**THEATER (THEA)**

THEA105 Production Laboratory
This course focuses on the technical aspects of stage and costume craft: scenery and prop building, lighting execution, and costume building. It offers a hands-on experience where students participate in making theater productions happen. All sections will participate in the backstage work of the Theater Department's productions. Forty to 60 hours (to be determined) of production crew participation outside of the regular class meetings are required. While this course is required of theater majors, it is also recommended for students wishing to explore an aspect of theatrical production and is excellent preparation for theater design courses.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA110 Drafting for Theatrical Design
This course is intended to provide students with a basic knowledge of computer drafting, for theatrical design and other performative arts. Students will learn the language of the line, the drafting standards for theater, as codified by the United States Industry of Theatre Technology (USITT), and the means to create accurate, measured drawings. We will cover topics including, geometry, line weights, scale, theatrical drafting conventions and symbols, ground plan drawings, elevation drawings, section drawings, dimensioning, page layout, and printing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA115 America in Prison: Theater Behind Bars
This course will give students the opportunity to study theater as a tool for social activism and to apply that knowledge to practical work in institutions that are part of the American criminal justice system. No previous experience in theater is necessary. Students will be encouraged to use their own skills in music, art, and drama as they devise ways to use the arts as catalysts for individual and social transformation.

The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan’s Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA120 Shakespeare in Performance: Speak the Speech
This course will give students the opportunity to analyze and experience Shakespeare's plays in performance. They will write critical essays that discuss the performance techniques required to bring Shakespeare's plays to life. They will also memorize and perform monologues and short scenes from Shakespeare's plays, putting the insights from their written papers into action. The focus will be on linking critical insights and performance practice rather than creating polished performances, so students will be welcome even if they have never acted before. The course will introduce students to the department's mission of integrating performance and practice. The final exam will consist of a performance accompanied by a research paper.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA135 Documentary Performance: Theater and Social Justice
This course will introduce students to theater as a medium for exploring issues related to social justice and political activism. We will examine techniques used by documentary theater artists such as Emily Mann, Doug Wright, Moises Kaufman, Anna Deavere Smith, and Jessica Blank, who create plays based on interviews, newspaper articles, memoirs, and other documents related to controversial social issues. The course will begin with an investigation of the issue of mass incarceration and will include visits from formerly incarcerated individuals who have agreed to recount their experiences in prison. These prison stories will be the primary sources for the course's initial writing assignments, which will consist of short performance scripts and analytical papers. Subsequent weekly assignments will include performance scripts and analytical papers based on issues that will range from gay rights and racism to sexual violence and the stereotyping of Muslim women.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA150 Plays and Performances
This course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of plays that are representative of different theatrical genres, styles, and canons. We will read scripts, attend productions on and off campus, and engage in discussions about the artistic merits and sociocultural contexts of these works. The course is divided into two greater units: the meanings of avant-garde (the making of 20th-century theater), and representations of the margins (theater and identity). Some of the plays examined in this seminar are A Doll’s House (Ibsen), The Jewish Wife (Brecht), Fefu and Her Friends (Fornes), They Alone Know (Tardieu), Spring Awakening (Wedekind), Endgame and Act Without Words (Beckett), Cloud Nine (Churchill), Kiss of the Spider Woman (Puig), The Laramie Project (Kaufman), Irma Vep (Ludlam), Fires in the Mirror (Anna Deavere Smith), and M. Butterfly (David Henry Hwang).

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA167 Women and Women First: The Theater of Gender and Sexuality
Exploring theater and other performance "sites" as resources for critical and creative worldmaking, this writing-intensive FYS will provide an introduction to feminist and queer performance. We will analyze the representation of women on stage, examine different ways in which people “do” gender and sexual identity in daily life, and articulate different strategies artists use to convey feminist or queer messages to their audiences. Over the course of the semester, students will be expected to produce 20 pages of critical writing (three short performance reviews and one 10-page research paper), perform staged readings, and workshop their writing. Whenever possible, we will pair performance studies texts alongside plays, performance art pieces, and other scenes of visual
and cultural production. Selected playwrights, theorists, and performers may include Sue-Ellen Case, Cherrie Moraga, Judith Butler, Karen Finley, C. Carr, Nao Bustamante, José Muñoz, Ana Mendieta, Sharon Hayes, RuPaul, Jennie Livingston, Eileen Myles, Larry Kramer, Susan Sontag, Todd Haynes, Carrie Brownstein/Fred Armisen, and Carmelita Tropicana.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: FGSS167
Prereq: None

THEA170 Lives of 20th-Century American Theater Artists
The seminar provides an overview of groundbreaking moments in 20th-century American theater history through a comparative examination of the autobiographies, biographies, diaries, journals, and letters of important actors, designers, directors, and theater critics. Many of these artists are members of minority groups, and all have contributed to significant changes in the nation's theatrical landscape.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA172 Staging America: Modern American Drama
Can modern American drama—as cultural analysis—teach us to reread how America ticks? Together we will explore this question as we read and discuss some of the most provocative classic and uncanonized plays written between the 1910s and the present. Plays by Susan Glaspell, Eugene O'Neill, Mike Gold, workers theater troupes, Clifford Odets, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Amiri Baraka, Arthur Kopit, Ntozake Shange, Luis Valdez, David Mamet, Tony Kushner, Ayad Akhtar, and others will help us think about what's at stake in staging America and equip us as cultural analysts, critical thinkers, close readers of literature, and imaginative historians of culture and theater. This seminar will introduce first-year students to the kind of critical thinking developed in majors such as English; American studies; African American studies; feminist, gender, and sexuality studies; College of Letters; theater studies; and the Social and Cultural Theory Certificate.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL175, AMST125, COL125, AFAM152, FGSS175
Prereq: None

THEA175 August Wilson
During his lifetime, the world-renowned African American playwright August Wilson graced stages with award-winning and -nominated plays from his "Pittsburgh Cycle." This course examines the 10 plays of this cycle in the order that the playwright wrote them, from JITNEY (1982) to RADIO GOLF (2005). We will pay special attention to the playwright's use of language, history, memory, art, and music within his oeuvre.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL176, AFAM177
Prereq: None

