Theatre Arts (THR)

Major and Minor in Theatre Arts

Department of Theatre Arts, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Theatre Arts: English (EGL), Interdisciplinary Arts (LIA), Media Arts (MDA)

Theatre Arts (THR)

Theatre arts is traditionally the study of the dramatic event typified by productions associated with the New York stage, whether it be Broadway or Off-Broadway. In recent years, however, the concept of theatre has expanded to include performances from around the world, extending from the most sacred rituals to the most profane performance art. What was once the study of the live actor before a live audience now requires an investigation into the impact of technology and media on the practice of theatre. This exciting and expanding discipline defines the Department of Theatre Arts at Stony Brook, where students can study acting, design, and directing; immerse themselves in playwriting, dance, and media; and explore interactive computing technologies as a tool of study and a means of personal expression.

The objective of study in Theatre Arts is to provide students with the opportunity to explore a range of forms of self-expression. Students are introduced to the practical tools necessary to communicate effectively through the theatre, dance, the media, and technology. In addition, they investigate the historical and theoretical basis on which these art forms are based, giving them a strong foundation on which to pursue the many opportunities available to a student graduating as a Theatre major.

Students graduate with a strong background in the liberal and theatre arts. After graduation they may pursue theatre-related careers, go on to further study, or enter other professions such as law, business, publishing, advertising, communications, computer graphics, and public relations.

Requirements for the Major and Minor in Theatre Arts (THR)

Requirements for the Major in Theatre Arts (THR)

The major in Theatre Arts leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses offered for the major in theatre arts must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 51 credits.

A. Theatre Arts Core Program

1. One of the following courses:
   THR 103 Introduction to Design and Technology
   THR 105 Acting I

2. THR 104 Play Analysis

3. THR 115 Stagecraft I

4. THR 116 Stagecraft II

5. THR 201 Theatre History I

6. THR 202 Theatre History II

7. Two of the following courses:
   THR 205 Acting II
   THR 208 Technology in the Arts
   THR 216 Intro to Visual Interpretation
   THR 230 Voice for the Actor
   THR 232 Improvisation

8. One of the following courses:
   THR 315 Advanced Topics in Theatre History I
   THR 316 Advanced Topics in Theatre History II

9. THR 312 American Theatre & Drama

10. One of the following courses:
    THR 320 Production I
    THR 321 Production II

Note: It is strongly recommended that students interested in Design/Production take both THR 320 and THR 321.

11. THR 401 Senior Seminar

12. One of the following courses:
THR 487 Independent Research
THR 488 Professional Internship (See Note)
THR 483 Projects in Theatrical Design
THR 484 Projects in Theatre

Note: It is strongly recommend that students do a professional internship either in the summer between the junior and senior years or during the senior year. Faculty advisors are available to help guide students in pursuing an internship opportunity.

B. Electives
Majors must complete a minimum of 12 additional upper division credits (300 level courses or higher) chosen from the following:
THR 303 Costume Crafts Laboratory
THR 304 Marketing Laboratory
THR 305 Lighting and Sound Laboratory
THR 306 Stagecraft Laboratory
THR 307 Performance Laboratory (See Note)
THR 317 Interactive Performance, Media, and MIDI
THR 318 Music and the Moving Image
THR 323 Costume Design
THR 322 Acting III
THR 326 Playwriting
THR 334 Performance Art
THR 336 Stage Management
THR 337 Advanced Technical Theatre
THR 346 Lighting Design
THR 351 Special Topics in Performance
THR 352 Special Topics in Performance
THR 354 Topics in Dramaturgy
THR 356 Scene Design
THR 405 Acting IV (See Note)
THR 438 Directing I
THR 439 Directing II

Note: May be repeated once for credit but may only count once toward fulfillment of elective requirements

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
Before the end of the second semester of the junior year, each student submits to the director of undergraduate studies a portfolio of at least two papers written for different instructors in upper-division theatre courses. The director of undergraduate studies, in consultation with the faculty, evaluates the papers to determine the writing competence of the student.

Note: Students majoring in theatre arts may not satisfy D.E.C. categories B and D with THR courses.

