Academic Offerings

This section contains descriptions of programs, majors, minors, areas of concentration, fields of specialization, and courses. Semesters following course titles indicate when each course is normally offered. On rare occasions, a course may not be available when indicated because of low enrollment or unexpected staffing changes.

Courses listed as Fall Odd and Spring Even are scheduled to be offered during the 2016-17 academic year. i.e., fall 2016-17 is Fall Even, spring 2016-17 is Spring Odd.

Theatre Arts

General Major—

Foundation (common to all emphases): Theatre Arts 102, 103, 203, 365, 366, 371, 380, 382, 384, 386; one course from Theatre Arts 204, 207, 208, 307; one course from Theatre Arts 233, 234, 235, 236; two enrollments in HHP 014; a minimum of seven credits from Theatre Arts 001. Prerequisite for Theatre Arts 386 is junior status. Students should enroll in the course in the fall of their junior year. Theatre Arts majors are required to complete the theatre subsection of Core 160.

Students must select one of the following emphases:

Acting/Directing:

Foundation; Theatre Arts 204, 205, 207, 208, 307; English 210, 312. Theatre Arts 390 recommended.

Design and Technical Theatre:

Foundation; Art 201, 202, 225; one course from Art 207, 208, 209, 210; Theatre Arts 233, 234, 235, 236. Individual study in design or technical theatre recommended.

Drama Ministry:

Foundation; Theatre Arts 262; Theology 231, 331, 351; Theology 254 or 332.

Dramaturgy/Playwriting:

Foundation; English 301 or 302; English 312; Philosophy 206; Theatre Arts 262; one course from Art 207, 208, 209, 210, English 333, History 280.

Theatre Management:

Foundation; Business Administration 201, 205, 206, 207; Communication 260; CORE 266 or Economics 202. Business Administration 100, English 305, and Theatre Arts 391-393 recommended.

General Minor—

Theatre Arts 102, 103, 382; one course from Theatre Arts 204, 207, 208, 307; one course from Theatre Arts 233, 234, 235, 236; Theatre Arts 203 or 262; one course from English 312, Theatre Arts 365, 366; a minimum of four credits from Theatre Arts 001. Theatre Arts 371 recommended.

For descriptions of EDUCATION majors, minors, fields of specialization, and teaching endorsements, see pages 80-95, Teacher Preparation Program.

001 Theatre Practicum (1-3) .....................................................................................................................................................................Fall, Spring Students apply for one to three hours of academic credit for work on a theatre production. Registration for credit is required in the semester in which the project is to be produced. In addition to rehearsal, performance, or technical work, regular meetings and some written work are required.

102 Fundamentals of Acting (3) ..........................................................................................................................................................Fall Odd This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of acting. They will gain knowledge and develop skills in character analysis, basic internal and external acting methods, characterization, listening, relaxation, concentration, and improvisation. May not be taken on a pass/fail basis.

103 Stagecraft (3) .................................................................................................................................................................................Fall An introduction to the theory and practice of stage lighting and set construction techniques, including introductory electrical and color theory.

203 Scenic Design (3) .............................................................................................................................................................................Spring Odd An introduction to scenic design that includes design theory, design process, and the technical skills related to scenic design. May not be taken on a pass/fail basis. Prerequisite: Theatre Arts 103.

204 Voice and Movement (1.5) ............................................................................................................................................................Spring Odd In this course students apply voice, diction, ensemble, and movement fundamentals toward the development of clear stage speech and dialect creation, sensory awareness, ensemble performance, character movement, body control, and basic juggling and tumbling skills.
205  Acting for the Camera (3)........................................................................................................Spring Odd

The basic techniques of acting for the camera and strategies for adapting stage-acting methods for the camera. Students will perform on-camera in class and have the opportunity to perfect their craft through critical analysis of their recorded performances. Prerequisite: Theatre Arts 102; or permission of instructor.

207  Improvisation for Theatre and Life (1.5)........................................................................................Spring Odd

This class explores the history and techniques of improvisation from the renaissance through contemporary times. It challenges the student to grow in spontaneity and confidence in their creative capacities in all parts of life.

208  Stage Combat (1.5)......................................................................................................................Spring Even

An introduction to stage combat focusing on the technique for safely creating and performing stage violence. This course covers hand-to-hand combat and sword fighting methods for the stage.

