

Theatre

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The Department of Theatre offers a variety of complementary perspectives on performance. Our acting classes combine western and eastern techniques for training body and voice while teaching the student to interpret dramatic texts. We offer dramatic literature and theatre history courses to place those texts in historical and thematic contexts and focus on them as a medium for performance. We provide dance courses grounded in an understanding of dance history as well as technique and composition, and design courses that explore visual interpretations of texts in performance. Our directing classes locate performance as an intersection of all of these disciplines and train students to read texts on several levels at once. Additionally, we teach classes in film and tutorials in playwriting and screenwriting.

The fully equipped Fenwick Theatre houses the major productions of the department and dance concerts. A range of studio productions (directed by both faculty and students), workshops, and classes takes place in The Studio (O'Kane 481), The Pit (O'Kane 37), and the Dance Studio (O'Kane 28). Work on any department production is open to all Holy Cross students, faculty, and staff.

The Department of Theatre offers a major with a 12-course curriculum. The following courses are required: Theatre History 1, Basic Acting, Design and Technical Production, Voice in Acting 1, Shakespeare Through Performance, American Drama 1920 to Present, Modern Drama or Theatre History 2, and one semester of any dance course. Lab experience in Theatre Practicum is required for three semesters. Depending on the student's interest in acting, directing, design, dramatic literature, theatre history, film or dance, electives are chosen from among the following: Scene Study, American Film, World Film, Film as Narrative, Selected American Stage and Film Artists, Political Theatre, Holocaust on Stage & Screen, Voice in Acting 2, Kamikaze Acting, Audition Techniques, Scene Design, Lighting Design, Costume Design, Directing 1, Advanced Directing, Performance Recital, Performance for Audience, Dance Performance, Ballet 1-2 and 3-4, Modern Dance 1-2 and 3-4, Jazz 1-2, Balinese Dance 1-2 and 3-4, and tutorials in production, film, playwriting, dance, directing, dramatic literature, or design.

Students wishing to specialize in design for theatre may create a major through the Center for Interdisciplinary and Special Studies (CISS) by drawing courses from the Departments of Theatre and Visual Arts, and other departments as appropriate to their interests. Students may also create a film studies minor through CISS.

The Holy Cross Department of Theatre is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Courses

Theatre 101 — Basic Acting

Fall, spring

This course offers, through classroom exercises, improvisations and performance of scenes from plays, an approach to understanding, appreciating, and practicing the art of acting and theatre. One unit.

Theatre 110 — Theatre Practicum

Fall, spring

Students participate in Department of Theatre major productions through weekly lab work on costumes, scenery, properties or lighting. This course is taken pass/fail as an overload and is required with enrollment

in Basic Acting or Design and Technical Production. One-half unit.

Theatre 125 — American Drama 1920 to Present

Alternate years

American plays from the early work of Eugene O'Neill through that of contemporary dramatists are explored as theatre (through film and video) and as dramatic literature. This course looks at drama in historical and thematic contexts and as the expression of major American playwrights. One unit.

Theatre 127 — Design and Technical Production

Fall

Examines the arts and crafts required to mount a live theatrical production during the planning, preparation, and performance phases. Also explores the function and responsibilities of the design team. Class projects and enrollment in Theatre Practicum provide practical experience in many areas. One unit.

Theatre 128 — Political Theatre

Every third year

Examines theatre and film that espouse a specific political point of view or simply present political content. The works on the syllabus deal with war, revolution, oppression, gender, cultural issues, the Holocaust, and populism, among other topics. One unit.

Theatre 131 — Balinese Dance 1-2

Fall, spring

Balinese Dance is a dance performance class which surveys the rich classical, contemporary, and folk traditions of music, mask, dance, and theatre from Bali, Indonesia. Hinduism plays a significant role in the performing arts of Bali and will be discussed in relationship to performance. Students rehearse and perform with Gamelan Gita Sari, the Holy Cross gamelan orchestra. This course can be taken for two semesters. One unit.

Theatre 140 — Holocaust on Stage and Screen

Alternate years

Uses dramatic literature and film to examine the Nazi policies of genocide that were initiated and enacted before and during World War II. Various representational strategies are analyzed and contrasted in an effort to gauge the relative effectiveness of artists to come to terms with these ineffable events. Issues examined include the relationship between a dramatic text and its historical model, the problem of transfiguration, the applicability of a structural model for organizing texts, documentary versus dramatic enactment, varying national viewpoints, the emergence of feminist and gay perspectives, and the problem of exploitation and revisionism. One unit.

Theatre 141 — Jazz Dance 1-2

Fall, spring

A studio course open to students with less than six months of dance experience. The course focuses on technique and touches on aspects of jazz history and its relationship to music and social history. This course can be taken for two semesters. One unit.