Honors Program in Theatre Arts

The honors program is open to seniors majoring in Theatre Arts who have maintained a grade point average of 3.00 overall and 3.25 in the major. Students should apply for the honors program at the end of their junior year. The student must find a faculty member of the Department to act as sponsor and, with the approval of the sponsor, submit a written proposal for a project to the Department. Acceptance into the honors program depends upon the approval of the proposal by the Department. The project may be in history, criticism, directing, media, technology, performance, design, or management. The honors project is reviewed by at least two members of the Department of Theatre Arts faculty and one outside evaluator. If the honors project is carried out with distinction and the student has achieved a 3.50 g.p.a. in all theatre arts courses taken during the senior year, honors are conferred. Course credit for the honors project is given under THR 487. Guidelines are available in the Department office.

The Minor in Theatre Arts (THR)
The minor in Theatre Arts provides the student with the opportunity to explore several aspects of the dramatic arts. The course of study should lead the student to an understanding of the necessary next steps should his or her interest be sharpened by the experience.

Requirements for the Minor

All courses offered for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. At least 12 of the 21 credits must be taken at Stony Brook.

Completion of the minor requires 21 credits.

A. Theatre Arts Minor Core Program

1. THR 105 Acting I
2. THR 115 Stagecraft I or THR 116 Stagecraft II
3. THR 320 Production or THR 321 Production II
4. One of the following courses:
   • THR 312 American Theatre and Drama
B. Electives

Nine credits to be chosen from courses in theatre arts, six of which must be upper-division.

Note: Students who choose upper-division theatre electives for the requisite 9 credits (see B above) need only take an additional three credits of upper division elective work to satisfy University requirements.

**Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Theatre Arts**

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*Theatre Arts majors need two courses from THE 105, 117, 164, 165, 166, and 167
#Theatre Arts majors may not satisfy D.E.C. categories B and D with THR courses
THR

Theatre Arts

THR 100 - D: Performing and Performance
Study and practice in performance and communications: interpersonal communication, public presentations, and theatrical performance.
3 credits

THR 101 - D: Introduction to Theatre Arts
An overview of performance, design, and production in the theatre. Specific texts are explored through lectures, demonstrations, and a close examination of the rehearsal process. Professionals working in the theatre are invited to speak on such topics as stage management, technical production, and direction. Not for theatre arts major credit.
3 credits

THR 103 - D: Introduction to Theatre Design and Technology
An introduction to theatrical design and technology using examples from Broadway to the avant-garde. The course will examine genres, innovations, cultural context, and creative processes for the use of theatre space and the creation of design. The course will take a cross-disciplinary approach while examining traditional modes of design and the rapidly expanding use of media arts and new technologies in theatre productions.
3 credits

THR 104 - B: Play Analysis
A close reading of several plays of different periods and styles and a general examination of the elements out of which all plays are made -- dialogue, character, plot.
3 credits

THR 105 - D: Acting I
The basic vocabulary and skills of the actor's craft. Students explore acting techniques through theatre games and improvisation.
3 credits

THR 110: Public Speaking
An introduction to public speaking techniques that includes increased awareness of physical and vocal expression and speech content. Not for theatre arts major credit.
3 credits

THR 115: Stagecraft I
An introduction to topics in the areas of theatrical costume and lighting covering practical skills and approaches to design. In addition to class periods and independent projects, lighting and costumes labs are required.
3 credits

THR 116: Stagecraft II
A study of the tools and technology involved in the creation of theatrical scenery and properties.
3 credits

THR 117: Media: Analysis and Culture
This introductory course addresses the cultural production and reception of media that influence public discourse. It involves textual, social, and cultural analysis of film, television, and new media. Debates about mass culture, interpretation, media characteristics, aesthetic choices, and the effect of content choices are explored.
3 credits

THR 201 - B: Theatre History I: Greeks to Moliere
A survey of the developments in theatre from the ancient Greeks to Moliere. The course will introduce the major periods and dramatic forms in theatre history, and explore the historical and social context in which dramatic work was created. Topics will include major plays and dramatists, theatre practitioners, innovations, and the role of theatre in a particular culture and society.
Advisory Prerequisites: THR 101 or THR 104
3 credits

THR 202 - B: Theatre History II: Restoration to the 20th Century
A survey of the developments in theatre from the English Restoration to the 20th Century. The course will introduce the major periods and dramatic forms in theatre history, and explore the historical and social context in which dramatic work was created. Topics will include major plays and dramatists, theatre practitioners, innovations, and the role of theatre in a particular culture or society.
Prerequisite: THR 201
Advisory Prerequisites: THR 101 or THR 104
3 credits

