

THEATER

Department Chair: Amelia Cheever

Faculty: Amelia Cheever, David DeBlieck, Sean Dooley, Kaarin Johnston

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University theater department is supportive of the mission statements of both institutions and dedicated to the education of the general student as well as the theater major. This is achieved by helping the student understand that theater is a formalization of human experience usually requiring rehearsed behavior, linked to text, within a designed visual environment and intended for live public display. This formalization serves several functions. These functions include: a confrontation with our own humanity, an illumination of diverse constructions of reality and a celebration of our spirits. Coupled with this understanding of function is a developed appreciation of the many artistic contributions necessary to the making of theater art.

The department is committed to scholarly and artistic creativity, to the integration of theory as experience, to the dynamics of theatrical process and to positive constructive human values. The program emphasizes the importance of a broad base of knowledge and theatrical experience as a foundation for later specialization. The faculty perceives the theatrical process as being a collaborative endeavor, unifying the diverse disciplines of costume, set, sound and lighting with the acting of the text. This collaboration establishes a strong creative community which builds integrated theatrical events; events that reflect and examine the given historical, societal, and cultural context in which they are embedded. The curriculum and performance schedule are structured with sufficient theatrical range to supply the fundamentals for all the production and scholarly areas. To encounter work other than their own, students are required to attend a variety of performances both off and on campus. The department vigorously encourages students to accept a life-long responsibility for expressing their artistic ideas. Acknowledging that their artistic ideas are an expression of who they are as human beings, this expression requires the development of self-awareness, mindful reflection, a cultivation of their own integrity, intelligence and talent, as well as competence in basic theatrical skills.

Assessment

The theater department assesses student learning in a variety of ways which provide insight into the success of the department in achieving our learning goals and objectives. These methods include:

1. "Meet and Greet" and "Postmortem" sessions to discuss learning goals and outcomes in production work for all departmental productions.
2. Comparable rubrics for final projects in Sophomore Seminar and Senior Capstone.
3. Interviews of sophomores upon application to the major with exit interviews of seniors. (*must have been enrolled by Spring of 2023 in order to apply for the major*)
4. Portfolios of student work in the department.
5. Alumni/ae surveys at five-year intervals.

Majors

No results were found.

Minors

- Theater Minor (<https://catalog.csbsju.edu/catalog/academic-departments/theater/theater-minor/>)

THEA 105 Introduction to Modern Dance (4 Credits)

This class is an exploration of movement fundamentals for the purpose of developing and strengthening individual creativity and artistic expression in dance. Class work is designed to: 1) Give individuals a basic understanding of anatomical structure and kinesiological principles as a foundation for developing technical skills needed to create articulate and expressive movement; 2) Provide an embodied experience of time and energy principles as related to dance; 3) demystify dance as an art form and make it accessible and relevant to all.

Prerequisites: None

Equivalent courses: HONR 230F

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Encounter1/2-Movement

THEA 113 Stagecraft (4 Credits)

Beginning theory and practice of scenography. Study of materials and techniques used in stage scenery. Also an introduction to the theories and equipment used in theater lighting and sound. Lab required. Fall.

Prerequisites: None

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE)

THEA 117 Acting Foundations (4 Credits)

Introduction to acting. Designed to develop the actor's imagination, observation and concentration through sense awareness, relaxation, pantomime and theater games. Techniques will be introduced with the purpose of bringing the actor's body, voice and mind together onstage to fully communicate choices through strong psychological and physical action. Also an introduction to building the foundation of a good voice. Training in breathing, physical structure and relaxation.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Encounter1/2 - Truth

THEA 140 Fundamentals of Movement (2 Credits)

This course is an introduction to movement fundamentals and is designed for actors, athletes, musicians, visual artists, and anyone desiring to improve fine motor skills, flexibility, coordination, posture, or body image. The goal is for students to develop somatic awareness so that they can recognize their own habitual movement patterns and learn to explore new movement options, with an emphasis on decreasing effort and increasing sensitivity. The course uses somatic methodologies and modern dance techniques to enhance students' understanding of basic anatomical and kinesiological principles, expand their range and quality of movement, and improve individual performance skills. And the course also offers an experience of movement as a creative form without the perceived stereotypical definitions and limitations of dance.

Prerequisites: None

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Encounter1/2-Movement

THEA 200 Theater Audience (4 Credits)

A presentation of theater from the audience's rather than the performer's perspective. Designed to acquaint non theater students with live theater as a meaningful and enjoyable event. Approached from the student's present exposure level. Lecture, group discussions and field trips to live performances required.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Equivalent courses: THEA 204

Attributes: Artistic Engagement (AR), Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Encounter1/2 - Truth

THEA 209 Theatrical Dance Styles and Physical Theater (2 Credits)

This course builds on the basic physical preparation for the actor and explores different dance forms and styles which are commonly used in theatrical productions. A variety of dance techniques and somatic methodologies will be studied, including ballet, ballroom, jazz, yoga, martial arts.

