

THEATRE

Department of Music and Theatre

Website: <https://www.washburn.edu/academics/college-schools/arts-sciences/departments/theatre/index.html> (<https://www.washburn.edu/academics/college-schools/arts-sciences/departments/theatre/>)

Faculty

Associate Professor, Director of Theatre, Julie Noonan, PhD
Lecturer Theodore Shonka, MFA

Mission

Consistent with the mission of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences, the Theatre division is dedicated to providing students with a strong foundation in Theatre based on mastering basic concepts of dramatic literature, performance, history, design and criticism as well as the technical skills to produce theatre. Studying Theatre at Washburn is theoretical, practical and experiential. Public performances are offered by the department in the Andrew J. and Georgia Neese-Gray Theatre throughout the year, affording students experience in Theatre practice. As one of the University's "public faces," the University Theatre is a cultural resource provided to the citizens of Washburn and the Topeka community.

Programs

- Musical Theatre, BA (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/theatre/musical-theatre-ba/>)
- Theatre, BA (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/theatre/theatre-ba/>)
- Speech and Theatre, BEd (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/theatre/speech-and-theatre-bed/>)
- Theatre Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/theatre/theatre-studies-minor/>)

Course Offerings

TH 100 Theatre Practicum (0-1)

This course is designed for both theatre majors and other students interested in performing onstage or working backstage to provide practical experience as a member of a theatre production crew. Students will have the opportunity to perform onstage, or serve as crew members, designers or directors, who may work in several technical or production areas, including stage management, costumes, set design and construction, lighting, sound, properties, house management, and publicity.

TH 101 Drama Classics on Video (3)

Introduction to the theatre through play reading and viewing of selected recordings of staged plays that cover the work of theatre artists, production styles range from the Greeks to the American Musical theatre. Students who enroll in or have completed TH 301 are ineligible to enroll in TH 101.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

TH 102 Introduction to Theatre (3)

Current views of theatre in society; theatre as art and ritual and its relationship to other fine arts, the nature of the theatrical metaphor and the aesthetic evaluation by the audience. Career opportunities associated with the art: professional, educational, community, and amateur.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

TH 103 Voice, Diction & Interpretation (3)

Training the speaking voice; study of vocal mechanism, breathing, projection, articulation, enunciation; practical application of speaking principles in oral interpretation reading; projects.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Communication

TH 104 Theatre Movement Dance I (3)

Theatre Movement and Dance I is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of dance. Dance I is a beginner class. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: None.

TH 199 Special Topics in Theatre (1-3)

Newly developed course material offered for variety and expansion of the course curriculum.

TH 202 Acting I (3)

Introduction to basic acting principles and practice involving physical, vocal, improvisatory, and text-based character analysis and performance techniques.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Communication

TH 204 Theatre Movement Dance II (3)

Theatre Movement and Dance II is designed to further the development and understanding of the performers' body and mind connection. Dance II is an intermediate class. Prerequisites: TH 104 or permission of the instructor

TH 206 Early Theatre History (3)

Play-reading in historical context. Study and interpretation of dramatic and performance texts including elements of production, performance practice, form, and style. Representative periods span from Ancients to 18th century.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

TH 207 Late Theatre History (3)

Play-reading in historical context. Study and interpretation of dramatic and performance texts including elements of production, performance practice, form, and style. Representative periods span from 18th century to Contemporary.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

TH 208 Principles of Playwriting (3)

Practical writing lab. Analysis of established texts leads students to creation and development of dramatic monologues, short and one-act plays. Class will culminate in public readings and/or staging of original work.

TH 209 Musical Theatre Performance I (3)

Performance class; students practice fundamental performance techniques for musical theatre repertoire; fundamental analysis of song forms and acting objectives for solo and scene work from selected styles. Singing, movement and public performance required. Prerequisite: None.

TH 211 Stagecraft (3)

Lecture and laboratory exploration of the concepts of stage drafting, construction and painting. Crew assignment will be required.

TH 218 Acting & Directing Workshop I (3)

Practical experiences in acting and directing through analysis, preparation and performance of scenes and monologues, and other performance exercises. Focus: Realism and Serious Contemporary Drama. Prerequisite: None.

TH 300 Theatre Practicum (0-1)

This course is designed for both theatre majors and other students interested in performing onstage or working backstage to provide practical experience as a member of a theatre production crew. Students will have the opportunity to perform onstage, or serve as crew members, designers or directors, who may work in several technical or production areas, including stage management, costumes, set design and construction, lighting, sound, properties, house management, and publicity.

TH 301 Drama Classics on Video (3)

An introductory Theatre course which involves viewing performances and play reading. Production styles range from the Greeks to the American Musical theatre. This course carries a mutual exclusion with the following course; you may not enroll in TH 301 if you have completed TH 101 with a passing grade.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

TH 304 Theatre Movement Dance III (3)

Course is designed to continue to develop dance skills and techniques. Dance III includes jazz, modern, ballet and tap. Prerequisites: TH 204 or permission of the instructor.