Theatre 151 — Ballet 1-2

Fall, spring

Beginning ballet technique is offered for beginners and those with less than six months of dance experience. The course will emphasize alignment, ballet positions and vocabulary, as well as the mastery of skills such as turning, jumping, and coordination. In addition to technique, the course will introduce dance history and dance appreciation through readings, videos, and class discussion. To offer a richer and more contemporary experience of ballet, students will depart from the ballet idiom and experiment with creating a personal movement vocabulary. This course can be taken for two semesters. One unit.

Theatre 160 — American Film

Annually

This introductory course teaches the student how to read a movie. Films are presented by genre and conventional examples of each genre are paired with movies that play with, undercut, or expand the conventions. The syllabus includes American movies from 1930 to the present. One unit.

Theatre 161 — Theatre History 1: Classical to Romantic

Alternate years

Focuses on five periods in the history of western theatre: Classical Greek, Medieval, Renaissance, Neoclassical, and Romantic. Readings and viewings include plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Shakespeare, Molière, Racine, and others. One unit.

Theatre 162 — Theatre History 2: Modern and Contemporary

Alternate years

Studies modernist movements in western theatre: realism, expressionism, surrealism, epic theatre, symbolism, and theatre of the absurd. Readings include plays by Ibsen, Strindberg, Shaw, Chekhov, O'Neill, Dürrenmatt, Brecht, Williams, Pirandello, Beckett, and Guare. Viewings include films by Lang, Pabst, Scorsese, and Cocteau. One unit.

Theatre 165 — World Film

Annually

Like American Film, this is an introductory course that teaches the student how to read a movie. How-

ever, the content is exclusively non-American films, viewed thematically and historically, as well as in their cultural contexts. The syllabus typically includes films from France, Italy, England, Japan, Sweden, Ireland, Spain, Mexico, Germany, Canada, and other countries. One unit.

Theatre 170 — Modern Drama

Alternate years

Surveys the major aesthetic movements of the last century, employing dramatic texts and theoretical writings to illustrate successive ideas. Movements such as naturalism, symbolism, expressionism, surrealism, and the absurd are examined through a close reading of works by Ibsen, Chekhov, Shaw, Wedekind, Pirandello, Brecht, Beckett, and others. One unit.

Theatre 181 — Modern Dance 1-2

Fall, spring

A basic introductory modern dance technique course for beginners or students with less than six months of dance experience. Students learn beginning modern dance exercises and movement combinations. The basic components of modern dance and its place in 20th-century art will be examined. This course can be taken for two semesters. One unit.

Theatre 202 — Voice in Acting 1

Annually

Students learn how to correct regionalisms, support the voice, and increase range in songs and dramatic texts. Healthy vocal production, flexibility, relaxation, and power are emphasized. Prerequisite: Theatre 101. One unit.

Theatre 203 — Scene Study

Annually

An intensive scene study class. Plays ranging in style from contemporary to Restoration are analyzed and performed. Physical and vocal exercises from Basic Acting and Voice in Acting will be continued with the addition of period style work. Prerequisites: Theatre 101 and 202. One unit.

Theatre 210 - Advanced Theatre Practicum

Fall, spring

Students participate in Department of Theatre major productions through crew assignments in scenery and props, lighting, costumes, sound, and stage management. Schedule for the course is determined by the production schedule. This course is taken pass/fail as an overload and may be taken multiple times. Theatre majors must take it twice. Prerequisite: Theatre 110. One-half unit.

Theatre 227 — Scene Design

Alternate years in spring

Principles of scenic design and script analysis are used to create an environment for the action of the play. Includes a historical survey of scenic design, theatre architecture, period style, drafting, and rendering techniques. Work on a set for a Fenwick Theatre production provides practical experience. One unit.

Theatre 228 — Lighting Design

Alternate years in spring

A study of the properties of light and the objectives of stage lighting in drama and dance, this course includes basic electricity and its control, lighting equipment, and drafting. Practical experience is obtained through designing and running a production. One unit.

Theatre 230 — Costume Design

Every third year

An introductory course which involves the student in the process of script and character analysis as it relates to costumes. It develops sketching and painting techniques as well as research of Greek, Renaissance, and 18th- and 19th-century fashion. Prerequisites: Theatre 101 and either 161 or 162. One unit.

Theatre 232 — Balinese Dance 3-4

Fall, spring

Advanced Balinese Dance builds on the background and techniques covered in Balinese Dance 1-2. Students delve more deeply into the traditions of Bali and perform more advanced repertoire in a concert setting. Students may take this course for two semesters with the permission of the instructor, progressing to advanced repertoire of both traditional and contemporary Balinese dances, including solos. Prerequisite: Two semesters of Theatre 131. One unit.