THEA183 Directed Experiences in Acting
Class members perform in a series of exercises, monologues, and scenes or short plays directed by members of the directing class (THEA281 or THEA381). Rehearsals take place outside of class. Approximately 60 hours of rehearsal and performance time are required. The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan's Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA185 Text and the Visual Imagination
This course is about creating visual ideas through the interpretation of text. By exploring various texts, this class will navigate a variety of design concepts used in performance practices. The focus will include the development of a visual language, an investigation of creative processes, and collaborative concepts. The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan’s Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA199 Introduction to Playwriting
This course provides an introduction to the art and craft of writing for theater. In the course of the semester, students will create plot and characters, as well as compose, organize, and revise a one-act play for the final stage reading. The course will help students develop an artistic voice by completing additional playwriting exercises, as well as reading and discussing classic and contemporary plays. The instructor and students' peers will provide oral and written feedback in workshop sessions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL269
Prereq: None

THEA202 Greek Drama: Theater and Social Justice, Ancient and Modern
This course introduces students to Greek drama as produced in its original setting in ancient Athens and then adapted in modern times. The majority of our readings will be drawn from classical material: tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, comedies by Aristophanes, and selections from Aristotle’s Poetics and Plato’s Republic. We will look at production practices, acting and audience
experience, and the role of theater in shaping cultural values. Questions will include: How does theater as art reflect the personal, social, and political life of the Athenians? What is the connection between the development of Greek drama and the growth of the first democracy? What are the emotions of tragedy for its mythic characters and for its real audience? And why have we been talking about catharsis for centuries? What is the relationship between emotions, drama, and social justice? For the last part of the semester, we will turn to adaptations of Greek tragedy in the 20th and 21st centuries by Jean-Paul Sartre, Bertolt Brecht, Sarah Kane, and Yael Farber. We will discuss how the dilemmas and emotions of tragedy are replayed in response to World War II, the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, PTSD, and consumer culture, among others.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Identical With: CCIV202
Prereq: None

THEA203 Special Topics in Theater History
This course uses historical examples, from preliterate Yoruba ritual performances to early 17th-century European theater, to consider the ways in which theater historians reconstruct and analyze theatrical events of the past. Our investigation is chronologically and thematically designed to pinpoint major epochs in the development of theater as well as comparatively approach the ways in which scholars uncover evidence regarding such issues as character, criticism, gender, nationalism, race, religion, sexuality, spectatorship, and spectacle in performance.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA208 History of Musical Theater
This course is a survey of American musicals produced in theater and film, roughly from the 1940s to the present. We use early revivals of Oscar Hammerstein II’s SHOW BOAT and George Gershwin’s 1935 production of PORGY AND BESS as the entry points of our analysis and end with RENT. Using Broadway, Hollywood, the contemporary Chitlin Circuit, and regional theaters across the country as sites of investigation, we trace the development of American musicals as they traverse different racial, social, cultural, and aesthetic boundaries. In each case study, our analysis is supplemented by a review of historical production documents, theater criticism, and theoretical texts.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: MUSC231, DANC231
Prereq: None

THEA210 Shakespeare
This course is an introduction to the drama of William Shakespeare. We will read plays representing the major dramatic genres—comedy, history, and tragedy—and study them in the context of the historical transformations that shaped early modern England, from the Protestant Reformation to New World colonization. Our guiding focus will be on drama as a form of skepticism. How, we will ask, do Shakespeare’s plays force us to question the legitimacy of political rule, the categories of race and gender, and the nature of the self? How do they imagine the challenge of knowing, trusting, and loving others? And how do they wrestle with the dangers of doubting too much?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL205
Prereq: None

THEA213 Performing Arts Videography
This course provides an introduction to shooting and editing video and sound with a particular focus on the documentation of dance, music, and theater performance. Additional consideration will be given to the integration of videographic elements into such performances. Students will work in teams to document on-campus performances occurring concurrently. Related issues in ethnographic and documentary film will be explored through viewing and discussion of works such as Wim Wenders’s Pina, Elliot Caplan’s Cage/Cunningham, John Cohen’s The High Lonesome Sound, and Peter Greenaway’s Four American Composers.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC231, DANC231
Prereq: None

THEA214 Theater of Anton Chekhov: Research, Analysis, and Performance
This course will take a journey into the theatrical world of one of the most famous playwrights of all times, Anton Chekhov. Students will read, research, analyze, and perform scenes from all of Chekhov’s plays including dramas, comedies, and vaudevilles. Videos of the world’s best performances and movies adapted from his dramas will illustrate different artistic approaches to well-known texts. The course will also examine in detail the historical and cultural context of Chekhov’s writing, as well as issues of translation and adaptation of his plays for the contemporary theater.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: COL215, REES279, RUSS279, RULE279
Prereq: None

THEA218 Shakespeare and the Tragedy of State
Power, rebellion, class, and justice in English Renaissance tragedy.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL218
Prereq: None

THEA220 Performing Indonesia
This course will examine the theater, dance, and puppetry of Indonesia in the context of its cultural significance in Indonesia and in the West. Students will read a variety of texts related to Indonesian history, myth, and religion. Students will also read books and essays by anthropologists Hildred Geertz, Clifford Geertz, and Margaret Mead to understand how the arts are integrated into the overall life of the island archipelago. Artifacts of physical culture will also be examined, including the palm-leaf manuscripts that are quoted in many performances; the paintings that depict the relationship between humans, nature, and the spirit world that are the subject of many plays; and the masks and puppets that often serve as a medium for contacting the invisible world of the gods and ancestors. Translations of Indonesian texts will be analyzed and adapted for performance. The direct and indirect influence of Indonesian performance and history on the West will be discussed by examining the work of theater artists such as Robert Wilson, Ariane Mnouchkine, Lee Breur, and Julie Taymou, who have all collaborated with Balinese performers.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
From 1580 to 1680, Spanish playwrights created one of the greatest dramatic eras in history. The Golden Age of Spanish theatre was characterized by a vibrant interplay between artistic innovation and social commentary. This period saw the emergence of some of the most celebrated playwrights, including Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, and Tirso de Molina. Their works, including plays such as "La vida es sueño," "Romerías de Escobal," and "El médico de su alteza," were not only literary masterpieces but also critical reflections on the social and political issues of the time.

