THEA - Theatre

THEATRE Courses

THEA 152R. Acting One. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the physical and vocal principles of performance coupled with an opportunity to increase awareness of the constructed nature of social interactions. Students will explore confident self-expression through the physical, vocal, emotional and technical aspects of acting, as an art form and a daily experience, in a format that encourages freedom of imagination and personal growth. Emphasis is on the fundamental communication skills of presence, body language, imagination, and social communication.

THEA 173+. Theatre Activities. 1 Credit.
This course is an activity course in which the students participate in University Theatre Activities such as set building, costume construction or running crew for season productions. This qualifies as a CAP experience.

THEA 174+. Theatre Activities. 1 Credit.
This is an activity course in which the students participate in University Theatre Activities such as set building, costume construction or running crew for season productions. This qualifies as a CAP experience.

THEA 195. Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in a booklet distributed to academic advisors.

THEA 196. Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in a booklet distributed to academic advisors.

THEA 225. Introduction to Production Technology. 3 Credits.
Fundamentals of construction, lighting, and production techniques in contemporary theatre and film. Students will apply acquired skills to active productions for ODU Theatre and Film productions.

THEA 270A. Film Appreciation. 3 Credits.
This class will focus on both contextual and close text analysis of masterworks as they have influenced film art and industry. Students in this course are expected to develop basic research, communication, viewing and critical thinking skills as they apply their knowledge to the analysis of the film experience.

THEA 271. Introduction to Filmmaking. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce the beginning student to making movies. Students will learn the basics of working with cameras, lights, sound recording, video editing and post production. This is a hands-on production course. Cross-listed with COMM 271/DANC 271.

THEA 295. Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in a booklet distributed to all academic advisors.

THEA 320. Auditioning Technique. 3 Credits.
Course will examine practical audition skills and provide an orientation to the tools of procuring professional auditions, including head shots and resumes. Emphasis will be placed on effectively selecting and preparing auditions for stage, film and television. Prerequisites: THEA 152R and THEA 252.

THEA 321. Production Management for Television and Stage. 3 Credits.
This course will assist students in understanding the elements of production management both in television and on stage. The course emphasizes organizational and communication skills; technical production knowledge; professional rehearsal and performance protocol according to the rules of AEA, AFTRA and SAG as well as basic production budgeting and scheduling. Prerequisite: THEA 225 or COMM 225 or permission of the instructor.

THEA 325. Sound Design for Stage and Camera. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce the beginning student to making movies. Students will learn design of sound effects for the stage and camera. Students will learn design of sound elements in both a live and recorded environment as well as learn the current equipment and software in digital sound reproduction. Prerequisites: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 330. The Short Script. 3 Credits.
This course builds upon the principles taught in Screenwriting 1 (or equivalent) using the short script as a basis for the exploration. Utilizing concepts of characterization, plot, dialogue and narrative style, students should complete the course with several production-ready short scripts. Prerequisites: COMM 346 or THEA 346.

THEA 332. Making African-American Cinema. 3 Credits.
This introductory course on African-American cinema will focus on a variety of contemporary films, media clips, and video presentations concerning issues and topics that reflect the diversity within the African-American community of young adults between the ages of 18 to 25. The main goal of the class is to review historical films produced for African-Americans and utilize that data to conduct research and develop projects that represent the cultural diaspora of this audience, which is often not reflected in mainstream media, in Hollywood or major independent media outlets such as HBO or Showtime. Cross-listed with COMM 332. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 341. Lighting Design for Stage and Film. 3 Credits.
A production course introducing students to the world of light and shadow, mood and composition by surveying lighting design, its technologies for stage and camera, and such principles as basic electrical theory and stage/studio/location design aesthetics. Prerequisite: THEA 225/COMM 225 or THEA 271/COMM 271 or permission of instructor.

THEA 343. History of Theatre: Beginnings to the Renaissance. 3 Credits.
A cultural-epoch examination of world theatre as it developed through dramatists, directors, designers, and actors from its beginning to the eighteenth century. Prerequisites: THEA 230 or junior standing or permission of the instructor.
THEA 344. History of Theatre: Classic Baroque to the Present. 3 Credits.
A cultural-epoch examination of world theatre as it developed through dramatists, designers, and actors from the eighteenth century to the present. Prerequisites: THEA 230, junior standing, or permission of the instructor.

THEA 345. Advanced Production Design. 3 Credits.
This course will explore advanced principles of design for the stage in the areas of scenery. The process will include the application of various artistic styles to stage production. Prerequisite: THEA 225 or COMM 225 or THEA 244.

