Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), Major in Theatre

Major Programs
A master of fine arts (M.F.A.) with a major in theatre will prepare students for the field of theatre, more specifically to direct theatre, lead a theatre, or to teach theatre. This degree will provide students with a strong theoretical and practical education in preparing productions so that they might have long, fruitful careers in theatre or higher education. It will also hone student skills in critical thinking, problem solving, creative analysis, and application of the craft to real world projects so that they might excel in today’s quickly changing and ever diverse theatre and academic environments.

Admission Policy
For information regarding admission application requirements and deadlines, please visit The Graduate College website at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/th.html.

Degree Requirements
The M.F.A. program is a three-year course of study that requires 60 semester credit hours. Students pursuing the M.F.A. in theatre may choose from the following three concentrations: directing, design, or dramatic writing.

Course Work Requirements

Directing Concentration

Required Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TH 5302</td>
<td>Text Analysis, Research and Interpretation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5303</td>
<td>Conceptualization and Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5312</td>
<td>Director/Designer Collaboration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5313</td>
<td>History of Directing and Scenography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 5342</td>
<td>MFA Studio I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 5343</td>
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<td>TH 5352</td>
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<td>MFA Studio IV</td>
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<td>TH 5382</td>
<td>MFA Studio V</td>
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<td>TH 5383</td>
<td>MFA Studio VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5398</td>
<td>Final Creative Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 5338</td>
<td>Advanced Stage Lighting</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5340</td>
<td>Professional Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5345</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Costume Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>TH 5347</td>
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<td>TH 5354</td>
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<td>Scene Painting</td>
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<td>TH 5360</td>
<td>Problems in Theatre</td>
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<td>Oregon Shakespeare Festival Intensive</td>
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<td>TH 5375</td>
<td>Advanced Playwriting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 5378</td>
<td>Play Development Lab</td>
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Prescribed Elective Courses
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Total Hours 60

Design Concentration

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<td>TH 5347</td>
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<td>TH 5351</td>
<td>History of Architecture and Interiors for Theatrical Design</td>
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<td>TH 5355</td>
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<td>Advanced Playwriting</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5378</td>
<td>Play Development Lab</td>
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Total Hours 60
Dramatic Writing Concentration

Required Core Courses

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5354</td>
<td>Playwriting</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5375</td>
<td>Advanced Playwriting (Taken twice)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5331</td>
<td>Television Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5358</td>
<td>Screenwriting</td>
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<td>TH 5359</td>
<td>Advanced Screenwriting</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5341</td>
<td>Dramatization and Adaptation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>TH 5398</td>
<td>Final Creative Project</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 5302</td>
<td>Text Analysis, Research and Interpretation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 5365</td>
<td>Backgrounds of Modern Drama</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH 5367</td>
<td>Studies in Dramatic Theory and Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5369</td>
<td>Contemporary World Theatre and Drama</td>
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<td>TH 5371</td>
<td>Classical and Renaissance Drama</td>
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<td>TH 5342</td>
<td>MFA Studio I</td>
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<td>TH 5343</td>
<td>MFA Studio II</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5352</td>
<td>MFA Studio III</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5312</td>
<td>Director/Designer Collaboration</td>
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Prescribed Core Courses

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<tr>
<td>TH 5323</td>
<td>Shakespeare Through Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5324</td>
<td>Shakespeare: Text and Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 5340</td>
<td>Professional Internship</td>
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<td>TH 5361</td>
<td>Oregon Shakespeare Festival Intensive</td>
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<td>TH 5378</td>
<td>Play Development Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor Approved English Elective</td>
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Total Hours: 60

Master's level courses in Theatre: TH

Courses Offered

Theatre (TH)

TH 5199B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis. About Thesis
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit About Thesis

TH 5299B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis. About Thesis
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit About Thesis
TH 5313. History of Directing and Scenography.
This course is a historical survey of the work of directors and designers. Particular emphasis will be on seminal production plans for notable directors and designers of the 20th and 21st centuries.
about History of Directing and Scenography
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about History of Directing and Scenography

TH 5320. Directing Theatre Activities.
Designed to assist any teacher in directing theatre activities. During the course, students will direct plays or scenes. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit. Graded on a credit (CR), no credit (F) basis.
about Directing Theatre Activities
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Directing Theatre Activities

TH 5323. Shakespeare Through Performance.
This intensive summer study abroad program immerses students in the language and culture of Shakespeare’s plays. Incorporating a performance-based approach to the study of Shakespeare, this course includes theatrical workshops taught by professionals at leading international theatres, including the Royal Shakespeare Company.
about Shakespeare Through Performance
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Shakespeare Through Performance