During the Golden Age, the Spanish stage served as a kind of civic forum, where conflicts between freedom and authority or desire and conformism could be acted out. The plays of the period, with their deft character portraits (the spitfire diva Diana, the Countess of Belflor; and Cervantes's border-crossing Catalina, the Ottoman sultan's queen) and their virtuoso dialogue, inventive plots, and dazzling metrical variety, reflected the complex social and political realities of the time. The plays also explored the creative tension between art and profit on a new scale, a tension that remains alive for us today. We will examine five of the greatest of these plays by Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, and Tirso de Molina in a variety of genres and modes (history, epic, romantic comedy, tragedy, Islamic borderland, parody, siege play, philosophical and theatrical drama), with their deft character portraits (the original Don Juan by Tirso; Calderón's "Spanish Hamlet" Segismundo; Lope's spitfire diva Diana, the Countess of Belflor; and Cervantes's border-crossing Catalina, the Ottoman sultan's queen) and their virtuoso dialogue, inventive plots, and dazzling metrical variety. We will look at the social conditions that enabled the Spanish stage to serve as a kind of civic forum, where conflicts between freedom and authority or desire and conformism could be acted out and the fears, hopes, dangers, and pleasures generated by conquest, urbanization, trade, shifting gender roles, social mobility, religious reform, regulation of marriage and violence, and clashing intellectual and political ideals could be aired. We pay particular attention to the shaping influence of women on the professional stage (in contrast to England) and to performance spaces and traditions. Organized around the careful reading of five key plays—texts in Spanish, together with historical, critical, and theoretical readings, this course assumes no familiarity with the texts, with Spanish history, or with literary analysis. However, an interest in engaging these wonderful plays closely, imaginatively, and historically is essential. There will be opportunities to pursue performance, adaptation, and translation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL224, MDST224
Prereq: None

THEA224 Medieval Drama: Read It and Be in It

It was and still is revolutionary theater! This course will examine early English drama in its many forms, from the civic mystery cycles of the 15th century to the morality plays Mankind and Everyman. We will cover topics including the role of drama in defining communal identities, dramatic interpretations of gender, and the responses of drama to contemporary social and religious controversies. Most readings will be in modernized and annotated Middle English, so we will pay close attention to language.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL224, MDST224
Prereq: None

THEA228 The Absurdity of Modernity: The Meaning of Life on the Modern Stage

The indescribable horror of two bloody world wars in the 20th century gave rise to numerous artistic movements that questioned the validity of science and the discourse of reason and logic to help human beings to make sense of our world. Among these were dadaism, surrealism, and the theater of the absurd. Confronted with the perceived failure of the promise of science, theater practitioners took to staging life unfettered by logic, reason, order, or meaning. How do we act if we think that life has no meaning? Without the scientific method to guide us, what happens to our understanding of how the world around us works and where we fit in? Where do hopelessness and despair lead us as a species? Can we somehow find meaning in an apparently meaningless existence? In this course, we will examine how dramatists in Europe and Latin America have staged these existential conundrums that threaten to undermine centuries of social and scientific "progress." All class work is in English.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: ENGL228
Prereq: None

THEA231 Classic Spanish Plays: Love, Violence, and (Poetic) Justice on the Early Modern Stage

From 1580 to 1680, Spanish playwrights created one of the great dramatic repertoires of world literature, as inventive, varied, and influential as the classical Greek and Elizabethan-Jacobean English traditions. This profit-driven popular entertainment of its day appealed to the learned and illiterate, to women and men, and to rich and poor alike. And the plays correspondingly mixed high and low characters, language, genres, and sources, with results regularly attacked by moralists. Vital, surprising, and ingenious, they exposed the creative tension between art and profit on a new scale, a tension that remains alive for us. We will examine five of the greatest of these plays by Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, and Tirso de Molina in a variety of genres and modes (history, epic, romantic comedy, tragedy, Islamic borderland, parody, siege play, philosophical and theatrical drama), with their deft character portraits (the original Don Juan by Tirso; Calderón’s "Spanish Hamlet" Segismundo; Lope’s spitfire diva Diana, the Countess of Belflor; and Cervantes’s border-crossing Catalina, the Ottoman sultan’s queen) and their virtuoso dialogue, inventive plots, and dazzling metrical variety. We will look at the social conditions that enabled the Spanish stage to serve as a kind of civic forum, where conflicts between freedom and authority or desire and conformism could be acted out and the fears, hopes, dangers, and pleasures generated by conquest, urbanization, trade, shifting gender roles, social mobility, religious reform, regulation of marriage and violence, and clashing intellectual and political ideals could be aired. We pay particular attention to the shaping influence of women on the professional stage (in contrast to England) and to performance spaces and traditions. Organized around the careful reading of five key playtexts in Spanish, together with historical, critical, and theoretical readings, this course assumes no familiarity with the texts, with Spanish history, or with literary analysis. However, an interest in engaging these wonderful plays closely, imaginatively, and historically is essential. There will be opportunities to pursue performance, adaptation, and translation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL278
Prereq: None

THEA235 Writing On and As Performance

This course focuses on developing descriptive critical writing skills. Through close readings of texts by authors including José Esteban Muñoz, Jennifer Doyle, Eileen Myles, Lydia Davis, Hilton Als, Claudia Rankine, Eve Sedgwick, and Ann Pellegrini, this course will challenge students to craft ideas and arguments based on performance, adaptation, and translation of texts in Spanish, together with historical, critical, and theoretical readings, this course assumes no familiarity with the texts, with Spanish history, or with literary analysis. However, an interest in engaging these wonderful plays closely, imaginatively, and historically is essential. There will be opportunities to pursue performance, adaptation, and translation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL278
Prereq: None

THEA237 Performance Art

This course can be understood as an ephemeral, time-based art, typically centered on an action or artistic gesture that has a beginning and an end, carried out or created by an artist. It also contains the elements of space, time, and body. This hands-on course explores the history and aesthetics of performance art and how it relates to the performing arts (dance and theater). In a project-based format, students conduct performance assignments and creative exercises in response to written, recorded, and live performances by a range of contemporary artists.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: ENGL278
Prereq: None
Lady Gaga's innovative use of prosthetic makeup for facial enhancement. Constructed artistry of David Bowie's alter egos for performance in the 1970s and nobility in the 18th century. Contemporary use of adornment can be seen in the Greeks and Romans, to the beauty marks that were popular with French the kohl rimmed eyes of the ancient Egyptians to the elaborate hairstyles of transformation in the appearance of the wearer. These adornment techniques manipulations of makeup, hair and millinery accessories - can create a profound decorative elements.

