THEATRE

Theatre coursework is designed to provide students well-rounded experiences encompassing the varied components that work together to create the theatre experience. These areas include performance (acting/directing), production design (scenic, costume, lighting, sound), box office, publicity, house management, dramaturgy, stage management, and much more. Above all, we’re committed to each student’s individual development toward artistic and cultural maturity and growth that cultivates global diversity and service to our community. Through in-class and production work, students gain valuable life skills including discipline, collaboration, communication, research, planning, achieving deadlines and problem-solving.

The unit’s mission is to ignite in the student, teacher and community: critical thinking, compassionate feeling, collaborative vision and the capacity to delight.

Other Information

The general areas of study in theatre are acting, directing, design, dramatic literature, theatre history and criticism and design/production including stagecraft, stage lighting, scene design, costume and makeup. Beyond the general theatre core, students are able to pursue a concentration in a specialized area such as acting, design, production, technology, stage management, or theatre scholarship.

Theatre majors are required to participate actively and consistently in productions sponsored by the department. The department stages a minimum of four major productions per academic year. These productions encompass the breadth and vitality of live theatre, from musicals to classics as well as developing a working knowledge of the practices in the business of management, design and technology, or performance. Assignments are made according to the individual interests and skills of the student as they match available opportunities and needs in the industry.

THEA 1000 THEATRE PRACTICUM (1 credit)
Lecture, discussion, and experience in theatre production concepts and techniques. One hour formal meeting each week and an average of two-four hours per week in an assigned technical production area based on your interests and skills. Required of Theatre majors and may be taken by all other students. May be repeated eight times.

THEA 1010 INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE (3 credits)
A survey course designed to acquaint the theatre major and the non-major alike with all basic areas of theatre practice and study. Several major periods of theatre art will be explored and, depending on the instructor, emphasis can include acting, playwriting, design and theatre technology, and/or theatre literature. Distribution: Humanities and Fine Arts General Education course

THEA 1050 FILM HISTORY AND APPRECIATION (3 credits)
A journey through one of many different possible worlds of film. Students will learn about various dimensions of filmmaking–historical development, cinematography, editing, screenwriting, and so much more. Exposure to critical perspectives on the genre(s) under consideration. Includes regular viewing of excerpts and full-length films. (Cross-listed with JMC 1050). Distribution: Humanities and Fine Arts General Education course

THEA 1090 ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE (3 credits)
This class is designed to introduce students to the art of oral interpretation. Students analyze and perform selections from a variety of sources, including children’s literature, Shakespearean sonnets, contemporary poetry, and prose. This course explores analysis of language and the ways in which performative techniques can enhance literature on an emotional and intellectual level. (Cross-listed with CMST 1710)
Distribution: Humanities and Fine Arts General Education course

THEA 1210 VOICE FOR THE ACTOR (3 credits)
This course is a comprehensive exploration of the actor’s voice and speech. The student gains a detailed understanding of breath, tension and relaxation, resonance, articulation, textual interpretation, and learns to combine movement and voice, enhancing creativity in vocal expression. The focus is freeing the unique vocal potential of each student, and on training the voice for performance. Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Not open to non-degree graduate students.
Distribution: Humanities and Fine Arts General Education course

THEA 1220 MOVEMENT FOR THE ACTOR (3 credits)
Discovery and training of the human body as a technical instrument and as one of the key expressive elements of any performance-oriented medium.

THEA 1510 FOUNDATIONS OF PRODUCTION DESIGN (3 credits)
An introductory course introducing students to the omnipresence and role of design in contemporary society; and to fundamental elements and principles of analysis, conceptualization, and visual interpretation, as they apply to the production design process.

THEA 1550 COSTUME AND MAKEUP FOR THEATRE (3 credits)
An introductory course covering foundational vocabulary, skills, materials, tools, and processes used for costume construction and makeup application specifically for the theatre.

THEA 1610 SCENIC PRODUCTION LABORATORY (1-3 credits)
Directed, practical experiences in scenic production skills.

THEA 1630 STAGECRAFT (3 credits)
An introduction stagecraft class designed to develop the skills, knowledge, theories and materials of professional designers and craftspersons, as well as developing a working knowledge of the practices in the business of technical theatre.

THEA 2000 SUMMER THEATRE WORKSHOP (3 credits)
Intensive supervised workshop experience involving significant overall contribution(s) to the summer theatre program.