This intensive study abroad program immerses students in the language and culture of Shakespeare’s plays. In Stratford, academic workshops are led by scholars from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Through immersion in the cultural environment in which the plays were produced, students gain insight into the context that shaped Shakespeare’s theatre.
about Shakespeare: Text and Context
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Shakespeare: Text and Context

TH 5330. Stage Management.
An in-depth seminar in stage management, including organization, techniques, and practices for managing stage productions from initial planning through performance.
about Stage Management
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Stage Management

TH 5331. Television Writing.
This course focuses on the techniques of writing for television, including both half-hour situational comedies and hour-long dramas. Students will pitch story ideas, develop beat sheets, write treatments, and complete written scripts. Prerequisite: TH 5354.
about Television Writing
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Television Writing

TH 5332. Stage Properties.
This course trains students in the craft, artistry and management of stage properties for careers in theatre, film and the entertainment industry.
about Stage Properties
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Stage Properties

TH 5334. Figure Drawing for Theatre Design.
This course covers drawing the human figure using traditional media, technique and application. Intended for the theatre designer, this course places special emphasis on aspects of drapery as they relate to the human figure.
about Figure Drawing for Theatre Design
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Figure Drawing for Theatre Design

TH 5338. Advanced Stage Lighting.
Graduate lighting design is a continuation of the principles covered in Lighting Design (undergraduate). This course will concentrate primarily on the aesthetics of stage lighting, and will cover such topics as: viewer psychological and physiological responses as they pertain to visual perception; color; script analysis; use of light in creating both static and dynamic visual compositions; development and graphic representation of a theatrical lighting design.
about Advanced Stage Lighting
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Advanced Stage Lighting

TH 5340. Professional Internship.
This course provides professional hands-on experience in the theatre or film industry. Consent of Instructor required.
about Professional Internship
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 20 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Professional Internship

TH 5341. Dramatization and Adaptation.
This course focuses on the development of new theatrical scripts based on existing stories and source material. Students will explore a variety of potential source materials, pitch adaptation ideas, and complete a written script. Prerequisite: TH 5354.
about Dramatization and Adaptation
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Dramatization and Adaptation

TH 5342. MFA Studio I.
This course focuses on work with actors. Students will explore various rehearsal methods, motifs and strategies. Students will direct two short scenes for class and explore effective ways of working with actors. In addition, students will observe directors and acting coaches in the department work with and coach actors.
about MFA Studio I
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about MFA Studio I
TH 5343. MFA Studio II.  
Builds upon the work of MFA Studio I. This course examines additional techniques for working with actors as well as tools the director can use to shape each unit of performance text in order to build a dramatic story on stage. Students will analyze, rehearse and perform a one-act play. Prerequisite: TH 5342.

about MFA Studio II
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5344. Historical Costume Research.  
This course is a study of clothing, accessories, and customs of selected theatrical periods as an approach to costuming period plays. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about Historical Costume Research
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5345. Advanced Studies in Costume Design.  
A graduate course on the advanced level that studies the construction of costumes for the stage. Advanced techniques in sewing, pattern drafting/design as well as accessories/crafts construction is included. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about Advanced Studies in Costume Design
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5346. Advanced Costume Construction.  
This course is a study of clothing, accessories, and customs of selected theatrical periods as an approach to costuming period plays. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about Advanced Costume Construction
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5347. Advanced Costume Construction.  
A graduate course on the advanced level that studies the construction of costumes for the stage. Advanced techniques in sewing, pattern drafting/design as well as accessories/crafts construction is included. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about Advanced Costume Construction
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5348. Advanced Theatre Drafting.  
A study of computer drafting techniques and procedures used in the preparation of design and technical drawings for theatrical scenery, costumes, and lighting. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about Advanced Theatre Drafting
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course is a study of architecture and interiors throughout history as it impacts design for theatre. This course will look at periods of design from ancient Egypt to the early Twentieth Century. Prerequisite: Completed at least 18 graduate hours towards their M.F.A.

about History of Architecture and Interiors for Theatrical Design
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5352. MFA Studio III.  
MFA Studio III is the student's second year project. The course includes all phases of directing a play, from conception and research, to rehearsal and performance. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about MFA Studio III
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5353. MFA Studio IV.  
A primary focus of the course is on experimental theatre. Students rehearse and perform scene work from 20th and 21st century plays, and put together a final experimental performance project. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about MFA Studio IV
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5354. Playwriting.  
A seminar in the art and craft of playwriting, from initial idea through a completed draft of a play. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.

about Playwriting
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5355. Scene Painting.  
Theory and practice of scene and costume painting as developed in the Italian Renaissance and continuing into new media available today. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.

about Scene Painting
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5356. Advanced Theatre Drafting.  
A study of computer drafting techniques and procedures used in the preparation of design and technical drawings for theatrical scenery, costumes, and lighting. Prerequisite: TH 5343.