THR 205: Acting II
The development of acting skills through improvisation and selected scenes and monologues from the contemporary theatre.
3 credits

THR 208: Introduction to Media Technology
A survey and hands-on introduction to digital media. Students are introduced to the practical, conceptual, and historical use of computers and related imaging tools in the visual arts through lecture, labs, readings, and project critiques. This course serves as preparation for further study in electronic media and as an opportunity for students in the arts to gain basic computer literacy. Students will develop strategies for combining images and text. Students will then distribute these works on the web. Emphasis is on the conceptual and artistic potential of the technology. No prior computer experience is required. This course is offered as MUS 208, ARS 208, and THR 208.
Pre- or Corequisite: One ARS, CCS, CSE, ISE, MUS, or THR course
3 credits

THR 216 - D: Introduction to Visual Interpretation
A design and analysis course emphasizing the construction of space in the two dimensions of the computer screen and the three dimensions of everyday reality. The course examines the way space is constructed and meanings are assigned to it and considers the effects of race, gender, ethnicity, and class on those interpretations. Projects involve use of digital programs for video manipulation and editing.
3 credits

THR 223 - D: Stage Costume
An intermediate level study of stage costume design and technology, combining theory and practice. Students study the tradition and history of costume design and dress, do exercises in conceiving and rendering designs and learn about costume shop equipment, techniques, and materials.
Prerequisite: THR 115 or permission of instructor
3 credits

THR 230: Voice for the Actor
A practical course in voice production for the actor designed for theatre arts majors. Students participate in exercises for developing the speaking voice with an emphasis on the involvement of the body. Increasing resonance,
range, and articulation and their link to acting and improvisation are explored.

Prerequisite: THR 105
3 credits

THR 232: Improvisation
Drill in both verbal and nonverbal exercises and assorted theatre games leading to the development of improvisational skills.

Prerequisite: THR 105
3 credits

THR 246: Stage Lighting
An introduction to the aesthetics and traditions of stage lighting design and technology, combining theory and practice. The course includes an exploration of color, intensity, and control through classroom and laboratory exercises using equipment and computer boards in the Staller Center for the Arts.

Advisory Prerequisite: THR 115
3 credits

THR 277: The Media Industry
A seminar in which the interlocking structure of media production firms, advertising agencies, sponsors, broadcasters, and cable and satellite operators is examined. Among the many political and social issues arising from the making and distribution of media that are considered is the effect of this structure on a democratic society’s need for a free exchange of opinion and information.

3 credits

THR 298: Student Media Leadership
A review of the decision-making processes involved in campus media organizations and an investigation of the similarities and differences between the obligations of student and professional media managers. Class meetings are devoted to the discussion of problems related to media production and management, to talks by professionals about their specialties, and to the development of critical skills useful to practitioners and managers.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
1 credit, S/U grading

THR 301: Stage Management Laboratory
Development of skills needed to accomplish the functions of the stage manager. May be repeated once.

Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

THR 303: Costume Crafts Laboratory
Development of skills needed for costume and accessory construction. May be repeated once.

Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

THR 304: Marketing Laboratory
Development of skills needed in marketing theatre. May be repeated once.

Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

THR 305: Lighting and Sound Laboratory
Development of skills needed in installation and control of lighting and sound equipment. May be repeated once.

Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

THR 306: Stagecraft Laboratory
Development of skills needed in theatre construction. May be repeated once.

Prerequisite: Permission of department
1 credit

THR 307: Performance Laboratory
Development of skills in performance through the preparation and rehearsal of a production. Student must audition, be cast in a role in a major department production, and engage in the entire rehearsal process. May be repeated once.

Prerequisite: Permission of department
0-3 credits

THR 308: Prevention Through the Arts
Prevention through the Arts is a project-based class that creates and performs an educational theatre piece about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. Participants will experience writing and performing as well as peer education and leadership. Admission into this class is through audition, and accepted participants are expected to commit a full year to the project and register for the continuation course in the spring of the same year.

Prerequisite: Enrollment by audition only
3 credits

THR 309: Prevention Through the Arts II
The second half of this two-semester course focuses heavily on performing. A rigorous show schedule is required of the show that was created during the fall semester. Students will develop advanced improvisational techniques and explore different actor/audience/peer relationships. This course is only open to students who took THR 308 the preceding fall semester.