TH 306 Contemporary Theatre (3)

Study of developments in playwriting, directing, and acting since WWII to the present with special emphasis on influences that have affected contemporary theatre and drama. Students who enroll in or have completed EN 336 are ineligible to enroll in TH 306/TH 606.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Creative Performing
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

TH 307 Non-Western Drama (3)

Detailed examination of the drama and theatre of selected Non-Western theatrical forms. Special emphasis is placed upon the relationship of cultural elements to the theatrical event.

TH 308 Principles of Playwriting (3)

Practical writing lab. Analysis of established texts leads students to creation and development of dramatic monologues, short and one-act plays. Class will culminate in public readings and/or staging of original work.

TH 309 Musical Theatre Performance II (3)

Performance Class; students practice intermediate performance techniques for musical theatre repertoire; analysis of form, style, acting and movement for solo, scene and ensemble work from multiple styles. Singing, movement and public performance required. Prerequisites TH 209 or permission.

TH 311 Stagecraft (3)

Lecture and laboratory exploration of the concepts of stage drafting, construction and painting. Crew assignment will be required.

TH 313 Introduction to Children's Theatre (3)

Study of theatre production for children and youth. Investigation into the Children's Theatre repertory with special emphasis on playwriting. Development of a philosophy of theatre for children and youth.

TH 314 Children's Theatre Tour (3)

Touring area schools as a performer or stage manager throughout a given semester. Preparation, rehearsal and performance of play chosen for a specific age group. Prerequisite: TH 202, TH 313 or consent.

TH 315 Set and Prop Construction (3)

This course will focus on scenic and prop construction. Prerequisite: None.

TH 316 Costume Construction (3)

Costume Construction will teach students how to make costumes and costume accessories. Prerequisite: None.

TH 317 Lighting and Sound (3)

Light and Sound Production will teach students how to read a light plot, hang/focus lights, write cues and run a light board. Additionally, students will learn how to record and edit sound for theatre productions. Prerequisite: None.

TH 318 Acting & Directing Workshop II (3)

Practical experiences in acting and directing through analysis, preparation and performance of scenes and monologues, and other performance exercises. Focus: Realism, Experimental and Contemporary Comedy. Prerequisite: TH 218 - Acting and Directing Workshop I or consent of instructor

TH 319 Stage Makeup (3)

A practical guide to the theory and practice of theatrical makeup. Students will become familiar with the traditional and color theory approaches to makeup. Various conceptual and technical problems will be studied and solved.

TH 320 Acting II (3)

Advanced acting course continuing development of skills acquired from Acting I. Emphasis on styles and methods of analysis, interpretation, and portrayal of characters from selected plays, (contemporary to historical period): Prerequisite: TH 202 or instructor permission

TH 333 Digital Painting and Drawing (3)

AR327 is designed to provide the student with knowledge and skills necessary to create digital paintings and drawings using a range of visual art media related to digital processes, including AR/VR and 3D virtual painting. Emphasis of the course is focused on the student.

TH 359 Methods of Teaching Speech and Drama (3)

The study and application of teaching strategies for secondary education certification in speech. Prerequisites: Advisor approval and formal admission to teacher education.

TH 399 Special Topics/Theatre (0-3)

Newly developed course material offered for variety and expansion of the course curriculum.

TH 401 Analysis and Directing (3)

Students practice analytical skills and apply directing concepts and skills to stage a scene or short play. Prerequisites: TH 202 and TH 211 (Acting I and Stagecraft) or Instructor permission.

TH 403 Acting III (3)

TH 403 Acting III : Advanced acting course continuing development of skills acquired from Acting II. Emphasis on ensemble-based styles and methods using text and/or non-text based sources to create character. Prerequisite: TH 320 or Instructor permission.

TH 406 History - American Musical (3)

Examines major cultural, artistic, historical, economic and social influences surrounding the creation, performance and reception of the American Musical.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

TH 407 Drama Theory & Criticism (3)

Study of general principles of Western literary theory and the methods, aims, functions and characteristics of Drama as an art form, derived from and/or illustrated by examples in criticism and reviewing.

TH 408 Advanced Playwriting (3)

Practical writing lab for the development of full-length texts. Advanced critique and rewriting techniques will be employed to assist in script development. Prerequisite: TH 208 or TH 308 or consent.

TH 409 Musical Theatre Performance III (3)

Performance Class: Students practice advanced performance techniques for musical theatre repertoire; analysis of form, style, acting, movement for solo, scene and ensemble work from varied styles. Singing, movement and public performance required. Prerequisite: TH 309 or permission of the instructor.

TH 415 Experimental Theatre (3)

Practical introduction and practice in performance theory, collective creation and conceptualization. Creation of theatre piece from existent or original sources.

TH 416 Special Theatre Projects (1-3)

Majors must complete a faculty mentored project. Specifically developed projects or internships (1-3) in acting, directing, playwriting, design, public relations, and theatre management.