THEA 346. Screenwriting I. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to narrative screenwriting focusing on the traditional feature film. Students will study screenwriting principles through text reading, film viewing, script analysis and substantial writing assignments. Focus is on story structure, character development, action, dialogue, and proper screenplay format. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C with a grade of C or better and ENGL 211C with a grade of C or better.

THEA 347. Movement for the Actor. 3 Credits.
An examination through exercises and assignments of principles for developing a disciplined, flexible body for character creation. Prerequisites: THEA 152R or permission of the instructor.

THEA 348. Acting for the Camera. 3 Credits.
Course will examine the process of building characters for the camera, and the ways in which the conventions of the stage are adapted for the film or video audience. Prerequisites: THEA 152R.

THEA 349. Costume Design for Stage and Camera. 3 Credits.
This course explores the design aesthetic, historical context, and contemporary impact on performance of the costume garment and its accessories. Students will explore the application of design principles in a practical experience. Prerequisite: THEA 225 or COMM 225.

THEA 350. The Spoken Text. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the basic structures of verbal style through performance of the works of a variety of classical and contemporary writers. Students will become comfortable with linguistic techniques suitable to a range of performance situations. Prerequisites: THEA 152R or permission of the instructor.

THEA 351. Scene Painting. 3 Credits.
The course will explore, through in-class demonstrations and exercises, the techniques of painting for the stage. It will introduce the visual aesthetic of the world of scenic art for the stage and how it impacts the effectiveness of storytelling. Prerequisites: THEA 225 or COMM 225.

THEA 352. Acting Three. 3 Credits.
Study of and experimentation with various theories concerning the preparation of roles and special performance characteristics of different styles and types of drama. Considerable attention is directed toward scene study. Prerequisites: THEA 152R and THEA 252.

THEA 353. Animation. 3 Credits.
This is a project oriented, studio class that will focus on the art of animated storytelling from the traditional perspective of stop motion animation. Students will engage in individual research, writing, storyboarding, editing, and sound creation to produce original short animations. Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.

THEA 354. Drafting and Rendering for Stage and Screen. 3 Credits.
This course is an intermediate level course designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of graphic skills necessary for the implementation of a scenic design on either the stage or in front of a lens. Techniques and skills will be demonstrated in drafting (hand and computer generated) and perspective sketching and rendering. Crosslisted with COMM 354. Prerequisites: COMM 225/THEA 225.

THEA 355. Costume Crafts. 3 Credits.
This course will develop design principles and craft techniques to create a wide variety of costume crafts. The course will focus on individual research, design elements and technical challenges. Projects will encourage students to explore textile modification, various applications for clothing design, costume crafts and art materials. Prerequisites: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 356. Silhouette Animation. 3 Credits.
This is a project oriented, studio class that will focus on the art of animated storytelling through the use of silhouette animation. Individual research, writing, design and implementation of knowledge to create new projects will be necessary to successfully meet the requirements of the course. Relating the projects and class exercises in this course will require students to combine writing, storyboarding, a variety of art techniques, editing, and sound to produce original short animations. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 357. Claymation. 3 Credits.
This is a project oriented, studio class that will focus on the art of animated storytelling from the traditional perspective of stop motion animation. Students will engage in individual research, writing, storyboarding, editing, and sound creation to produce original short animations. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 358. Voice for the Stage I. 3 Credits.
This course will explore facets of vocal production, speech and expression necessary for an engaging performance on stage. Through exercises and text work, the student will learn healthy vocal production, elements of clear speech and techniques for improving vocal range and expressiveness. Prerequisites: THEA 152R.

THEA 365. Internship in Film. 3.6 Credits.
Practicum/field experience in professional settings for students in all areas of Film. Pass/Fail only. Prerequisites: Approval of the Director of Film and major advisor.

THEA 367. Cooperative Education. 1-3 Credits.
Available for pass/fail grading only. Student participation for credit based on the academic relevance of the work experience, criteria and evaluative procedures as formally determined by the department and the Cooperative Education program prior to the semester in which the work experience takes place. (qualifies as a CAP experience) Prerequisites: Approval of the department and the Career Development Services, in accordance with the policy for granting credit for Cooperative Education programs.

THEA 368. Internship for Theatre. 3 Credits.
Practicum/field experience in professional settings for students in all areas of Theatre. Pass/Fail only. Prerequisites: Approval of the Director of Theatre and major advisor.

