THEATRE ARTS

Undergraduate Program Information

With strong emphases in acting, musical theater, new works and design/technical theatre, the program prepares students for graduate study, life in the profession, or a myriad of related job fields. Students gain practical experience through a wide array of courses designed to expose them to the varied aspects and job positions involved in theatrical production. The faculty is augmented by nationally-renowned guest theatre artists.

A minimum of 62 credits with a grade of C- or higher in theatre arts is required for the major. Theatre Arts does not require a second language.

Students enrolled in this department’s major or minor may count credits in required applied courses toward their degrees beyond the normal maximum of 9 credits allowed in the College of Arts and Sciences. However, if a student changes the major or does not complete the requirements for the minor at the time of graduation, they may only count a maximum of 9 credits of the applied credits toward graduation.

Students preparing to teach in public schools may qualify for certification by completing the Bachelor of Science in Education degree with theatre arts as a teaching field. (See curricula in the College of Education section).

At any time the Theatre Arts program may be undergoing curriculum changes. For the most up-to-date information about degree requirements please visit www.nmsutheatre.com or visit the Theatre Arts Department at room 321 in the Center for the Arts Building.

Degrees for the Department

Theatre Arts - Bachelor of Arts

Minors for the Department

Theatre Arts - Undergraduate Minor

Professor, Wil Kilroy, Department Head/Managing Director

Professor Storm; Assistant Professor Hamilton, Lury; College Associate Professor C. Billings, J. Billings, D. Brunson; College Assistant Professor McQueen; Professional Staff Carruthers, Jaworski, Hereford, Wilkinson, Wise

Theatre Arts Courses

THTR 101G. The World of Theatre
3 Credits
An appreciation class introducing the non-major to all aspects of theatre, including its history, literature and professionals. Students attend and report on stage productions.

THTR 105. Acting for Non-Majors
3 Credits
An introduction to basic performance techniques for non-majors.

THTR 110. Beginning Acting
3 Credits
Basic understanding of self-expression through a variety of physical exercises, improvisation, and character study, culminating in scene or monologue work. Restricted to: THTR majors.

THTR 120. Stage Movement
3 Credits
Physical techniques for the actor to develop kinesthetic awareness and skills in characterization, archetypes, and stage combat. Restricted to: THTR majors.

THTR 130. The Art of Theatre
3 Credits
This course introduces the variety and scope of theatre professions, the value and goals of the theatre major and an analysis of the art form from script to stage. Restricted to: Required for THTR majors majors.

THTR 141. Introduction to Stagecraft
3 Credits
Basic techniques used in the construction of scenery, props, and sound. Lab required. Pre/Corequisite(s): THTR 141L.

THTR 141 L. Stagecraft Laboratory
1 Credit
Class members will assist with construction for productions in a studio environment. Pre/Corequisite(s): THTR 141.

THTR 142. Introduction to Costume Crafts
3 Credits
Common costume production techniques, including basic stitching, use of equipment, knowledge of available materials, dyeing, and 3-D. Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THTR 142L. Restricted to: THTR majors.

THTR 142 L. Costume Craft Lab
1 Credit
Class members will assist in construction for productions in a studio environment. Pre/Corequisite(s): THTR 142.

THTR 149. Running Crew I
2 Credits (1+2P)
Students learn about backstage and front of house production positions and work on a technical aspect of a production in a rehearsal and performance environment.

THTR 200. Theatre Workshop I
0.5 Credits
Required for all freshman and sophomore theatre majors, this course coordinates all processes within Theatre Arts, providing a forum for discussion and feedback. May be repeated up to 4 credits. Restricted to Las Cruces campus only.

THTR 210. Intermediate Acting: Scene Study and Monologues
3 Credits
Monologues and scene work, using character and script analysis. Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THTR 205. Prerequisite(s): THTR 110 with C- or above.

THTR 220. Vocal Production for the Actor
3 Credits
Exploration and development of the actor's vocal instrument, including relaxation, projection, diction and articulation. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: THTR majors.
THTR 222. Theatre Topics
1-3 Credits (1-3)
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits.

THTR 249. Running Crew II
1 Credit
Students work on a technical aspect of a production in a rehearsal and performance environment.