233  Sound Design and Technologies (1.5)..........................................................................................Spring Even

Students will explore the physics and technology of sound. We will develop a basic understanding of how sound works in our day to day lives, discuss the technologies and tools used to control sound, and develop an understanding of how we might use this knowledge to create artistic, theatrical experiences.

234  Lighting Design and Technologies (1.5)......................................................................................Spring Even

Students will become aware of some theories about and engage the realities of lighting design for the theatre. The hands-on nature of the curriculum will enable students to feel comfortable with, and be employable in an introductory position in the field of lighting design.

235  Makeup Design (1.5)..................................................................................................................Fall Even

This course covers the materials, principles, and practices of makeup design and application for theatre and film.

236  Costume Design (1.5)....................................................................................................................Fall Even

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to costume design. Over the course of the semester the student will learn how to develop a costume design from the analysis of the script to the final color rendering. Students will gain a basic understanding of costume history, script analysis, design theory, and basic rendering skills. These goals will be achieved through assigned readings from the text, assigned plays, research projects, drawing assignments, in class projects, and class presentations.

262  Educational Theatre in the Classroom and Beyond (3).................................................................Fall Odd

An introduction to informal dramatics for the classroom, youth theatre programs, and other applications in fields such as youth ministry, social work, and psychology. Students interested in elementary, middle or high school teaching are encouraged to enroll. Emphasis is on dramatic activity requiring minimal equipment and facilities. Field experience required in area schools, churches, or after-school programs. Prerequisite: admission to the Teacher Preparation Program; or permission of instructor. [Cross-listed: Education 262]

283  Service-Learning (1-3).................................................................................................................Fall, Spring, Summer

See page 115, Individual Studies

307  Acting Styles (1.5).......................................................................................................................Spring Even

This course could be described as an integration of body, mind, and voice techniques for the purpose of developing a way to conventionalized period acting. Students will research period styles, practice script analysis, learn characterization techniques, participate in physical and vocal acting exercises, and apply this work in stylistic scene and monologue work. Period/Styles covered in this course could include the following: Greek, Shakespearean, Comedy of Manners, Farce.

341- Special Topics (3).......................................................................................................................Occasional

These courses are special-interest courses utilizing instructor strengths and student interests. Each topic will be concerned with material not usually treated to any great extent in regularly scheduled courses.

365  Theatre History and Literature I: Greek through Neo-Classicism (3).........................................Spring Even

Students engage the literature of the theatre from Sophocles to Moliere as an introduction to the rise, decline, and rebirth of Western drama, as well as some forms of Eastern drama. May not be taken on a pass/fail basis. Not recommended for freshman students. Satisfies Core Program writing-intensive requirement.

366  Theatre History and Literature II: Restoration through Present Day (3)..................................Spring Odd

Students engage representative literature of the theatre from Behn to Pinter and Parks as they examine the birth of modernism, anti-realism, and various forms of postmodernism. May not be taken on a pass/fail basis. Not recommended for freshman students.

371  Applied Theatre: Capstone Production Project (3)......................................................................Fall, Spring

The course content (directing, design, acting, technical theatre, producing, or playwriting) will be designed for each individual in consultation with a departmental supervisor. Work on the project will be done in two or three semesters with enrollment in the final semester. May not be taken on a pass/fail basis. Open only to majors and minors.
380 Playwriting and Playscript Analysis (3)
This course provides basic instruction in writing dramatic scenes and a one-act play. It also provides advanced instruction in script analysis: theories, genre, style, methods of construction, and the implications for performance. Students will read what working playwrights say about their craft, read about and discuss the writing of plays of different styles, and workshop their script(s) in community.

382 Directing (3)
A study of some of the problems that are part of the directing process and of the techniques for shaping that process. Students will focus on staging techniques and apply their learning in the direction of a short one-act play. May not be taken on a pass/fail basis. Prerequisites: Theatre Arts major; junior or senior standing; and/or permission of instructor.

384 Devised Theatre (3)
A study of the theory and practice of theatre and drama used for human reflection or to raise awareness and affect social change. Students will learn to apply the core principles of facilitating, scripting, and play-building to real world contexts. Topics of study will depend on the focus of the course in a particular semester. The course may culminate in an original, devised performance piece that could be toured in local communities. May be repeated but may not count as more than one three-credit course towards the major or minor.

386 Professional Practices (1)
This course introduces theatre majors to such things as resume writing, portfolio creation, and interviewing and auditioning skills. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing.

391- Individual Studies (1-3) See page 115, Individual Studies