THEA 369. Internship at the Virginia Stage Company. 3 Credits.
A structured work experience with or without remuneration; a paper, a log and portfolio of work time plus satisfactory evaluations by supervisor and cooperating faculty member are required. Pass/Fail only. (qualifies as a CAP experience) Prerequisites: Approval of Director of Theatre and major advisor.

THEA 370. The Video Project. 3 Credits.
A studio course that presents an opportunity for the student to produce digital video content. This is a hands-on course which is organized to allow the student to experience the entire process of developing a project for the camera from scripting through filming to editing and finishing detail. Prerequisites: THEA 271 or COMM 271 or DANC 271.

THEA 371. History of Animation. 3 Credits.
This course traces the evolution of the animated film worldwide, from the silent to the modern era. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a broad chronological and international overview of animated film masterworks. Prerequisites: Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

THEA 373. Production/Performance Lab. 1 Credit.
This course provides students opportunities to participate in productions in Theatre, Dance or Film. These positions provide hands-on experience in the discipline. Cross-listed with DANC 373. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor.
THEA 374. Production/Performance Lab. 1 Credit.
This course provides students opportunities to participate in productions in Theatre, Dance or Film. These positions provide hands-on experience in the discipline. Cross-listed with DANC 374. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

THEA 375. Television Production. 3 Credits.
This course explores the basic process of producing television from script to presentation. Prerequisites: THEA 271 or COMM 271 or permission of the instructor.

THEA 380. Documentary Production I. 3 Credits.
This course offers the student an opportunity to explore the world of documentary filmmaking. Students will perform research to develop evidence in support of a thesis, then utilize the camera to capture a narrative story based on the thesis. Through this process, the student is better able to understand documentary filmmaking. Students will develop and deliver short documentary films by the end of the semester. Prerequisites: THEA 271 or COMM 271 or DANC 271 or THEA 152R.

THEA 383. Directing the Actor. 3 Credits.
This course is designed as a practical guide for directors to elicit strong performances from the actors who tell their stories. The class will establish vocabulary and practice techniques that are equally applicable to work in film or theatre. Ideally, the course will encourage students to think beyond genre as they create work that is both dramatically and humanly compelling. Prerequisites: THEA 271 or COMM 271 or DANC 271 with grade of C or higher.

THEA 385. Cinematography. 3 Credits.
Introduces students to cinematography. The course explores camera technique, blocking actors, lighting, and cinematography fundamentals. The concepts of the course are applied to fiction and nonfiction cinema. This is a production class. Prerequisites: THEA 271 or COMM 271 or DANC 271 with grade of C or higher.

THEA 386. Video and Audio Editing. 3 Credits.
This course will cover post-production techniques, including: video editing utilizing Avid Media Composer, audio editing utilizing ProTools, and color correction utilizing DaVinci Resolve. Students will also learn how to properly import and organize material, move it between applications, and output deliverables. Prerequisites: THEA 271 or COMM 271 or DANC 271 with grade of C or higher.

THEA 387. TV News Production. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the reporting, writing, and production aspects of a television news program. Students will learn how to create 15- and 30-minute news broadcasts by developing story ideas and news gathering. Students will also learn the intricacies of shooting and editing video along with the production process involved in recording a live news broadcast. Each student will spend time both in front of and behind the television studio cameras. The goal of this course is to produce weekly news programs worthy of broadcast on local television. Students will assume the roles of reporter, writer, producer, floor director, photojournalist, videographer, technician, and more. Prerequisites: COMM 271 or THEA 271 or COMM 382 or ENGL 382.

THEA 388. Motion Picture Aesthetics. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to develop within students a heightened and multifaceted awareness and appreciation for aesthetics of a particular type - motion picture aesthetics. Aesthetic considerations impact us intellectually, emotionally, psychologically, and viscerally. Professionals most definitely employ a language to filmmaking. One must learn the language of motion picture production and aesthetic design in order to convey concepts to their audiences. Prerequisite: COMM 270A or THEA 270A.

THEA 390. Improvisation. 3 Credits.
An exploration of creativity through structured exercises, games and problems. Students participate in experiential studies that explore improvisational approaches, devices and elements to gain skills in the art of improvisation. This course also includes group discussions of reading assignments and feedback sessions following the improvisations performed in class. Through readings, journal writings, and in-class exercises, students develop the skills to articulate what they see, feel and respond to as performers and observers. Cross-listed with DANC 390. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

THEA 395. Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: Junior standing and permission of the instructor.

