

Theatre Arts (THAR)

THAR 101 MAKING THEATRE (3)

This course is an overview of the art and practice of making theatre. Designed for non-majors, the class examines the various elements involved in creating, developing, performing, and presenting a theatrical event. Through lecture, guest speakers, hands-on projects, video, and demonstrations, students gain an appreciation of the artistry of live theatre performance. Satisfies GE, category C1 (Applied Arts Combining Studio and Theory).

THAR 110 DANCE FUNDAMENTALS (1)

An introduction to the fundamentals of modern dance designed to develop body awareness, movement skills and aesthetic sensibilities. Includes improvisation, rhythm, motion and space exploration, and fundamentals of alignment. May be taken five times for credit.

THAR 115 DANCE STYLES (1)

Class may focus on a particular dance style, e.g., contact improvisation, jazz, or tap, or on dances of a particular era, e.g., social dance from 1935 to 1960. The emphasis will be on American dance styles. Some styles of dancing require more generalized dance background than others. May be taken five times for credit. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

THAR 116 ACTING STYLES: COMEDY IMPROVISATION (1)

Class will focus on a particular acting style, e.g. comedy, commedia del arte, farce, or improvisation. May be taken four times for credit.

THAR 120A ACTING FUNDAMENTALS (2)

Exploration of acting includes group and individual improvisation, physical and vocal exercises, and scene work leading toward relaxation, physical action, and believability. Class work is designed to stimulate the imagination, build self-confidence and trust, and reach the emotional reservoir of the actor. This class is recommended for singers. May be taken three times for credit.

THAR 120B ACTING FUNDAMENTALS FOR ACTING CONCENTRATION MAJORS (2)

Exploration of acting includes group and individual improvisation, physical and vocal exercises, and scene work leading toward relaxation, physical activity, and believability. Class work is designed to stimulate the imagination, build self-confidence and trust, and reach the emotional reservoir of the actor. This class is recommended for singers. First of a seven course sequence for Acting Concentration Majors.

THAR 143A STAGECRAFT (2)

Work in both theory and practice covers scenery construction techniques and drawings for the theatre. Use of tools and materials for scenery, costumes, props, and lighting will be fundamental to the course.

THAR 143B COSTUMES (2)

An introduction to the fundamentals of costume design and construction. Basic makeup for the stage will be examined and practiced. Prerequisite or concurrent enrollment in THAR 143A.

THAR 144A SCENERY (2)

Design principles are applied to scenery and properties for the stage. Includes advanced drafting and rendering techniques used to realize and execute designs for production. Prerequisite: THAR 143A.

THAR 144B LIGHTING (2)

Basic lighting design, including the drawing of lighting plots, rigging techniques, and the operation of light boards and systems. Work in class affords direct experience in lighting of departmental productions. Prerequisite: THAR 143A.

THAR 145A VOICE FOR THE ACTOR (1)

Fundamentals of voice to free the natural voice and build toward its full use. Exercises in breathing, relaxation and movement, resonance, and power will help the actor discover a direct, spontaneous connection between breath and the impulse to speak; develop greater vocal range; and explore the intricacies, implications, layers, and joys of the spoken text. May be repeated once for credit.

THAR 145B SPEECH FOR THE ACTOR (1)

Articulate speech and textual clarity are primary skills for the actor. This course will concentrate on the fundamentals of speech, anatomy of good sound production, standard pronunciation techniques through the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), and methods for speaking clearly, articulation, vocal muscularity, and phrasing. Prerequisite: THAR 145A. May be repeated once for credit.

THAR 161 BALLET I (1-2)

This course is designed to give the modern dancer a foundation for movement in classical tradition. The vocabulary of classical ballet is presented, with emphasis on alignment and placement, with relevance to more contemporary dance forms. Exercises will be given to strengthen and stretch the body. Special attention will be given to turns and fast footwork to support work in modern dance. This course may be taken four times for credit.

THAR 199 STUDENT INSTRUCTED COURSE (1-3)

THAR 200 SEEING THEATRE TODAY (3)

Experience great performances created by modern and contemporary theatre artists. Students are engaged as audiences through videotaped productions of renowned and important performers, directors, choreographers, and Department of Theater and Dance productions. Post-viewing small-group discussions and on-line chats ask students to further engage by reflecting upon their shared experience. Students may opt to pay an activity fee, due at registration, to see a major production in the San Francisco Bay Area. Satisfies GE, category C4.

THAR 202 INTRO TO THE HISTORY OF DRAMA AND DANCE: ORIGINS TO 1800 (3)

First of a two part course, this course examines Western Theatre traditions of ritual, drama, and dance at their origins, while dramatic tragedy and comedy are traced from the Golden Age of Greece through the Age of Enlightenment, roughly 1800. Added emphasis is placed on traditional Asian theatre forms. The course relates the theatre's past to how theatre is practiced today. Satisfies GE, category C1 (History of the Fine Arts).

THAR 203 INTRO TO THE HISTORY OF DRAMA AND DANCE: ORIGINS TO 1800 (3)

Part two examines theatre, drama, and dance from 19th Century to the present, including the rise of Realism and other theatre and dance forms in the 20th Century. Also considered are the American musical, recent trends in diversity and multiculturalism, and the theatre's relationship to electronic media. Satisfies GE, category C1 (History of the Fine Arts).

THAR 210A CONTEMPORARY DANCE I (2)

Introduces specific contemporary techniques, with the emphasis on expanding movement range and facility. Alignment, strength, flexibility, and expressiveness are concerns of this course, which is intended for students with some experience in movement fundamentals. May be repeated twice for credit.