THTR 250. Introduction to Design
3 Credits
Introduction into our visual world via the language of designers, focusing on collaboration, creative thinking and presentation skills. The varied design professions in theatre and the performing arts will be explored. Restricted to: Required of all THTR Majors majors.

THTR 300. Theatre Workshop II
0.5 Credits
Required for all junior and senior theatre majors, this course coordinates all processes within Theatre Arts, providing a forum for discussion and feedback. May be repeated up to 4 credits. Restricted to Las Cruces campus only.

THTR 303. Theatre History I
3 Credits
History of theatre and drama from ancient Greece to the English Renaissance.

THTR 304. Theatre History II
3 Credits
History of theatre and drama from the Restoration to the 20th century. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

THTR 306. Screenwriting I
3 Credits
Same as CMI 309, ENGL 309. Consent of instructor required. Crosslisted with: CMI 309 and ENGL 309
Prerequisite(s): ENGL/CMI 235.

THTR 307V. Society in Style: Fashion, History and Culture
3 Credits
History of clothing for theatrical purposes, origins and evolution of period clothing in relation to social, political, and aesthetic factors of different periods.

THTR 308. Creative Writing: Playwriting
3 Credits
Technique of one-act playwriting, and analysis of dramatic structure. Crosslisted with: ENGL 308
Prerequisite(s): ENGL 111G.

THTR 310. Styles in Acting
3 Credits
Analysis of differing styles of acting through scene work representing various time periods and genres.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 210.

THTR 311. Acting for Film and Television
3 Credits
Specific techniques of acting for the camera are explored via hands-on experiential learning and an introduction to the business of the TV/Film industry
Prerequisite(s): THTR 110 or THTR 105 or permission of instructor.

THTR 312. Acting Shakespeare
3 Credits
Acting Shakespeare's tragedies and comedies, including text work, scansion, movement, scene work, and monologues.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 210.

THTR 313. Improvisation
3 Credits
Long and/or short form improvisation techniques in addition to a variety of exercises exploring terminology, character work and the elements of comedy.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 105 or THTR 110.

THTR 314. Scene Study
3 Credits
Studio class focusing on scene work and acting processes.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 210.

THTR 317. Musical Theatre
3 Credits
Acting class focused on developing and refining skills necessary for performing in musicals. Pre/ May be repeated up to 9 credits.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THTR 210.

THTR 320. Auditioning and Marketing
3 Credits
Techniques for choosing and preparing effective monologues, cold and prepared readings, head shots and resumes, and interview skills.
Prerequisite(s): THTR 210.

THTR 321V. Modern European Drama
3 Credits
Masterworks of European drama from the 19th century to the present. Crosslisted with: ENGL321V.

THTR 322. Dramatic Character
3 Credits
How characters have been created for the stage from the beginning of theatrical performances in ancient Greece to the present day. Exploring characterization related to dramatic structure, style, and genre, and how dramatic characters differ from those in literary fiction. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: ENGL 322.

THTR 323. American Drama
3 Credits
Masterworks of American drama from the 20th century to the present. Crosslisted with: ENGL323.

THTR 329. Studies in Drama
3 Credits
Subtitles vary. Study of a group of related works of drama, theory, or theatre practice. Crosslisted with: ENGL329 and CMI329.

THTR 334. Introduction to Stage Makeup
3 Credits
Basic principles of stage makeup: straight, character, and specialty. Includes study of various products, methods of application, and the effects of lighting on makeup.

THTR 337. Independent Study
1-3 Credits
Students propose and design their own course not covered through regular course offerings under the guidance of faculty. May be repeated up to 6 credits. Consent of Instructor required.
THTR 341. Scene Painting  
3 Credits  
Use of historical painting techniques in a project-driven classroom. Projects include 2-D and 3-D work, color mixing and theory, painting scenery, and the use of paint for effects.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 141.

THTR 343. Costume Patterning  
3 Credits  
Basic techniques in the production of flat patterns for modern and period silhouettes including some draping techniques. Consent of Instructor required.

THTR 345. Costume Practicum  
1 Credit  
A practical course intended to provide students additional experience and greater responsibility within the workings of the Costume Shop. Pre/Corequisite(s): THTR 142.

THTR 346. Scenic Practicum  
1 Credit  
A practical course intended to provide students additional experience and greater responsibility within the workings of the Scene Shop. Pre/Corequisite(s): THTR 141.