THEA 396. Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected topics designed for nonmajors, or for elective credit within a major. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in a booklet distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: Junior standing and permission of the instructor.

THEA 441/541. American Theatre. 3 Credits.
A study of dramatic theories and theatre practices as they relate to the development and growth of theatrical art in the United States. Prerequisites: THEA 230, junior standing, or permission of the instructor.

THEA 442/542. Principles of Directing. 3 Credits.
An examination and practical application of principles of stage direction as influenced by play script, acting talent, set and lighting design, and the technical facilities of production organizations. Prerequisites: THEA 152R and THEA 230, and THEA 244 or permission of the instructor.

THEA 445/545. Experimental Theatre. 3 Credits.
An in-depth study of avant-garde theatre scripts and performance techniques from 1900 to the present. Prerequisites: THEA 230 or permission of the instructor.

THEA 446. Directing for the Camera. 3 Credits.
This course seeks to provide students with fundamental principles and practical techniques of directing the narrative fiction film: script development and analysis, production planning, shot composition and framing, and working with actors and crew. Prerequisites: THEA 383 or COMM 383 with a grade of C or higher.

THEA 447/547. Women in Theatre. 3 Credits.
A study of the contributions women have made to the theatre as actresses, directors/managers, designers, and playwrights, and of their creative problems and methodologies. Prerequisites: THEA 230 or permission of the instructor.

THEA 449W/549. Script and Performance Analysis. 3 Credits.
Approaches script analysis from a directorial perspective through the written examination of action, character, language, music, and spectacle, as well as the play's production history and historical context, to discover how plays might be staged for the contemporary audience. Plays in production will be examined from a critical perspective with attention to artistic interpretation in the areas of direction, design, and performance. (This is a writing intensive course.) Prerequisites: THEA 152R, THEA 230, THEA 244, and a grade of C or better in ENGL 110C and ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, or permission of the instructor.

THEA 451. Costume Design for Opera and Musical Theatre. 3 Credits.
This course will provide opportunities for hands-on training for all stages of the design process. Students will learn sewing techniques, create hand-dyed fabric, construction techniques, period costume research, character analysis, wig construction, and assist with the design. Project designs will be used in a main stage production presented by the Communication & Theatre Arts and Music departments at Old Dominion University. Students will also have the opportunity to run a live performance and assist with garment care, make-up, hair design and costume props. Prerequisites: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 452/552. Acting Four. 3 Credits.
An advanced scene study class exploring issues of style and period pertinent to portraying characters on stage. Prerequisites: THEA 152R, THEA 252 and THEA 352.
THEA 453. Voice Over. 3 Credits.
This course is for students who are interested in the field of voice over for commercials, narration, industrials, animation, Internet, and gaming. Students will practice voicing copy using acting techniques, vocal techniques, building characters, and analyzing copy. Students will learn to select, edit and prepare copy for a future demo and learn to perform cold voice over auditions. This is a performance-oriented course that is a workout session each day. Crosslisted with COMM 453. Prerequisites: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

THEA 460. Voice for the Stage II. 3 Credits.
Course will continue the study of vocal production, speech and expression necessary for on stage performance of both classical and modern text. Techniques for producing effective dialects will be introduced as well as the application of dialect towards character development. Prerequisites: THEA 152R.

THEA 461/561. Arts Administration. 3 Credits.
This course is an examination of the arts institutions, issues, and forces that shape the contemporary arts world including artists' rights, public art, corporate support, censorship, and multiculturalism. The course will cover Community Involvement, Collaborative Processes and Civil Societies, Theory and Practice of Planning, Public and Non-Profit Management, Organizational Behavior, Labor Management Relations, and Entrepreneurial Leadership. Prerequisite: Senior standing.

THEA 471W/571. International Film History. 3 Credits.
An examination of world cinema as a technology, a business, an institution, and an art form from its inception to the present. Emphasis is on the narrative fiction film, its technological and aesthetic development, economic organization, and socio-cultural context. Representative classic and contemporary works will be screened and analyzed. (This is a writing intensive course.) Prerequisites: COMM 270A or THEA 270A, a grade of C or better in ENGL 110C and ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and junior standing or permission of the instructor.

THEA 472. Acting Five. 3 Credits.
An examination and advanced study of techniques relevant to specialized theatre performance. This course will allow advanced students the opportunity to explore a variety of work including experimental theatre, avant garde works, mediated performance and visual based theatre. Prerequisites: THEA 152R and THEA 252 or permission of instructor.