about Advanced Theatre Drafting
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5357. Scene Design.  
Seminar on design, emphasizing presentation and justification of executed renderings or models for selected plays. Emphasis on styles of staging, settings, lighting and properties, and their relationship to the complete production. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.

about Scene Design
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5358. Screenwriting.  
This course offers a comprehensive study of the art and craft of writing screenplays. During a semester of intensive writing, readings, script analyses, and critiques, writers complete assignments in storytelling, character, structure, and script development. Each writer completes a full-length screenplay as the capstone project for the semester.

about Screenwriting
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TH 5359. Advanced Screenwriting.
This course focuses on the development and revision of full-length screenplays. May be repeated for credit with different emphasis. Prerequisite: TH 5358.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

TH 5360. Problems in Theatre.
Designed to give supervised experience to qualified advanced students in theatre history, playwriting, directing, acting, technical, or other theatre problems. Research problems or actual production problems may be chosen. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit. Prerequisite: Problems in Theatre
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

TH 5361. Oregon Shakespeare Festival Intensive.
This course examines theatre production with a specific focus on directors and directing at this country's largest Shakespeare theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Students will study issues of translating the current seasons' nine plays from script to stage, as well as analyzing the perspectives and choices of each director's production. Prerequisite: Oregon Shakespeare Festival Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.

TH 5362. Directing for Film.
An in-depth examination of directing theories and procedures for film with practical filming and editing exercises. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit. Prerequisite: Directing for Film
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.

TH 5363. Directing Styles.
A study of directing different dramatic styles. Students will direct a one-act play during regular semesters. Prerequisite: TH 5364 or permission of instructor.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.

TH 5364. Stage Directing.
Development of skills in analysis, research, staging, and production, with practical experience provided by directing scenes. Prerequisite: Stage Directing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.

TH 5365. Backgrounds of Modern Drama.
An analysis of those developments in dramatic literature that formed the basis of modern drama. Primary emphasis will be on nineteenth-and twentieth-century European and American drama. Prerequisite: Backgrounds of Modern Drama
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

TH 5366. Theory and Practice of Dramaturgy.
Study of the practical application of historical research and textual analysis in the production of period plays and new works. Emphasis upon the dramaturg as an instrument of collaboration between members of the artistic team and as a facilitator of audience outreach. Prerequisite: Theory and Practice of Dramaturgy
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
TH 5373. Advanced Film Directing.
An in-depth examination of narrative filmmaking that includes screenplay analysis, storyboarding, scheduling the shoot, directorial techniques, staging actors, camera placement, filming on location, and editing. Prerequisite: TH 5363.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5374. Art History for Theatrical Design.
This course focuses on major art movements since the Renaissance. Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Expressionism, Surrealism, and other movements from throughout the world are studied in relationship to their use by theatrical designers. Prerequisite: TH 5364.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5375. Advanced Playwriting.
This course focuses on an in-depth study of the techniques of playwriting and the variety of styles that a playwright might employ. The course culminates with the writing of a full-length play. Prerequisite: TH 5354.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of directors, theories, and problems of directing in the contemporary theatre. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit. Prerequisite: TH 5357.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5378. Play Development Lab.
This course provides a laboratory workshop development process for new plays. It provides a structured environment for rigorously revising student-written works. Prerequisites: TH 5375 or instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5382. MFA Studio V.
This course offers a study of and experience in preparing and directing Shakespeare: from inception of a given approach to handling the language issues to performance. This course examines how professional directors actually work on production for major Shakespeare theatres in America.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5383. MFA Studio VI.
This course continues the styles work started in MFA Studio V. It focuses on directing projects from multiple periods and styles of plays. Scenes will be drawn from several periods of dramatic literature including Ancient Greece, the English Restoration, Moliere, Georgian, and other High Comedy texts. Prerequisite: TH 5382.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5387. Directing Practicum.
Study of and experience in choosing, preparing, and directing a theatre production from analysis to performance. Attention is given to theatre organization and management. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5397. Diagnostic Creative Project.
This project involves the design of a relatively simple theatrical production that is produced by University Theatre. Complete production plans are prepared under faculty guidance, followed by faculty evaluation and debriefing after production. Requires Department Approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5398. Final Creative Project.
To be taken the last year of training. This project requires the student to direct a major University Theatre production. The student must demonstrate mastery of directing. A complete written report of the project must be approved by a faculty committee. The report is a part of the final examination for the degree of Master of Arts with a major in Theatre for students in Directing.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5399A. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until student has completed the thesis in Theatre 5399B. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5399B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
TH 5599B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5640. Professional Internship.
This course provides professional hands-on experience in the theatre or film industry; it is intended for students who do a full-time internship over the summer or during a regular full semester. Consent of instructor required.

6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 40 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5999B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

about Thesis

about Professional Internship

about Thesis