THEA 2030 INTERNSHIP: NEBRASKA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL (1-6 credits)
This course provides an opportunity for the student to participate in a professional summer theatre company and receive course credit. The course will involve practical application. Areas of study might include artistic direction, direction, dramaturgy, arts management, production management, design and technology, or performance. Assignments are made according to the individual interests and skills of the student as they match available opportunities and needs in the industry. Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Permission of instructor.
THEA 2310  ACTING I (3 credits)
The basic acting class, for majors and non-majors. Emphasis on freeing oneself as a preparation for basic character and scene work using exercises for relaxation, energy generation, concentration and group interaction. Three relationships basic to the actor are explored: to oneself, to another actor, to the ensemble.
Distribution: Humanities and Fine Arts General Education course

THEA 2320  ACTING II (3 credits)
Incorporating skills and awareness developed in Acting I, this class moves toward examining various tools for character development by oneself, in large group improvisations and with written scripts. Specific scene work leads to a final scene presented both for the class and for all interested persons.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 2310

THEA 2510  COSTUME PATTERNING AND DRAPEING (3 credits)
Exploration of the creation of patterns for theatrical costumes. Techniques include flat patternting, draping and development of historical patterns. Specific attention is given to period silhouette and detail and theatrical costume production conventions.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1550 or permission of instructor.

THEA 2630  DRAFTING FOR THE THEATRE (3 credits)
Guided, practical experience in the use of common drafting equipment and in drafting mechanical drawings commonly used in the theatre.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1630

THEA 3020  SPECIAL TOPICS IN THEATRE (3 credits)
This course utilizes a topical approach that explores various aspects of theatre that are outside the set Theatre curriculum. Topics and disciplines will vary from term to term. Course description will be announced in advance. It is repeatable for credit if content differs.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1510

THEA 3610  COLLABORATIVE DESIGN STUDIES (3 credits)
Collaborative Design Studies explores the integration and process of theatrical production including scenery, lighting, costume, projection and sound. It chronicles their individual and collective impact on storytelling. While developing the skills of the Scenographer, students will work collaboratively as they foster their individual artistic design talents, and recognize the impact of design on society through storytelling. (Cross-listed with THEA 8615)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1510

THEA 3660  STAGE AND TV LIGHTING (3 credits)
Characteristics and control of light and color and their application to the theatre and television; elementary electricity; lens systems; reflectors; lamps; control systems. (Cross-listed with THEA 8665)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1630 or permission of instructor.

THEA 3750  THEATRE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (3 credits)
This service-learning course will combine both research and practice in theatre that involves social change. Students will study the history of such theatre, with special focus on developments in the 20th century. All research will be accompanied by several community-based projects whereby students will create theatre with specific populations (schools, community centers, health centers, senior homes, etc.). (Cross-listed with THEA 8755)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Sophomore, junior, or senior standing regardless of major.

THEA 3760  THEATRE HISTORY AND LITERATURE: MODERN / 1850-2000 (3 credits)
This course is a survey of both western European and world theatre from the emergence of modernism to 1980, about the time of the emergence of post-modernism.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 1160 & Junior standing OR permission of the instructor

THEA 3770  THEATRE HISTORY AND LITERATURE: CONTEMPORARY (3 credits)
This course offers a brief survey of European and world theatre from the emergence of post-modernism to the present time. It also focuses especially on theatre for social change, community development, and the community-based theatre movement. It will include a service-learning component with one or more regional social-service or similar agencies.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 1160 & Sophomore standing OR permission of the instructor.

THEA 4000  SUMMER THEATRE WORKSHOP (3 credits)
Intensive supervised workshop experience involving significant overall contribution(s) to the summer theatre program.

THEA 4010  ADVANCED PROJECTS IN THEATRE: INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-3 credits)
Special projects in theatre supplementing regular courses; individual research projects; combined study and practicum. (Cross-listed with THEA 8016)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): 9 hours of theatre in the general area to be studied and permission of the instructor.

THEA 4020  ADVANCED PROJECTS IN THEATRE (1-3 credits)
Special projects in theatre supplementing regular courses; individual research projects; combined study and practicum. (Cross-listed with THEA 8026)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): 9 hours of theatre in the general area to be studied and permission of the instructor.

THEA 4030  INTERNSHIP (1-6 credits)
This course provides an opportunity for the student to participate in a professional summer theatre company and receive course credit. The course will involve practical application. Areas of study might include artistic direction, direction, dramaturgy, arts management, production management, design and technology, or performance. Assignments are made according to the individual interests and skills of the student as they match available opportunities and needs in the industry.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Permission of instructor.