Prerequisite: THR 308
3 credits

THR 312 - K: American Theatre and Drama
The history of American theatre and dramatic literature from its earliest origins through the influence of the European tradition, emphasizing major events and various cultural, religious, and ethnic influences in American society. Original American contributions to world theatre in the 19th century, particularly staging techniques and the development and growth of the musical theatre, are covered.

Prerequisites: Completion of D.E.C. categories A, B, and D
Advisory Prerequisites: Completion of D.E.C. categories I and J
3 credits

THR 313 - J: Asian Theatre and Drama
A comprehensive overview of Asian theatre with special emphasis on drama, theatrical aesthetics, conventions of production, and actor training in India, China, Korea, and Japan. This course is offered as both AAS 313 and THR 313.

Prerequisites: Completion of D.E.C. categories A, B, and D
3 credits

THR 314 - G: Modern Drama on Stage
A seminar examining the forms of modern drama in the context of production from 1860 to the present.

Prerequisites: Completion of D.E.C. categories A, B, and D
3 credits

THR 315 - I: European History and Drama: The Classical Era
Advanced studies in select topics in theatre history. Developments in theatre from its origins to the 17th century. Periods covered include ancient Greek and Roman theatre, the Middle Ages, Italian Renaissance, Commedia dell’Arte, the English Renaissance, the Golden Age of Spain, French neo-classicism, German theatre, the English Restoration, and the early 18th century. Discussions cover the historical and cultural context in which different forms of theatre occurred, changes in theatrical convention, and the drama of the period.

Prerequisite: THR 201 and THR 202
3 credits

THR 316 - I: European History and Drama: The Modern Era

The application of practical skills through participation in full-scale theatrical productions. Marketing, performance, theatre management, and stagecraft may be among the areas of focus. THR 320 and 321 may be taken in either order.

**Prerequisites:** THR 115 and 116

**THR 322: Acting III**

Advanced work in scene study limited to one or two major playwrights.

**Prerequisites:** THR 205, 230, and 264

**THR 323: Costume Design**

Advanced study in costume design involving play analysis, design, and presentation techniques with special emphasis on historical research.

**Prerequisite:** THR 223

**THR 325: Scriptwriting for Film and Television**

Preparation and construction of scripts for use in media: radio, television, and motion pictures.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of D.E.C. categories A, B, and D

**THR 326: Playwriting**

A workshop devoted to planning and writing finished scripts for the stage. This course offered as both EGL 387 and THR 326.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of D.E.C. categories A, B, and D

**THR 334 - G: Performance Art I: The European Avant-Guard**

This course explores the history and theory of avant-garde performance from its inception in the early 20th century through Surrealism. Questions addressed focus on the choices made by artists, and the forces within the culture that encourage the forms they use. Course projects include developing a site specific performance and a term paper. This course is offered as both ARH 344 and THR 344.

**Prerequisites:** U3 or U4 standing; one ARH, ARS, MUS, or THR course

**Advisory Prerequisite:** ARS/MUS/THR 208 or ARS 205 or ARS 225 or CCS 101

**THR 341: Sound Design**

An investigation into the scientific, formal and artistic qualities of sound developed for students who may or may not have had formal musical training. Students will write reviews of sound pieces, create film or game soundtracks, and create sound-based art-works in response to course content, and write a paper on acoustic or psycho-acoustic phenomena. Emphasis is on studio production techniques, history of sound art and basic acoustics. Students will work on Apple computers in the SINC site and LTA. This course is offered as ARS 341, MUS 341, and THR 341.

**Prerequisite:** One ARS, CCS, CSE, ISE, MUS, or THR course

**Advisory Prerequisite:** ARS/MUS/THR 208 or ARS 225

**THR 346: Lighting Design**

Advanced topics in lighting design intended to acquaint the student with highly specialized lighting genres. Subjects include lighting for repertory theatres, the dance, and musical theatre.
Prerequisite: THR 246
3 credits

THR 351: Special Topics in Performance
A concentration in one aspect of acting, such as preparation for the work of a specific playwright, readers' theatre, oral interpretation, improvisation, or musical theatre. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated once, as the topic changes. THR 351 and THR 352 are treated as equivalent courses.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
3 credits

THR 352: Special Topics in Performance
A concentration in one aspect of acting, such as preparation for the work of a specific playwright, readers' theatre, oral interpretation, improvisation, or musical theatre. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated once, as the topic changes. THR 351 and THR 352 are treated as equivalent courses.