Prerequisites: None

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE)

THEA 210 Dance Studies: Technique, Improvisation, Choreography and Performance (2 Credits)

This course will offer students the opportunity to develop technical skills to improve flexibility, coordination, and strength and to use those skills to increase their range of abilities in creating and performing dance. Modern dance techniques will serve as the foundation for students to build a movement vocabulary, and students will be expected to develop their own movement material in improvisation and composition exercises. Choreographic elements, form, and styles will be explored to guide students in the creative process and performance will be an on-going focus within the class. The goal is for the students to be able to clarify and fulfill all movement so they can physically express their ideas and emotions in movement which is authentic and meaningful, i.e., dance.

Prerequisites: THEA 105 or THEA 140

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE)

THEA 215 Sophomore Seminar (2 Credits)

This course is a practical seminar for those intending to major in theater. Content includes the integration of various aspects of theatrical production, an introduction to theater as a profession, portfolio and résumé development, and assistance in application to the major. Spring of sophomore year.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

THEA 218 Readings in Culture and Dramatic Literature (1 Credit)

In this course students will read and discuss classic, modern or contemporary plays from a specific culture or genre. The class may perform a minimum of one public reading. The topics will vary from semester to semester. For a detailed description on the course topic, please go to: <https://www.csbsju.edu/theater/curriculum/new-course-descriptions>. May be repeated up to six times for credit. Course offered for A-F grading only.

Prerequisites: None

Equivalent courses: HONR 270D

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE)

THEA 219 Intermediate Acting (4 Credits)

Continuation of THEA 117 with more advanced levels of theory and performance. Includes intensive scene and monologue work, with emphasis on text analysis and rehearsal techniques designed to expose the emotional and relational content of the scenes and monologues. Further work on the voice including the development of tone, resonance, range, power, articulation and projection.

Prerequisites: THEA 117

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Equivalent courses: THEA 217

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Encounter1/2 - Truth

THEA 240A Production Lab: Costumes (2 Credits)

A minimum of 50 hours' work in acting or stagecraft involving a crew responsibility. Prerequisite: Instructor's permission. May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Topics: Acting, scenography, costume, stage management, dramaturgy, publicity/marketing, dance. Course offered for S/U grading only.

Prerequisites: None

THEA 240B Production Lab: Scenography (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 240C Production Lab: Lighting (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 240D Production Lab: Sound (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 240E Production Lab: Acting (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 240F Production Lab: Stage Management (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 240G Production Lab: Dance (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 253 Introduction to the Costuming Process (4 Credits)

A basic comprehensive study of the process a stage costumer employs from character analysis to costume execution. Practical application and production-work are emphasized through laboratory experience. Spring.

Prerequisites: None

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE)

THEA 271 Individual Learning Project (1-4 Credits)

Supervised reading or research at the lower-division level. Permission of department chair required. Consult department for applicability towards minor requirements. Not available to first-year students.

Prerequisites: None

THEA 279A Alternative Fashion Trends (4 Credits)

Alternative Fashion Trends of the late 20th century: How politics and music helped shape the alternative fashions of the last century. This class will examine how the hippy and psychedelic fashions of the 1960's, punk fashions of the 1970's/1980's, grunge/Goth fashions of the 1980's/1990's and rap/hip-hop fashions of the 1990's were influenced by the music and politics of their time. The course will also relate these fashions to the mainstream clothing of the time period they originated in and how these fashion trends continue today in fashions of the 21st century. Course offered for A-F grading only.

Prerequisites: THEA 279A is a Thematic Focus - Truth Course. You must take INTG 100 or 205 prior to taking a Thematic Focus Course. You must take a Cultural and Social Difference: Identity (CI) course prior to or at the same time as Thematic Focus Courses.

Equivalent courses: THEA 267

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Focus - Truth

THEA 280 Summer Courses (2 Credits)

Courses offered during summer term.

Prerequisites: None

THEA 300 Why the Face (4 Credits)

"I'm hip. I surf the web. I text. LOL: Laugh out loud. OMG: Oh my God. WTF: Why the face?" This line, spoken by Ty Burrell as the character Phil Dunphy on the sitcom *Modern Family*, embodies the content of this course. WTF will explore comedy, from its origins to today. We will examine texts, audio content, drawings, radio, television, film and the internet to determine what is funny, why is it funny, is it funny to everyone, are their rules about what is funny and who made those rules. We will focus on marginalized voices to determine if comedy is universal, or if it is cultural or gender specific. We will use the survey of comedy to reflect back onto ourselves and explore how we got our own sense of humor and how it shapes who we are as people.

Prerequisites: THEA 300 is a Thematic Focus - Truth Course. You must take INTG 100 or 205 prior to taking a Thematic Focus Course. You must take a Cultural and Social Difference: Identity (CI) course prior to or at the same time as Thematic Focus Courses.

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Focus - Truth

THEA 310 Dance Studies: Technique, Improvisation, Choreography and Performance (2 Credits)

Continuation of THEA 210 Dance Studies for more advanced students, taught concurrently with THEA 210. Prerequisite: THEA 210 or permission of instructor. May be repeated for up to 6 credits.