Personal adornment has been important throughout history in demonstrating the human body on display. This course explores approaches to and theories about acting that are rooted in the actor. Students will examine the creative process practically and theoretically, vocal, physical, and imaginative tools necessary for the creative work of the actor. The focus will be on the Strait of Gibraltar and the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo)– and on the two corresponding migratory experiences: from North and sub-Saharan Africa into Spain, and from Latin America into the United States. This course will be taught simultaneously at Wesleyan and at the Universidad Carlos III in Madrid, Spain. When possible, classes will be linked through videoconferencing. Wesleyan students will collaborate with their counterparts in Spain on various projects and presentations. In general, this course is designed to help students develop skills of critical analysis while increasing their Spanish language proficiency and intercultural awareness.

Offering: Host Grading: A-F Credits: 1.00 Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA Identical With: SPAN258, LAST259 Prereq: None

THEA245 Acting I
This course is designed to explore the actor's instrument--specifically, the vocal, physical, and imaginative tools necessary for the creative work of the actor. Students will examine the creative process practically and theoretically, through exercises, improvisation, psychophysical actions, and text work. The course explores approaches to and theories about acting that are rooted in the techniques of Konstantin Stanislavsky.

Offering: Host Grading: A-F Credits: 1.00 Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA Prereq: None

THEA246 Adornment: The Human Body on Display
Personal adornment has been important throughout history in demonstrating distinctive features of world cultures, creating forms and images that illustrate spiritual beliefs, as well as representing individuals or groups through the use of decorative elements.

In this course, we will explore the many ways adornment - through the manipulations of makeup, hair and millinery accessories - can create a profound transformation in the appearance of the wearer. These adornment techniques have been a source of fashionable expression for thousands of years - from the kohl rimmed eyes of the ancient Egyptians to the elaborate hairstyles of the Greeks and Romans, to the beauty marks that were popular with French nobility in the 18th century. Contemporary use of adornment can be seen in the constructed artistry of David Bowie's alter egos for performance in the 1970s and Lady Gaga's innovative use of prosthetic makeup for facial enhancement.
experimentation unprecedented in recent Spanish cultural history, one in which playwrights have increasingly embraced the struggle against more covert (social) forms of censorship in attempting to craft a new social order for a new political context: a democratic mindset that will serve to solidify the foundations of the young democratic state. Our goal in this course is to trace these trends through a close reading of key works by the major Spanish playwrights active since 1939. We will focus on context, on how the theater, society, and politics are intertwined, through evaluating both works of dramatic literature and the place and meaning of the public, commercial, and alternative theater circuits where many of these plays were premiered. Our aim, broadly, is to understand the extent to which collective memory and national identity, as staged over the past three-quarters of a century, have become a battleground where Spaniards either seek or resist reconciliation with their shared history.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN261
Prereq: None

THEA266 Black Performance Theory
What does it mean to perform identity, to perform race, to perform blackness? How is blackness defined as both a radical aesthetic and an identity? In this course, we will focus on theater and performance as a resource for thinking about black history, identity, and radical politics in excess of the written word. Following recent work in Black Studies and Performance Studies, this class will pay particular attention to the doing of blackness, the visible, sonic, and haptic performances that give over to a radical way of seeing, feeling, and being in an anti-black world. Films, plays, and texts might include works by Fred Moten, Alexander Weheilite, Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, Suzan Lori-Parks, Danai Gurira, Shane Vogel, Adrienne Kennedy, Sarah Jane Cervenak, Dee Rees, Celina Sciamma, Saidiya Hartman, Huey P. Copeland, Darby English, Lorraine Hansberry, Hilton Als, Spike Lee, Isaac Julien, Martine Sym's, Tavia Nyong'o, and Daphne Brooks.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: AFAM266, ENGL263, FGSS276
Prereq: None

THEA267 Revolution Girl-Style Now: Queer and Feminist Performance Strategies
Looking to the rich cultural history of queer and feminist performance in the U.S, this course examines performances of gender, sexuality, obscenity, and refusal. In this class, we will ask how the terms "feminist" and "queer" come to determine a specific piece of theater or performance art. Is it the author’s own political affiliation that establishes the work as feminist? Is it the audience’s reading that gathers a work of art under a queer rubric? Furthermore, where does feminist performance meet queer performance? Topics will include feminist body art, AIDS activism, queer nightlife, installation and performance art, video art, and memoir. Focusing on strategies for engaging the many meanings of the words "queer" and "feminist," we will pair theoretical readings with theatrical sites. Authors and artists to be discussed will include Judith Butler, Paula Vogel, Holly Hughes, Beth Henley, Karen Finley, Samuel Delany, Nao Bustamante, Rebecca Schneider, Anna Deaveere Smith, José Muñoz, Jill Dolan, Sylvia Rivera, Sharon Hayes, Sharon P. Holland, Bikini Kill, boychild, Lucy Lippard, Laurie Weeks, and Dean Spade.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: AMST276, FGSS267
Prereq: None

THEA276 Body, Voice, Text: Theater and the Transmission of Experience
Theater can and does exist as a written text, but we all know that its existence on the page is meant as a precursor to its live performance out in the world. In this course, our approach to a series of Latin American plays will be informed by competing notions of the theater as both a field of academic inquiry (built on reading, study, research, and interpretation) and also as an art form (built on reading, rehearsal, repetition, direction, and interpretation). We will combine traditional academic study of the written dramatic text with theater workshop exercises meant to train actors for the delivery of the staged performance text. Students will thus gain an understanding of how academic study and workshop rehearsal take different approaches to what is essentially the same goal/problem: how to interpret the text written by the dramatist, whether for meaning or performance. This course will be taught in Spanish.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN276, LAST276
Prereq: None

THEA279 Music Theater Workshop
This class will be a collaborative, hands-on workshop for playwrights and composers who will work together throughout the semester to create original, one-act musicals. Students will generate show ideas, draft librettos, and musicalize their scripts to create original musical theater pieces. Both playwrights and composers will write lyrics. Students will explore writing strategies and narrative structure and apply those skills to tell stories through the distinct genre of the American musical. Students will leave the class with a grasp of the components of this art form, as well strategies to create new work of their own.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: MUSC230
Prereq: THEA199 OR MUSC103 OR MUSC201