3 credits

THR 356: Scene Design
Principles of design for the theatre, including color composition and rendering techniques. These techniques are related to the aesthetics of dramatic composition and the flexibility of modern staging.
Pre-requisite: THR 216
3 credits

THR 380: Company I
A concentrated study of one play in preparation for a production of the play in the following semester. Students study the play in depth, including historical context, a complete analysis, critical writings, and a production history. In conjunction with the director and designer, the class conceptualizes the various design elements for the production and develops designs based on appropriate research. The cast and designers are drawn from students in the course. Students are expected to spend time outside of class developing web pages and other computer-based assignments for the course.
Prerequisites: theatre arts major; U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

THR 381: Company II
A continuation of THR 380. Students rehearse, design, build, market, and produce the text discussed during the first course in the sequence. Students explore different approaches to rehearsing, styles of acting, building techniques, and the process of technical rehearsal. The course ends with a public production of the play. Students are expected to spend time outside of class developing web pages and other computer assignments for the course.
Prerequisite: THR 380
3 credits

THR 401: Senior Seminar
An intensive investigation of theatre theorists with particular emphasis on the application of theory to practice. This course is offered as both LIA 401 and THR 401.
Prerequisites: U4 standing; permission of instructor
3 credits

THR 403: Media: Theory and Criticism
Theoretical approaches and practices are used for a critical analysis of the content, structure, and context of significant media in our society. Background readings and examination of current theories of media are used to develop a practice in media criticism.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

THR 405: Advanced Topics in Acting
Advanced work in classical or contemporary text analysis, scene study, monologues and/or soliloquies limited to one or two major playwrights. May be repeated for credit once as the topic changes.
Prerequisites: THR 205 and THR 230
Advisory Prerequisite: THR 322
3 credits

THR 406: Eastern Styles in Acting
Study in and practice of the various principles of stylized acting, based on Asian models. Possible models include, but are not limited to, noh, kabuki, the Suzuki method, Beijing opera, and kuthiyattam of India. Topics may vary by semester according to availability of guest artists and to productions scheduled in the season. May be repeated once.
Prerequisites: THR 205, 230, and 264
3 credits

THR 438: Directing I
The work of the director, including selection of a play for production; problems of style, interpretation, and execution; and the director's approach to the actor. Not for credit in addition to THR 333.
Prerequisites: THR 205; THR 320 or 321
3 credits

THR 447: Readings In Theatre Arts
Special readings in a special area, to be arranged by the student and the instructor.
Prerequisites: At least four theatre arts courses; sponsorship of a faculty member; permission of department
3 credits

THR 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. Not for major credit.
Prerequisite: Theatre arts major; U4 standing; permission of instructor and department
3 credits, S/U grading

THR 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously served. Not for major credit.
Prerequisite: THR 475; permission of instructor and department
3 credits, S/U grading

THR 480: Projects in Media
Advanced work on a particular problem in media. May be repeated up to a maximum of six credits. Only six credits of THR 480, 483, 484 and 487 may be used to satisfy major requirements.
Prerequisite: Permission of department
0-3 credits

THR 483: Projects in Theatrical Design
Advanced work on a particular problem in theatrical design. May be repeated up to a maximum of six credits. Only six credits of THR 480, 483, and 487 may be used to satisfy major requirements.
Prerequisite: Permission of department
0-3 credits

THR 484: Projects in Theater
Advanced work on a particular problem in theatre. May be repeated up to a maximum of six credits. Only six credits of THR 480, 483, and 487 may be used to satisfy major requirements.

**Prerequisite: Permission of department**

0-3 credits

**THR 487: Independent Research**

Designing and developing a research project selected by the student in consultation with a faculty member. May be repeated. Only six credits of THR 480, 483, 484 and 487 may be used to satisfy major requirements.

**Prerequisite: Permission of department**

0-6 credits

**THR 488: Internship**

Participation in a professional organization that creates and presents public performances, creates and presents, to the public, works in the media arts, or concerns itself with the management or funding of arts organizations. Students are required to submit written progress reports to their department sponsors and a final written report to the department faculty. Supplementary reading may be assigned. May be repeated up to a limit of 12 credits.

**Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and department**

0-6 credits, S/U grading