THEA 4050  SHAKESPEARE ON FILM: THE ART OF INTERPRETATION (3 credits)
Study how Shakespeare's plays are interpreted for performance. Explore how production shapes our understanding of the text. Understand how the change of medium from page to stage to screen reveals meaning in unique ways. Experience a dynamic way of making the most extraordinary plays your own. Classes will feature readings, lecture, class discussion, and film screenings of different cinematic interpretations of several of Shakespeare's plays. Previous study of Shakespeare is helpful but not required.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 4060  CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRODUCTION (3 credits)
Study of the methods of direction, design, and production of plays for children. Students plan a complete children's theatre production or become actively involved in an actual production.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1010 and THEA 1630 and THEA 2320 and THEA 3660 and THEA 4430 and Junior standing; or permission of instructor.

THEA 4310  ADVANCED ACTING: POST REALISM (3 credits)
Advanced work in the technical skills of voice, speech, movement and textual analysis needed for post-realist material. (Cross-listed with THEA 8316)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 2310 and THEA 2320 and Junior standing.
THEA 4320 ADVANCED ACTING: GREEKS TO RESTORATION (3 credits)
The fundamental theories and practices of major styles from ancient Greece to Restoration, including performance work from outstanding dramatic literature. (Cross-listed with THEA 8346)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 2310 and THEA 2320 and Junior standing.

THEA 4330 ADVANCED ACTING: ENSEMBLE PLAY PRODUCTION (3 credits)
In-depth exploration of a play or playwright's work to connect acting class with performance. Special emphasis on creating a working process that allows the ensemble to emerge. The class will culminate in public performance. (Cross-listed with THEA 8336).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 2310 and THEA 2320 and Junior standing.

THEA 4340 ADVANCED ACTING: AUDITIONING (3 credits)
An acting class designed to develop audition skills and material as well as cultivate a working knowledge of the business of acting. (Cross-listed with THEA 8346)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 2310 and THEA 2320 and Junior standing.

THEA 4430 DIRECTING I (3 credits)
The emergence of the director as an influential force in Western theatrical production; consideration of alternative approaches to directing; workshop development of a personal style. (Cross-listed with THEA 8436)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1510 and THEA 1630 and THEA 2310 and THEA 2320 and THEA 2810 and THEA 2820.

THEA 4440 DIRECTING II (3 credits)
A practicum in play selection, analysis, casting, directing and performing. (Cross-listed with THEA 8446)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 4430.

THEA 4500 COSTUME DESIGN (3 credits)
An introduction to the fundamentals of stage costume design, including line, silhouette, movement, color, texture and theatricality. Emphasis on the visual presentation of designs, including considerable work with life drawing and rendering technique. (Cross-listed with THEA 8506)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1510, THEA 1550; or permission of instructor.

THEA 4510 CHALLENGES IN PRODUCTION DESIGN (3 credits)
Evaluation and exploration of the world of theatrical story telling using line, texture, contrast, theme, metaphor and symbolism. Students will work collaboratively as they foster their individual artistic talents, and recognize the impact of design on society through story telling. (Cross-listed with THEA 8516)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1510 and THEA 3610.

THEA 4550 PERIOD STYLES IN DRESS AND DECOR (3 credits)
An historical survey course introducing students to the major periods and iconic styles and trends in western architecture, dress and interior décor of the past 2000 years; and to the social, cultural and technological influences on those trends, particularly as they relate to theatrical and production design. (Cross-listed with THEA 8556)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 3760 or THEA 3770 or THEA 4780 or by permission of instructor.

THEA 4610 SCENE DESIGN (3 credits)
Principles of composition, perspective and color for the stage; the designer's approach to the play, production of ground plans, elevations and sketches. (Cross-listed with THEA 8616)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1010 and THEA 1630 and THEA 2630 and Junior standing.

THEA 4780 THEATRE HISTORY AND LITERATURE: CLASSICAL TO 1500 (3 credits)
This course is a survey of both western European and early Asian theatre and the related theatre literature in ancient Greece and Rome, India, and medieval Europe from the fifth century BCE to the beginning of the European renaissance.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL1160 and Junior standing

THEA 4790 THEATRE HISTORY AND LITERATURE: RENAISSANCE TO 1850 (3 credits)
This course is a survey of primarily western European theatre and the related theatre literature from the Renaissance until the emergence of modernism.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL1160 and Junior standing or Permission of the Instructor.