THEA280 Award-Winning Playwrights
With textual analysis and intellectual criticism as its core, this course examines the dramatic work of award-winning playwrights through theoretical, performative, and aesthetic frames. The first half of our investigation explores companion texts written by premier playwrights. In the latter end of the course, we examine singular texts written by acclaimed newcomers. A select range of reviews and popular press publications help to supplement our discussions. In all cases, we are interested in surveying the ways in which these playwrights work within varying modes of dramatic expression and focus their plays on such topics as class, ethnicity, era, disability, gender, locale, nationality, race, and/or sexuality.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL281, AFAM279
Prereq: None

THEA281 Introduction to Directing
In this basic experimental studio course, students investigate the role and work of a director. Through practice and discourse, topics to be considered include the director's analysis of text, research, working with actors, blocking, rehearsal procedures, and directorial style.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
interested in the intercultural aspects of Latin American theater and performance. This course will focus on the history, theory, and practice of theater and performance that have reinvented and reinvigorated European dramatic forms through their constant interaction with non-Western cultural expressions in the Americas. We will examine a wide variety of performance practices, including avant-garde theater, community theater, street performance and agitprop, solo, and collective theater. The syllabus is loosely organized in a chronological fashion, structured more importantly around critical themes in Latin American history, culture, and society in the 20th century. We will take as our primary source material both readings and video recordings, when available, that will be supplemented by a wide variety of historical, critical, and theoretical background readings, including texts written by theater practitioners, theorists, and critics. 

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN279, LAST266

THEA299 A Playwright's Workshop: Intermediate
This course will help students discover the power of research as a source of theatrical inspiration. We will research the techniques of playwrights such as Suzan-Lori Parks, Dario Fo, Doug Wright, Caryl Churchill, and Arthur Kopit (along with others you will choose on your own) to find out what can be learned by borrowing, adapting, transforming, rejecting, inverting, or reimagining elements of their work. We will also research historic and contemporary events as sources for the creation of effective theatrical characters and situations. To use Parks' metaphor, we will use research as a way to dig for the bones, hear the bones sing, and write it down.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL299
Prereq: [THEA199 or ENGL269]

THEA302 Contemporary Theater: Theories and Aesthetics
By examining key moments in Western theater history, this course explores the active relationship between theoretical thought and aesthetic innovation on stage. We reconstruct these moments by relying on a variety of documents and media, including, but not limited to, theater on film, play texts, documentaries, scholarly articles, manifestos, and reviews. The course highlights the ways in which such groundbreaking works represent dynamic, diverse, and cumulative ruptures with the mainstream and ultimately shape how we see and create theater today. The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan’s Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL269

THEA285 Acting II
This course is the continuation of THEA245, Acting I, deepening the investigation of contemporary actor training methods grounded in the work of Konstantin Stanislavsky. Through advanced scene study, students apply their exploration of technique and training. This is an advanced acting course in studio format. The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan’s Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL30

THEA265 Writing History
This course is an intermediate-level playwriting workshop. We will examine plays that use different dramaturgical strategies to grapple with, question, and invigorate the historical record, including Miller’s The Crucible, Jacob Jenkins’ An Octaroon, Miranda’s Hamilton, and Shakespeare’s histories. We will then write original plays that spring from, react to, and grapple with the past as it has been told and hidden from telling. In addition to numerous short exercises, students will research and write a 40-page history play.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL30
Prereq: [THEA199 or ENGL269]

THEA289 French and Francophone Theater in Performance
This course offers students the opportunity to put their language skills in motion by discovering French and Francophone theater in general, and acting in French in particular. This transhistorical course will introduce students to acting techniques while allowing them to discover the richness of the French and Francophone dramatic repertoires. Particular emphasis will be placed on improving students’ oral skills through pronunciation and diction exercises. The course will culminate in the performance of the students’ work at the end of the semester. Based on the “cours d’interprétation,” and offered exclusively in French, this course gives French language students a chance to improve language skills and discover the art of acting.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.25
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FREN281
Prereq: None

THEA297 Latin American Theater and Performance
This course will focus on the history, theory, and practice of theater and performance in Latin America in the 20th century. We will be particularly interested in the intercultural aspects of Latin American theater and performance. This course will focus on the history, theory, and practice of theater and performance in Latin America in the 20th century. We will be particularly interested in the intercultural aspects of Latin American theater and performance. This course will focus on the history, theory, and practice of theater and performance in Latin America in the 20th century. We will be particularly interested in the intercultural aspects of Latin American theater and performance.
THEA305 Lighting Design for the Theater
This course explores the design and technical aspects of lighting design, as well as the role of the lighting designer in a production. Practical experience is an important part of the course work.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: THEA105 OR DANC105

THEA309 The Actor's Work on Psychophysical Actions: A Nonrealist Approach
The course offers an in-depth studio experience in Jerzy Grotowski's approach to the creation of psychophysical actions outside of the frame of realism. The term psychophysical action was coined by Russian director and pedagogue Konstantin Stanislavsky, who dedicated his life's work to the elaboration of the first Western acting system. Stanislavsky viewed the acting conventions of Romanticism and melodrama as "false," inadequate, and passé. As a proponent of realism, then an emerging theatrical genre, Stanislavsky sought to develop an acting system that would support the creation of "truthful" actions on stage. The late Polish director Jerzy Grotowski continued Stanislavsky's research on the method of psychophysical actions. In response to the theatrical trends of his time, Grotowski's own research aimed at freeing actors from the conventions and materials of realism. Instead of departing from dramatic literature, students in this course will learn how to create psychophysical actions using points of departure such as personal memory, short stories, poems, visual materials, objects, traditional song, and so forth. The goal is to guide them to create repeatable scores of psychophysical actions; select, extend, and/or omit specific fragments in their score; juxtapose text or song to the physical score; and use objects in a manner that is precise and expressive. During the second half of the semester, students will learn how to "edit" their scores of psychophysical actions in partner and ensemble work. This portion of the course provides actors with insight into directorial work, a knowledge that gives them greater autonomy in the creative process. The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan's Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: THEA245