THEA 473. Production/Performance Lab. 1 Credit.
This course provides students opportunities to participate in productions in Theatre, Dance or Film. These experiences provide hands-on experience in the discipline. Cross-listed with DANC 473. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

THEA 474. Production/Performance Lab. 1 Credit.
This course provides students opportunities to participate in productions in Theatre, Dance or Film. These experiences provide hands-on experience in the discipline. Cross-listed with DANC 474. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

THEA 479W/579. American Film History. 3 Credits.
An examination of American motion pictures as an art form, a business and an institution from its inception to the present. Primary attention is accorded to the narrative fiction film, its aesthetic and technological development, economic organization and social impact. This course highlights the many connections between film history and American culture. (This is a writing intensive course.) Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in ENGL 110C and ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C; THEA 270A or COMM 270A; and junior standing or permission of the instructor.

THEA 480/580. Documentary Production II. 3 Credits.
Students will continue the work performed in THEA 380 with more advanced proposals, research, and production work. Prerequisites: THEA 380 or COMM 380.
THEA 497/597. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Prerequisites: Senior standing.

THEA 498/598. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: Senior standing.

THEA 499. Senior Project. 1 Credit.
Completion of a creative project leading to a written work and a presentation during a student's senior year related to student's interest area. Topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor with conferences as appropriate. Prerequisites: Senior standing as theatre major and approval of major advisor.

THEA 541. American Theatre. 3 Credits.
A study of dramatic theories and theatre practices as they relate to the development and growth of theatrical art in the United States.

THEA 542. Principles of Directing. 3 Credits.
An examination and practical application of principles of stage direction as influenced by play script, acting talent, set and lighting design, and the technical facilities of production organizations.

THEA 543. Acting Three. 3 Credits.
An advanced scene study class exploring issues of style and period pertinent to portraying characters on stage. Prerequisite: THEA 152, THEA 252 or permission of instructor.

THEA 545. Experimental Theatre. 3 Credits.
An in-depth study of avant-garde theatre scripts and performance techniques from 1900 to the present. Prerequisite: THEA 230 or permission of instructor.

THEA 547. Women in Theatre. 3 Credits.
A study of the contributions women have made to the theatre as actresses, directors/managers, designers, and playwrights, and of their creative problems and methodologies.

THEA 549. Script and Performance Analysis. 3 Credits.
Approaches script and performance analysis by examining the separate elements of action, character, language, music, spectacle or "mise en scene" in order to discover play spine and style as a basis for staging the play. Also examines the method of "scoring a role" or finding character motivations in relation to overall play spine.

THEA 552. Acting Four. 3 Credits.
An advanced scene study class exploring issues of style and period pertinent to portraying characters on stage.

THEA 561. Arts Administration. 3 Credits.
This course is an examination of the arts institutions, issues, and forces that shape the contemporary arts world including artists' rights, public art, corporate support, censorship, and multiculturalism. The course will cover Community Involvement, Collaborative Processes and Civil Societies, Theory and Practice of Planning, Public and Non-Profit Management, Organizational Behavior, Labor Management Relations, and Entrepreneurial Leadership.

THEA 571. International Film History. 3 Credits.
An examination of international cinema as a technology, a business, an institution, and an art form from its inception to the present. Emphasis is on the narrative fiction film, its technological and aesthetic development, economic organization, and socio-cultural context. Representative classic and contemporary works will be screened and analyzed.

THEA 579. American Film History. 3 Credits.
An examination of American motion pictures as an art form, a business and an institution from its inception to the present. Primary attention is accorded to the narrative fiction film, its aesthetic and technological development, economic organization and social impact. This course highlights the many connections between film history and American culture.

THEA 580. The Video Documentary II. 3 Credits.
A production/studio course designed to complement the work developed in Theatre 380: The Video Documentary I. Discussion/presentation topics range from production field work to post-production editing. The final third of the semester will be devoted to compiling the rough footage in post production.

THEA 586. Advanced Filmmaking. 3 Credits.
This course offers students an opportunity to collaborate on a project beyond the scope of previous classroom projects. Students in the course will execute an assigned duty for the duration of the semester.

THEA 595. Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described by academic advisors.

THEA 596. Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule and will be more fully described by academic advisors.

THEA 597. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

THEA 598. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

THEA 697. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: graduate standing and approval of the department chair.

THEA 698. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: graduate standing and approval of the department chair.