THEA 8000 SPECIAL TOPICS IN THEATRE AND DRAMA (3 credits)
A variable content course dealing with theatre and drama. Each offering will treat a single aspect of theatre or drama in depth - e.g., Shakespeare in performance, the history of acting theory, the history of theatrical design, etc.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate or permission of instructor.

THEA 8016 ADVANCED PROJECTS IN THEATRE: INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-3 credits)
Special projects in theatre supplementing regular courses; individual research projects; combined study and practicum. (Cross-listed with THEA 4010)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 8026 ADVANCED PROJECTS IN THEATRE (1-3 credits)
9 hours of theatre in the general area to be studied and permission of the instructor.

THEA 8026 ADVANCED PROJECTS IN THEATRE (1-3 credits)
Special projects in theatre supplementing regular courses; individual research projects; combined study and practicum. (Cross-listed with THEA 4020)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Theatrical projects; 9 hours of theatre in the general area to be studied and permission of the instructor.

THEA 8030 INTERNSHIP IN THEATRE (1-6 credits)
Maximum of six hours to be granted upon completion of written report on internship. The internship will be in some area of theatre. Students will receive a letter grade for the course. May be taken for a maximum of six hours of credit.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Permission of the theatre graduate program committee chair.

THEA 8040 INTERNSHIP IN THEATRE (1-6 credits)
Maximum of six hours to be granted upon completion of written report on internship. The internship will be in some area of theatre. Students will receive a letter grade for the course. May be taken for a maximum of six hours of credit.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Permission of the theatre graduate program committee chair

THEA 8130 GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE ARTS (3 credits)
This course is about artistic excellence married to ethical practices and responsible world citizenship. Students will analyze and evaluate how to use art to address community issues and discover a road map that allows for authentic, consistent and sustainable commitment to the community and its needs.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate or permission of instructor.

THEA 8316 ADVANCED ACTING: POST REALISM (3 credits)
Advanced work in the technical skills of voice, speech, movement and textual analysis needed for post-realist material. (Cross-listed with THEA 4310)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate with an undergraduate major or minor in theatre or permission of instructor.
THEA 8326 ADVANCED ACTING: GREEKS TO RESTORATION (3 credits)
The fundamental theories and practices of major styles of acting from ancient Greece to the Restoration, including interpretation of outstanding dramatic literature. (Cross-listed with THEA 4320)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate with an undergraduate major or minor in theatre or permission of instructor.

THEA 8336 ADVANCED ACTING: ENSEMBLE PLAY PRODUCTION (3 credits)
In-depth exploration of a play or playwright’s work to connect acting class with performance. Special emphasis on creating a working process that allows the ensemble to emerge. The class will culminate in public performance. (Cross-listed with THEA 4330)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate with an undergraduate major or minor in theatre or permission of instructor.

THEA 8346 ADVANCED ACTING: AUDITIONING (3 credits)
An acting class designed to develop auditioning skills and material as well as cultivate a working knowledge of the business of acting. (Cross-listed with THEA 4340)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate with an undergraduate major or minor in theatre or permission of the instructor.

THEA 8436 DIRECTING I (3 credits)
Directing I examines the development of the role of director in Western Theatre; provides practice in the directing process including script analysis, dramaturgical research, staging visual composition, collaboration with designers and performers; considers alternative approaches to directing and encourages students to begin to develop a personal directing style. (Cross-listed with THEA 4430)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing with an undergraduate major or minor in theatre or permission of the instructor.

THEA 8446 DIRECTING II (3 credits)
A practicum in play selection, analysis, casting, rehearsing and performing. (Cross-listed with THEA 4440)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 8436.

THEA 8506 COSTUME DESIGN (3 credits)
An introduction to the fundamentals of stage costume design, including line, silhouette, movement, color, texture and theatricality. Emphasis on the visual presentation of designs, including considerable work with life drawing and rendering technique. (Cross-listed with THEA 4500)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate Standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 8516 CHALLENGES IN PRODUCTION DESIGN (3 credits)
Evaluation and exploration of the world of theatrical story telling using line, texture, contrast, theme, metaphor and symbolism. Students will work collaboratively as they foster their individual artistic talents, and recognize the impact of design on society through story telling. (Cross-listed with THEA 4510)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate Standing or by permission of Instructor

THEA 8556 PERIOD STYLES IN DRESS AND DECOR (3 credits)
An historical survey course introducing students to the major periods and iconic styles and trends in western architecture, dress and interior décor of the past 2000 years; and to the social, cultural and technological influences on those trends, particularly as they relate to theatrical and production design. (Cross-listed with THEA 4550)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): By permission of instructor.