THEA310 Shakespeare's Macbeth: From Saga to Screen
A close reading of Shakespeare's play that will position the play in terms of its historical and political contexts and its relation to early modern discourses on the feminine, witchcraft, and the divinity of kings. We will begin with a consideration of the historical legends that constitute Shakespeare's "sources," then read the play slowly and closely, coupling our discussions with readings from the period, exploring how Shakespeare's contemporaries thought of the political and cultural issues raised in the play. We will then compare how our contemporaries have recast these concerns by comparing scenes from films of MACBETH from 1948 to the present.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F

THEA316 Performance Studies
Performance Studies introduces students to theories from the fields of aesthetics and cultural studies to help them examine how particular uses of the body, space, and narrative intersect to inform our experience of "performance," broadly defined. A reading- and writing-intensive seminar, Performance Studies prepares students to develop in-depth research on a topic of their choice. They may experiment with archival and library research, analysis of live performance, and analysis of documents of various kinds, including visual materials. In class, we will look at a wide range of public events and use the frame of performance studies to engage the interplay between real and fictional in both artistic productions and performative contexts. This seminar is appropriate and recommended for students with a background in either performance (theater, dance, music, performance art) or ritual/cultural studies.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: RELI385
Prereq: None

THEA317 One Night Only: Performance and Technology in the American Avant-Garde
Performance is usually defined by its presence on a stage, by its noise, mess, and theatrical flourish in the here-and-now. Media, on the other hand, is thought of as fixed, repeatable, and unchanging. In this course we will ask: What does it mean for media to perform and, conversely, what does it mean when performance is taped, digitized, and mediated? Using the perceived tension at the intersection of performance and technology, we will explore key performance studies terms such as liveness, presence, ephemera, performance, and documentation. We will examine technology and its uses in performances, as well as the relationship technology has to theories of performance more broadly. We will focus in particular on the relationship between media and performance in contemporary American performance. Students will be asked to contribute to a class website conversation, archive live performance, and produce keyword video dialogues. Texts and artistic sites will include Reza Abdoh, Dynasty Handbag, Adrian Piper, Vito Acconci, Nam June Paik, Todd Haynes, Genesis Breyer P-Orridge, My Barbarian, Walter Benjamin, Wendy Chun, Donna J. Haraway, Lev Manovich, Peggy Phelan, Brian Massumi, Lisa Nakamura, Alexander Galloway, and Mladen Dolar.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: AMST277, FGSS317
Prereq: None

THEA318 Introduction to Viewpoints
In this studio class, students learn and are immersed in the Viewpoints—a vocabulary which breaks down the two dominant issues any performance-based artist deals with: Time and Space. Students practice the Viewpoints and learn a language for talking about what happens on stage. Through practice, students develop tools not only for their own individual work, but for collaboration, offering ensembles a way to quickly generate original work. While a form of movement improvisation, students will also apply the Viewpoints as a means to staging to text as well as generate composition pieces. This class is open to directors, actors, designers, dancers, choreographers, musicians, composers, and writers.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
THEA319 Voice and Heightened Text
This is an advanced acting class in studio format focusing on the skills of voice, speech and movement in current practice as adapted by professional directors and actors. Students will follow a progression of in-class exercises designed to respond to textual demands through ongoing scene study techniques, vocal explorations and physical commitment in performance of heightened text. Examination of text will culminate in close study of Shakespeare's First Folio and its clues to performance. Students will study, analyze, memorize, rehearse and perform scenes and monologues.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: DANC318
Prereq: None

THEA320 Crossing Borders on the Early Modern Stage
This course looks at the ways in which seven fascinating plays by Cervantes, Shakespeare, Lope de Vega, John Webster, and Philip Massinger responded creatively to and still challenge narratives about a period in which many situate the origins of globalization. Written from 1580 to 1630 for the first public, commercial theaters of the Western world (in Madrid and London), these plays explore the anxieties, hopes, dangers, and pleasures generated by a century of displacements--of peoples, ideas, goods, capital, and diseases--that had transformed the look, feel, and taste of daily life even in remote villages of Spain and England. From Cervantes' use of Roman history to dramatize the contemporary wages of empire, to Massinger's and Cervantes' evocations of Christian captivity in Tunisia and Algiers (which Cervantes experienced in the flesh for five years), to Lope's and Webster's markedly distinct versions of a celebrity murder (of the Italian Duchess of Amalfi, killed by her brothers for marrying the commoner steward of her household), to Shakespeare's and Lope's romantic comedy exploration of conflicting loyalties and shifting gender roles in a world of accelerated social mobility, these plays often resort to seemingly remote places (ancient Rome, Islamic Algiers and Tunis, Renaissance Milan and Naples) to examine the exoticism, immorality, internal conflicts, and injustices of the supposedly familiar worlds of their audiences in Madrid and London. Organized around the careful reading of seven key play-texts in English, together with historical, critical, and theoretical readings, this seminar will offer students multiple ways to approach early modern plays through printed and online resources and Wesleyan's Special Collections and Archives. We will pay particular attention to the local conditions that help explain why Spanish and English theatrical cultures were so similar despite divergent political and religious trajectories (their commercial orientation, for instance) and also why, on the other hand, even plays that drew on the same sources could differ so markedly (because, for instance, of the prominence of actresses on the Spanish professional stage in roles played by boy actors in England). Those interested in translation and performance will have opportunities to pursue them in class presentations, papers, and final projects.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST302, SPAN302, ENGL377, COL314
Prereq: None

THEA321 Survey of African American Theater
This course surveys the dynamism and scope of African American dramatic and performance traditions. Zora Neale Hurston's 1925 play COLOR STRUCK and August Wilson's 2006 play GEM OF THE OCEAN serve as bookends to our exploration of the ways in which African American playwrights interweave various customs, practices, experiences, critiques, and ideologies within their work.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL385, AFAM323, FGSS323
Prereq: None

THEA322 The Contemporary Stage and the Antitheatrical Prejudice
Theater has always hosted a broad array of art disciplines: dance, literature, music, the visual arts, and, most recently, film and the digital moving image are commonly incorporated on the theatrical stage. Regardless, the lingering assumption that theater is irrevocably anchored in a dramatic text resulted in the classification of the emerging theatrical forms of the late 20th century as "performance," rather than as "theater" per se. The theoretical foundation of this course will be what Erika Fischer-Lichte has called "the performative turn." We will consider theater as event as we examine its mobility across art disciplines. Theater's defining characteristic lies in the verifiable autonomy of a production's "performance text," not the written one, but the live and kinesthetic "text" that engages the actors' bodies and design elements in time and space.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM384
Prereq: None