Prerequisites: THEA 210

THEA 319 Actor's Work (2 Credits)

This course uses the theories, practices, and skills learned in THEA 219 for advance, intensive scene study of various dramatic genres. Because the work will focus on different genres each time the course is taught, this course is repeatable for credit.

Prerequisites: THEA 219

Corequisites: THEA XXXC

Equivalent courses: THEA 217

THEA 321 Costume History (4 Credits)

From a costume design perspective, this course explores the evolution of clothing from Adam and Eve to Lady Gaga. The class will draw from film, art history, world history, sociology, living history and theatrical design. It will explore the changes over time in clothing caused by practical needs as well as the influence of fashion.

Prerequisites: None

THEA 327 Drama Form (4 Credits)

Analysis, through representative dramatic texts and theories, of the development of literary and theatrical elements in the major dramatic forms and modes from the Greeks to the late 19th century. Content will also include early Asian theater forms. Fall.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Restrictions: Students with a class of First Year may not enroll.

Attributes: Human Experience (HE)

THEA 332 Basic Costume Design (4 Credits)

Introduction to the art of costume design through study of contemporary designers, assigned readings and weekly critiques of sketch problems. Alternate years. Fall

Prerequisites: None

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE), Thematic Encounter 3 - Truth

THEA 333 Basic Principles and Design Elements of Lighting and Sound (4 Credits)

This course examines the principles, practices and technology of stage lighting and sound. Emphasis is on developing basic skills and a solid understanding of lighting and sound equipment and their use in theater production. Attendance at productions may be required.

Prerequisites: THEA 113

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Equivalent courses: THEA 238

THEA 334 Basic Scene Design (4 Credits)

Introduction to the art of scenic design through study of contemporary designers, assigned readings and weekly critiques of sketch problems. Alternate years. Spring

Prerequisites: None

THEA 337 History of Theater to 18th Century (4 Credits)

Survey of theatrical activity in the West: acting styles, theater architecture, dramatic literature and theory, production techniques such as costuming, scenery and directing in the context of the historical social milieu. Content will include Western theater. Alternate years. Spring.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students with a class of Junior or Senior.

THEA 338 Theater Through Time II (4 Credits)

A continuation of 337 from late 18th century to the 21st century. Alternate years. Spring

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students with a class of Junior or Senior.

THEA 340A Technical Problems: Costume (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 340B Technical Problems: Scenography (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 340C Technical Problems: Lighting (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 340D Technical Problems: Sound (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 340E Technical Problems: Acting (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 340F Technical Problems: Stage Management (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 340G Technical Problems: Dance (1-4 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

THEA 350 Theater Practicum (8-12 Credits)

A specialized program for the theater major to work in a theater situation away from the Saint Benedict's/Saint John's campus theaters. An internship program arranged with another college or professional company or a touring theater company. Arranged with the department chair the previous semester.

Prerequisites: None

THEA 353 Theater Materials and Techniques (4 Credits)

Advanced work in scenic materials which are useful to the theater practitioner. The course explores face casting and mask-making, painting techniques, sculpting, upholstering, and stage weapon construction. Attending Theater Performances may be required.

Prerequisites: THEA 113

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE)

THEA 366E Acting for the Digital Medium (4 Credits)

Whether you're creating content for TikTok or acting in an industry film, this course will cover the performance tools necessary to be successful in the digital medium. Acting for the Digital Medium will engage the students love of being on camera with acting techniques and theories specific to working on camera. The study of auditions, commercial work, television and film acting, screenplay analysis and onset vocabulary and protocol will culminate in a short film.

Prerequisites: None

Attributes: Artistic Expression (AE)

THEA 368 Modern Drama Seminar (4 Credits)

Analysis and interpretation of English, Continental and American drama from Ibsen to the present.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students with a class of Junior or Senior.

THEA 371 Individual Learning Project (1-4 Credits)

Supervised reading or research at the upper-division level. Permission of department chair and completion and/or concurrent registration of 12 credits within the department required. Consult department for applicability towards major requirements. Not available to first-year students.

Prerequisites: None

THEA 380 Theater Capstone (2 Credits)

A synthesis of all aspects of theater, including dramaturgy (theory, literature, and history), design, directing, technical production, stage management, acting (includes voice work), and movement. Students will create a production concept and all paperwork usually required before a play moves from the world of ideas into the realized production phase. Attendance at specified theater productions is required. Required for theater majors.

Prerequisites: (THEA 113 and THEA 117 and THEA 215 and THEA 253 and THEA 327 and THEA 368)

Corequisites: THEA XXXA

Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to students with a major in Theater.

THEA 395 Senior Project in Theater (1-4 Credits)

Working with a faculty advisor, the student plans and implements a creative project, a research project, or a thesis. This project might be in any area of theater including acting, playwriting, design, technical production, theater history, dramatic theory and criticism.

Prerequisites: None

THEA 397 Internship (4-16 Credits)

A full semester or summer placement in a variety of professional theater settings doing supervised work. The individual projects are tailored to student needs/career. Subject to approval of faculty advisor and department chair.

Prerequisites: None

Attributes: Experiential Engagement (EX)