THEA 8615 COLLABORATIVE DESIGN STUDIES (3 credits)
Collaborative Design Studies explores the integration and process of theatrical production including scenery, lighting, costume, projection and sound. It chronicles their individual and collective impact on storytelling. While developing the skills of the Scenographer, students will work collaboratively as they foster their individual artistic design talents, and recognize the impact of design on society through storytelling. (Cross-listed with THEA 3610)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate Standing or Permission of Instructor

THEA 8616 SCENE DESIGN (3 credits)
Principles of composition, perspective and color for the stage; the designer’s approach to the play, production of ground plans, elevations, sketches and models. (Cross-listed with THEA 4610)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate with an undergraduate major or minor in theatre or permission of the instructor.

THEA 8650 TECHNICAL THEATRE PROBLEMS (3 credits)
Research and dialogue in the aesthetics and physical results of the relationships between dramatic form, theatre architecture and scenic design and lighting from historical and contemporary points of view. (Cross-listed with THEA 3660)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1010 and THEA 3660 and THEA 4610 and THEA 4710 and THEA 4720 or permission.

THEA 8665 STAGE AND TV LIGHTING (3 credits)
Characteristics and control of light and color and their application to the theatre and television; elementary electricity; lens systems; reflectors; lamps; control systems; automation. (Cross-listed with THEA 3660)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): THEA 1630 or permission of instructor.

THEA 8755 THEATRE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (3 credits)
This service-learning course will combine both research and practice in theatre that involves social change. Students will study the history of such theatre, with special focus on developments in the 20th century. All research will be accompanied by several community-based projects whereby students will create theatre with specific populations (schools, community centers, health centers, senior homes, etc.). (Cross-listed with THEA 3750)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate in theatre. Graduate outside theatre with sufficient background in theatre and sociology political science requires permission of the instructor.

THEA 8900 THEATRE RESEARCH METHODS (2 credits)
This course is designed to introduce graduate students in theatre to basic techniques of scholarly research: gathering material, defining the problem, and improving basic writing. Special emphasis will be placed on computer searches, resources available at UNOmaha, and community-based research.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Admission to the graduate program in theatre.

THEA 8910 RESEARCH METHODS II (1 credit)
Research Methods II is a follow-up course to Research Methods. In this one-credit course, graduate students will write drafts of their final thesis project proposals with the intention of being able to use them for official submission at the end of the spring semester.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate student in theatre and THEA 8900.

THEA 8920 DRAMATIC THEORY & CRITICISM (3 credits)
An introduction to selected dramatic theories and criticism from antiquity to the nineteenth century. This course is intended for graduate students with a strong background in dramatic literature and interest in theatre production.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing, in THEA. Graduate students outside of theatre must have the permission of the instructor.

THEA 8930 THEATRE IN OUR COMMUNITY: THEORY & CRITICISM (3 credits)
Students will apply dramatic theory and criticism to the theatre in our area. Students will visit different area theatres, analyze their work, and have discussions with their artistic directors.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate student.
THEA 8940  MODERN THEATRE AESTHETICS: REALISM & NATURALISM TO 1980 (3 credits)
Research and discussion on the aesthetic theories and movements in the modern theatre (Realism & Naturalism of the 20th Century). Emphasis on primary source material from Meyerhold, Brecht, Artaud, Grotowski, Schechner and others.  
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

THEA 8950  CONTEMPORARY THEATRE AESTHETICS: 1980-PRESENT AND BEYOND (3 credits)
This seminar is the chronological capstone for the theatre department graduate seminar series. It focuses on theories and practice in theatre during the last two decades with the aim of acquainting students with the most recent forces shaping current theatre in the U.S. and selected areas of the world.  
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing, in THEA. Graduate students outside of theatre must have permission of the instructor.

THEA 8980  FINAL PROJECT (1-3 credits)
Final project for Option II or III.  
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Admission to candidacy and approval of the project proposal.

THEA 8990  THESIS (1-3 credits)
Independent research project written under the supervision of an adviser.