THEA323 Technical Practice A
This course will involve assignment to a responsible position in one of the various areas of technical theater, as crew head, stage manager, etc. THEA329/THEA331 may be repeated to a total of 1.50 credits.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: THEA105

THEA331 Technical Practice B
This course will involve assignment to a responsible position in one of the various areas of technical theater, such as crew head, stage manager, etc. THEA329/ THEA331 may be repeated to a total of 1.50 credits.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: THEA105

THEA334 Production and Performance of a German Play
This course entails the intensive study and performance of a play from the German-speaking repertoire. All aspects of production, including costuming, directing, technical aspects (where possible), and preparing the program, will be in the hands of the student. The course offers students the opportunity not only to improve their language skills, but also to encounter one of the world's richest theater traditions. We will spend the first few weeks approaching the play from various historical and theoretical angles, and the remainder to plan and prepare the performance.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST334
Prereq: (GRST101 AND GRST102)
THEA340 Performing Brazil: The Postdictatorship Generation
The course takes as its point of departure a close and critical reading of modernist Oswald de Andrade’s “Cannibalist Manifesto” (1928) and the writings of artists working during and after the dictatorship years. As the semester progresses, the course will examine postdictatorship works in film, music, literature, the fine arts, dance, and theater. Students will have access to examples in the form of texts in translation, images, and performance recordings. Discussions will focus on the relationship between Brazil’s postcolonial condition and political history, including the country’s current artistic production and sense of national identity.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: LAST340, FIST340
Prereq: None

THEA348 Music and Theater of Indonesia
Since the early history of Indonesia, the Indonesian people have continually been in contact with a number of foreign cultures. Particularly, Hinduism, Islam, and the West have had significant impact on the development of Indonesian culture. This course is designed as an introduction to the rich performing arts and culture of Indonesia. A principal theme will be the differing intercultural and interreligious experiences in the two neighboring and related cultures of Java and Bali. In light of the increasingly contentious global geopolitical environment in our post-9/11 world, the course pays special attention to the impact of the recent deeper Islamization on Indonesian performing arts. A portion of the course is devoted to demonstrations and workshops, including instruction of performance of Terbangan (an Islamic frame drum ensemble) and Gamelan (percussion ensemble of Java and Bali).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: MUSC111
Prereq: None

THEA357 Space and Materiality: Performing Place
Scenography explores and shapes the material world in and through the performative event. In site-specific performances, scenography transforms place and time to create an alternative reality in which the materiality of the artistic design and the performer’s body intervene in the architecture of a place and the spectator’s reception of meaning. In this course, we will study site interventions through the lens of street performance, immersive theater, and the theatrical apparatus to build a theoretical and hands-on understanding of the material potential and limitations of the four key elements involved in the scenographic project--artistic design, the actor’s body, local architecture, and time.
This course is divided in four units: site-specific interventions; street performance; immersive theater; and theatrical apparatus. Each unit includes scholarly readings, assignments in performance and scenography, and a response paper. The final project for the course is a performance intervention devised for a particular site on campus that demonstrates the student’s cumulative grasp of site specificity, scenography, and materiality.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: CHUM317
Prereq: None

THEA359 Design and the Performative Space
In this course, we will explore, construct, and deconstruct the performative space, whether theatrical, site-specific, or virtual. We will analyze the space as a context to be activated by the body of the performer and witnessed by an audience. Through theoretical and practical assignments, we will study the aesthetical history of the theatrical event while developing your own creative design process. You will be guided through each step of this process: concept development, visual research, renderings or drawings (Vector Works and Sketchup), model making (3D printing and modeling), and drafting. The Theater Department organizes a variety of performances for students enrolled in its courses. Field trips to see performances off campus are integrated into course syllabi. Instructors will notify students of all dates at the beginning of the semester and costs for all course field trips are covered (specifically, transportation to and from the performance and tickets). Any potential scheduling conflicts for field trips should be discussed with faculty members. Once students indicate that they are going and tickets are purchased, it is assumed they will attend. (Students backing out of field trips they had said they would attend will be asked to cover the cost of their ticket.) Performances of visitors to Wesleyan’s Center for the Arts are integrated into course syllabi and students are required to attend these performances unless otherwise negotiated with instructors. Tickets for performances are available to students at the Box Office in Usdan at the reduced price of $6.00.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: DANC359
Prereq: THEA105 OR THEA150 OR THEA185 OR ARST131

THEA360 Media for Performance
This course examines the use of technology in performance, from the creation of mechanical moving scenery to 3D scenography. We will look into the development of the theatrical technology from the Renaissance to today’s conception of the digital theater, virtual reality, and online performances. The class format will be divided into lectures and studio class, where students will develop practical work creating their own digital performances.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: DANC364
Prereq: None

THEA364 Friendship and Collaboration: In Theory, In Practice
How do we conceive of friendship, collaboration, love, and collectivity? In an interview, Michel Foucault stated that the relational task of the homosexual was to "invent, from A to Z, a relationship that is still formless, which is friendship: that is to say, the sum of everything through which they can give each other pleasure." This course considers theories and performances of relationality, queer belonging, and friendship with an emphasis on forms of belonging and recognition that exceed normative protocols. We will ask how queer practices, black thought, brown study, and indigenous epistemologies inform our own imaginings of collaborative projects. Beginning with philosophical determinations of friendship, we will branch out to imagine ways in which artists, lovers, friends, and/or cohabitators enact togetherness. Artists and projects to be discusses include: Andy Warhol’s Factory, Hugo Ball, Emily Johnson, Black Salt Collective, My Barbarian, Harriet’s Apothecary, General Sisters, the Critical Indigenous Photographic Exchange, Betalocal and more.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL362, AFAM364
Prereq: None
THEA365 Greek Tragedy: Euripides
Euripides is well known for being experimental and controversial, in his own time and beyond. Aristophanes famously accuses him of corrupting his audience by bringing too much of a democratic sentiment to his plays—women and slaves having way too much to say. Nietzsche much later will attribute to him the very depth of tragedy. In this course, we will explore this legacy by reading one of his plays in the original along with diverse approaches to his work. The selection of the play will be determined by the composition of the student-group and previous exposure to Greek drama.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Identical With: GRK365
Prereq: None