Theatre 240 — Directing 1

Fall

Introduces students to the craft and theory of theatrical production. Students function as autonomous artists-writers, dramaturgs, and directors, producing a series of dramatic pieces in a workshop environment. This practical work is augmented by extensive scholarly research that provides a theoretical underpinning. Emphasis is placed upon conceptualization, composition, blocking, textual analysis, and working with actors. Prerequisite: Theatre 101. One unit.

Theatre 242 - Jazz Dance 3-4

Annually

A studio course open to students with at least one year of previous dance experience. The course focuses on technique and touches on aspects of jazz history and its relationship to music and social history. This course

can be taken for two semesters. One unit.

Theatre 252 — Ballet 3-4

Annually

The class will follow a traditional format, including barre, adagio, waltz, petit allegro, and grand allegro. In addition to technique, the course will include dance history and dance appreciation through readings, videos, and class discussion. To offer a richer and more contemporary experience of ballet, students will depart from the ballet idiom and experiment with creating a personal movement vocabulary. Students may take this course for a total of two semesters. Prerequisite: Two semesters of Theatre 151 or at least one year of dance experience. One unit.

Theatre 263 — Selected American Stage and Film Artists

Every third year

This advanced course is an intensive study of the work of two playwrights and/or filmmakers. The authors on the syllabus vary, according to the current offerings of the Fenwick Theatre season and other considerations. By permission. One unit.

Theatre 282 — Modern Dance 3-4

Fall, spring

An intermediate-level modern dance technique class. Students grow in understanding the aesthetic of modern dance both by practicing modern dance exercises and combinations and by engaging in critical discussion of selected dance performances in class and on video. Students may take this course for a total of two semesters, progressing to choreography and performance. Prerequisite: Two semesters of Theatre 181 or at least one year of dance experience. One unit.

Theatre 302 - Voice in Acting 2

Every other year

This is an advanced course for students who are eager to develop their natural voices in a healthy manner. It builds on the vocal technique theory and training presented in Voice in Acting 1. Topics to be covered will include an anatomy and physiology review, voice-over and commercial work, duets, solos, high intensity speaking, and a mini-seminar on where to learn about dialects. Prerequisite: Theatre 202. One unit.

Theatre 304 — Audition Techniques

Fall

This advanced class focuses on monologues. Students prepare contrasting audition pieces that will be juried at the end of the semester. The course is for fourth-year students only. Prerequisites: Theatre 101, 202, 203, and 360. One unit.

Theatre 340 — Advanced Directing

Spring

Explores advanced theories and practices of theatrical direction. The course begins with a series of lectures that introduces the avant-garde ideas and practices of artists such as Grotowski, Beck, Chaikin, Serban, Wilson, Akalitis, Bogart, and Boal. Students are expected to put some of these ideas into production as they tackle a short classical piece (Greek or Elizabethan) and then mount a full-length one-act by a major figure of the modern theatre (e.g., Chekhov, Strindberg, O'Neill, Pirandello, Beckett). Prerequisite: Theatre 240. One unit.

Theatre 360 — Shakespeare Through Performance

Spring

Functioning as scholarly artists in a laboratory setting, students—working from both the Folio and modern editions—master the rudiments of Shakespearean performance, become acquainted with historical and contemporary staging conventions, investigate the notion of textual integrity, and explore dramaturgical issues. Particular emphasis is placed upon the desirability and/or need to subvert problematic texts through performance. Prerequisites: Theatre 101 and 202. One unit.

Theatre 361 — Film as Narrative

Every third year

This advanced course deals with narrative issues in film (point of view, time, structure, style, tone, adaptation). The syllabus includes American, British, French, Italian, Japanese and Scandinavian movies. By permission. One unit.

Theatre 370 — Kamikaze Acting

Alternate years

Students write, coach, design, and act in original work that they develop. Directors, actors, and theorists who stretch the limits of performance—stylistically, socially, or conceptually—serve as models for students. Prerequisites: Theatre 101, 202, & 203. One unit.

Theatre 400 — Tutorial/Theatre

Fall, spring

Tutorials consist of directed study in selected theatre, dance, and film topics such as acting, directing, playwriting, literature, dance, stage management, set, costume, lighting and sound design, film, and screenwriting. By permission. One unit.

Theatre 405 — Performance Recital

Fall, spring

Designed for the individual needs of advanced acting students. Rehearsal and performance in a major pro-

duction is the main basis of grading. Prerequisites: Theatre 101 and 203. By permission. One unit.

Theatre 406 — Performance for Audience

Fall, spring

Advanced acting work in a major role. Prerequisites: Theatre 101 and 203. By permission. One unit.

Theatre 450 — Dance Performance

Fall, spring

Designed for the individual needs of advanced students doing movement-based work. Requires rehearsal and performance of major dance segments in a mainstage production. Prerequisite: Any dance course. By permission. One unit.