THTR 347. Lighting Practicum  
1 Credit  
A practical course intended to provide students hands-on experience executing theatrical lighting.

THTR 348. Running Crew III  
1 Credit  
Students will work on a technical aspect of a production in a rehearsal and performance environment.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 149.

THTR 349. Running Crew IV  
1 Credit  
Students will work on a technical aspect of a production in a rehearsal and performance environment.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 149.

THTR 352. Costume Design  
3 Credits  
Basic principles of costume design, including script analysis, principles of design, drawing and painting.

THTR 353. Scene Design  
3 Credits  
Design for the performing arts. Basic design skills and projects to exercise those skills, history of design in the theatre and the designer's role in the production process. Final project includes a finished scene design.  
Prerequisite: THTR 141 or consent of instructor.

THTR 354. Sound Design  
3 Credits  
Hands-on training in theatrical sound design and implementation.

THTR 355. Lighting Design  
3 Credits  
Basic aspects of theatre lighting, including electricity, color theory, history, and types of lighting instruments.

THTR 356. Theatre Production  
1-3 Credits  
Participation in the production of theatrical performances by stage managing, acting, designing, dramaturgy, or directing. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Graded S/U.

THTR 357. Computer Scenographics  
3 Credits  
Project-oriented course teaching basic computer modeling skills. Projects focus on the creation of communication tools designers use in the theatrical process. Students will develop portfolios of completed projects. Consent of instructor required.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 352, THTR 353, or THTR 355.

THTR 360. Creative Drama  
3 Credits (2+2P)  
Methods of developing original dramatizations. Emphasis on curriculum problems and teaching techniques in elementary and secondary schools.

THTR 366. Summer Theatre  
1-3 Credits  
Experience in professional or academic summer theatre. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 credits. Graded: S/U. Restricted to THTR majors.  
Prerequisite(s): Consent of department head.

THTR 384. Stage Management  
3 Credits  
Study of stage management techniques and their application to play production. A working knowledge of union rules, and the procedure to facilitate these through proper communication skills.

THTR 395. Directing I  
3 Credits  
Study and application of basic stage directing techniques.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 105 or THTR 110.

THTR 396. Theatre Management  
3 Credits  
Study of issues related to managing a theatre company and producing plays. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

THTR 408. Shakespeare I  
3 Credits  
Same as ENGL 408.

THTR 409. Shakespeare II  
3 Credits  
Same as ENGL 409.

THTR 410. Advanced Acting: Contemporary Methods  
3 Credits  
Acting techniques will be explored focusing on current trends in the profession, from Stanislavski, to Hagen to Meisner.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 205.

THTR 414. Collaborative Theatre-Making  
3 Credits  
This course introduces students to the techniques, skills and practice of the collaborative creation of new theatrical material.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 110.

THTR 417. Musical Theatre II  
3 Credits  
A continuation of THTR 317, allowing for more advanced musical theatre techniques.  
Prerequisite(s): THTR 317.
THTR 430. Special Topics
1-3 Credits
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits.

THTR 435. Directed Reading
1-3 Credits
Directed individualized studies. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 credits.

THTR 439. Senior Seminar
3 Credits
Course preparing students for professions in and related to the theatre. Restricted to THTR majors.

THTR 440. Senior Seminar Practicum
1 Credit
Capstone course preparing students to apply knowledge of theatre arts toward advanced training or career objectives in the discipline. Consent of instructor required. Pre/ Restricted to THTR majors.
Corequisite(s): THTR 439.

THTR 450. The Michael Chekhov Acting Intensive
3 Credits
An intensive overview of the performance techniques attributed to Michael Chekhov, applied to theatrical scenes and presentations. May be repeated up to 6 credits. Consent of Instructor required.

THTR 457. Advanced Computer Scenographics
3 Credits
Project-oriented course for the advanced modeler. Projects focus on the creation of complex models, custom texturing and shading, virtual lighting, postproduction image work, and animation techniques. Students will develop digital portfolios.
Prerequisite: THTR 357 and consent of instructor.

THTR 535. Directed Study
1-3 Credits (1-3)
For the highly motivated student. Independent projects and individual guidance. Graduate standing and consent of instructor required. May be repeated up to 6 credits.

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