THEA366 The Sounds of Black and Brown Performance
This course organizes itself as a scene of listening with care to black and brown sounds, where listening is conceived as a mode of audience engagement of performances informed by avant-garde, queer, and critical race theories. Listening, then, is part of the artistic-theoretical practices that students will both read about and act out in this course. Here, we will engage theater, dance, and performance with the demand of listening in brown for the distinct sounds made in different performances, whether by identifiably racialized artist-subjects or not, and how they compel us to think of embodiment. If to say black is to say abjection, prison, AIDS, as well as the generative, the contra-rationally beautiful (Moten), and if to say “gender-y” is to say threatening, off-kilter, violable, as well playful, and transformative (Sedgwick, Doyle), then what happens when we listen in brown, that is, with the headphones of melancholia, depression, as well as wildness, the excessive, the “hot and spicy” as critiques of the violence of the whitened norm (Muñoz)?
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM366, ENGL363, AFAM362
Prereq: None

THEA370 Engaging Audiences: Spectatorship Within Black Popular Culture and Performance
This course uses recent scholarship on spectatorship and popular culture to interrogate the production and reception of “popular” black performances and representations within and beyond the United States. With special attention to the historical context in which these black cultural products are created, disseminated, and received, we focus on the social spaces, local contexts, temporal conditions, and embodied acts within which these case studies emerge and examine the political implications of their consumption and sustainability. Central to our investigation will be a consideration of the ways in which the terrain of “the popular” is inextricably linked to issues of aesthetics, appropriation, authenticity, circulation, community, globalization, identity, marginalization, meaning-making, and power. Case studies will include historic and contemporary examples from theater, dance, film, music, media, and the visual arts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM370, AFAM370
Prereq: None

THEA371 Sister Acts: Black Feminist/Womanist Theater of the African Diaspora
This course surveys the dynamism and scope of contemporary feminist/womanist drama written by black women playwrights of the African Diaspora. Reading select plays from Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, England, and the United States, alongside theory and criticism, we examine the impact of race, gender, identity, and sexuality politics on black feminist/womanist theater. Throughout our study of these dramatic texts, their performances, and their subsequent critiques, we are equally invested in the bridges and the gaps, the audiblies and the silences, and the overlaps and the divides, as they are formed. Significantly, this analytic undertaking involves a simultaneous critique of the role of the playwright, the spectator, and the critic of black feminist/womanist theater. At all times, consideration is given to the ways in which these playwrights collectively use theater as a platform to explore black and female and diasporic subjectivities across regional, national, and, at times, linguistic differences.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL371, FGSS371, AFAM371
Prereq: None

THEA381 Directing II
This course, the continuation of THEA281, presents a further investigation of the elements of directing, dealing with the production concept and the orchestration of that concept in terms of research, work with actors, ground plan, set, lights, costumes, props, music, etc. This is an advanced directing course in studio format. Students will go through all stages of directing: selecting the script, its analysis, adaptation, set design, casting, rehearsing, lighting, and performing.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: (THEA245 AND THEA281)

THEA383 Introduction to Costume Design for Performance
This course is an exploration of costume design concepts for contemporary performance including theater and other genres. The class will include beginning elements of costume design, including character/script analysis, research, costume lists, action charts, visual design concepts and techniques, and collage and drawing skills.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: THEA105 OR THEA185 OR ARST131 OR ARST445

THEA384 Introduction to Puppetry: The Creation of Puppet Performance from Oral Histories and Factual Events
We will begin our exploration with a two-session intensive workshop with Dan Froot and the WHO’S HUNGRY? Puppeteers, where we will be working with stories collected in New England at homeless shelters and food banks. Based on this introduction, students will then create their own fact-based performances including theater and other genres. The class will include beginning elements of costume design, including character/script analysis, research, costume lists, action charts, visual design concepts and techniques, and collage and drawing skills.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA390 Performance Ensemble
Since theater is an art of collaboration, this course will offer advanced acting and directing students an opportunity to develop their skills in an ensemble environment and collaborate on the final presentation in the form of public performance. Students will be able to choose an acting or directing concentration. Acting techniques will include intense work on one or two chosen characters, developing three-dimensionality of the part, performing in
an ensemble, and Michael Chekhov’s acting method. Directing techniques will focus on adaptation, production concept, and the orchestration of that concept in terms of research, work with actors, ground plan, set, lights, costumes, props, sound, etc. Students will go through all stages of preparing a public performance: selecting the script, its analysis, adaptation, conceptualization through design elements, casting, rehearsing, collaboration with designers, and performing.

The course will fulfill an advanced directing requirement for students interested in pursuing senior theses in directing and offers an additional level of acting training to advanced acting students.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: THEA245

THEA399 Advanced Playwriting: Long Form
This is an immersive workshop for students working at a rigorous, committed level of playwriting. We will focus on long form as students begin, develop, and rewrite full-length plays, challenging themselves to expand their technique as they articulate their creative vision.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: ENGL399
Prereq: [THEA199 or ENGL269]

THEA401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

THEA404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

THEA407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

THEA408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

THEA409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA419 Student Forum
This is a student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

THEA420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

THEA427 Performance Practice A
Assigned advanced work done under faculty supervision in the departmental production program. Entails 60 hours of participation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA431 Performance Practice B
Assigned advanced work done under faculty supervision in the department production program. Entails 60 hours of participation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA433 Performance Practice C
Assigned advanced work done under faculty supervision in the department production program. Entails 120 hours of participation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA434 Applied Scenography: From Idea to the Stage
This course may be repeated for credit. In this course, students will develop a specific design for the stage by doing close reading and analysis of the text for their specific projects. Students will be guided through each step of these processes in a formal approach: concept development, visual research, renderings or drawings, model-making, and/or drafting. The course will have a special emphasis on the collaborative process and on the designer’s role to fulfill the needs for the actual construction of their projects. Students will create and design set, media, or costumes for their projects, integrating the notions of design principles and performance elements. This course counts toward the Theater Major as Performance Practice (in Design) only.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: THEA359 OR THEA383

THEA435 Performance Practice in Design A
Assigned advanced work in technical theater. Program A entails commitment of 60 hours of time.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA437 Performance Practice in Design B
Assigned advanced work in technical theater. Program B entails a commitment of 120 hours of time.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Prereq: None

THEA465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

THEA470 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

THEA491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

THEA492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT