting artist, but the course will typically involve explorations into technique and form and the writing of a major creative project. Past Reynolds Playwrights have included Arnold Wesker, Lee Blessing, Jeffrey Hatcher (DU '80) and Caridad Svich. Prerequisite(s): THTR 290 or consent.

THTR 395 - Special Topics in Theatre (1-4 Credit Hours)
This course will explore a variety of special topics in the Theatre Arts.

THTR 399 - Advanced Topics in Theatre (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.
THTR 400 - Theatre Seminar (4 Credit Hours)
Intensive study of a major playwright, genre, form, or context of dramatic literature; of historical, cultural, aesthetic significance of theatre production during a specific period or particular movement in the history of the theatre; or, of specific movements or artists in design, acting, directing, or other fields of theatre production and performance. The seminar topics will vary. Repeatable. Junior/Senior standing and consent of instructor.

THTR 430 - Playwriting: Workshop (4 Credit Hours)
A workshop course in the writing of drama. The course will involve the reading and discussion of assigned play texts and peer-student writing. Each student will work on a major creative project throughout the semester. Evaluation of a student's work will be based on this project, participation in workshop performance and discussion, and a portfolio of drafts and revisions. The course will conclude with staged readings or performances of the major projects.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 290 or ENGL 237 or CINE 328 or consent.

THTR 450 - Senior Project: Acting (4 Credit Hours)
The student serves as an Actor for a departmental theatre production.
Prerequisite(s): Three acting courses.

THTR 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)
Senior standing and consent from the instructor.

THTR 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)
Senior standing and consent from the instructor.

THTR 455 - Senior Project: Directing (4 Credit Hours)
The student serves as Director for a departmental theatre production.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 101 and one acting class.

THTR 460 - Senior Project: Costume Design (4 Credit Hours)
The student serves as Costume Designer for a departmental theatre production. The focus will be placed on the process, analysis, research and analytical skills of the designer within the framework of a practical project.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 101, THTR 180, THTR 200, THTR 300, THTR 340, or consent.

THTR 465 - Senior Project: Scenic Design (4 Credit Hours)
The student serves as Scenic Designer for a departmental theatre production.

THTR 470 - Senior Project: Lighting Design (4 Credit Hours)
The student serves as Lighting Designer for a departmental theatre production.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 101, THTR 220, THTR 125, or consent.

THTR 475 - Special Project: Special Topics (4 Credit Hours)
The student serves in some capacity on a departmental theatre production.
Prerequisite(s): To be decided on a case by case basis.

THTR 495 - Special Topics in Theatre (1-4 Credit Hours)
This course will explore a variety of special topics in the Theatre Arts.