THAR 210B CONTEMPORARY DANCE II (2)

Continuation of THAR 210A. Prerequisite: THAR 210A. May be repeated twice for credit.

THAR 220A ACTING:TEXT AND SCENE STUDY (2)

Text analysis and scoring, rehearsals, and in-class presentation of scenes drawn from realistic dramatic literature. Work with emotional memory and characterization. Core course for acting concentration majors. May be taken two times for credit. Prerequisite: THAR 120A or B or consent of instructor.

THAR 220B ACTING: CHARACTERIZATION (2)

The focus of this course is on aiding the actor in developing a process for creating believable dramatic characters and bringing them truthfully to life in theatrical context. Study of life models support presentations of rehearsed scenes, which are then critiqued and developed in class. Scenes are normally drawn from realistic dramatic literature. This course is the third in the Acting Concentration sequence and is a core course for acting majors. May be taken two times for credit. Prerequisites: THAR 120A or B, 220A or consent of instructor.

THAR 230 STAGE MANAGEMENT (3)

The functions of the stage manager from audition to final performance are examined. Students are trained to organize rehearsals, to record actors' movements, to create prompt books, and to manage a performance. Students serve as stage managers for Theatre and Dance productions. Prerequisites: THAR 144A and B.

THAR 240 CHOREOGRAPHY I (2)

Fundamentals of choreography through a problem-solving approach. Studies deal with aspects of time, space, dynamics and movement, with an emphasis on perceptions of meaning, that is, on "seeing" dancing as well as "making" dancing. May be taken two times for credit. Prerequisite: THAR 210 or consent of instructor.

THAR 244 SCENE PAINTING (2)

Study and practice of the basics of layout and painting of scenery, from rendering to full scale. Students assist in painting scenery used in Theatre and Dance productions. Includes instruction on handling toxic materials safely and on protecting the environment. Prerequisites: THAR 143A and B, 144A and B.

THAR 261 BALLET II (1-2)

Continuation of study of classical ballet. Traditional barre with allegro and adagio center work. Western classical dance skills emphasizing strength, alignment, flexibility, and musicality as a support for contemporary dance styles. May be taken four times for credit. Prerequisite: THAR 161 or consent of instructor.

THAR 295 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (1-4)

Credit for participation in internships arranged through individual contact with a Theatre Arts or Dance faculty member.

THAR 300 THEATRE IN ACTION (3)

Required of all Theatre Arts majors. An investigation of technique, form, and content in drama and dance performances. Attendance at oral discussion and written critiques of 7-8 departmental, local, and/or Bay Area productions will develop articulate understanding of contemporary performance and its relation to theatre history, the arts, society, and culture. Activities fee payable at time of registration. Satisfies upper division GE, Category C1 (History of the Fine Arts), for juniors and seniors only. (Also available as periodic trips to New York.) May be taken two times for credit.

THAR 301 DANCE ENSEMBLE (1-3)

A process-and-product class in which students receive credit for major participation in areas of dance, choreography, or technical work (costumes, light, decor) for presentation in public performance. Dances may be choreographed and directed by faculty, guest artists, or students. May be repeated six times for credit. Prerequisite: THAR 240 or consent of instructor.

THAR 302 DRAMA ENSEMBLE WORKSHOP (1-3)

A production class in which students receive credit for major participation as a partner in plays directed by faculty members and guest artists. Play titles, performance venues, styles, and production approaches vary from semester to semester. May be repeated six times for credit. By audition or consent of instructor.

THAR 303 TECHNICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP (1-3)

A production class in which students receive credit for design, backstage and technical work in plays directed by faculty members and guest artists. May be repeated six times for credit. By audition or consent of instructor.

THAR 310A INTERMEDIATE DANCE BLOCK (5)

The Dance Block integrates the study of contemporary dance technique with the study of improvisation and anatomy for dancers. The safe and intelligent use of the body, the development of technical and improvisational skills, and artistry are emphasized. Prerequisites: THAR 210A and B and consent of instructor.

THAR 310B INTERMEDIATE DANCE BLOCK (5)

Continuation of THAR 310A. Prerequisites: THAR 310A and consent of instructor.

THAR 313 LECTURE SERIES: (1-3)**THAR 320A INTERMEDIATE ACTING BLOCK (5)**

First in a four-course sequence intended for acting concentration majors. In-depth actor training, integrating fundamental movement and vocal acting skills, text analysis, scene-study, and character work. The four-semester sequence includes 1) physical theatre, 2) verse drama, 3) 20th Century non-realistic drama, and 4) exploration of contemporary theatre and an on-camera component. Prerequisite: THAR 120A or B, 220A, 220B, 145A and 145B, and consent of instructor.

THAR 320B INTERMEDIATE ACTING BLOCK (5)

Continuation of THAR 320A. See description above. Prerequisite: THAR 320A, ENGL 339 and consent of instructor.

THAR 321A INTERMEDIATE TECHNICAL BLOCK / FOUNDATIONS (2)

Technical concentration students participate in foundations and script analysis portion of 320A acting block. Prerequisites: THAR 143A and B, THAR 144A and B, THAR 244, and consent of instructor.

THAR 321B INTERMEDIATE TECHNICAL BLOCK (2)

Technical concentration students participate in foundations and script analysis portion of 320B acting block. Prerequisites: THAR 143A and B, THAR 144A and B, THAR 244, 321A, and consent of instructor.

THAR 325 AUDITION FOR THE THEATRE (2)

This course is designed to cover the practical aspects of auditioning for the theatre, including 1) selecting appropriate material, e.g., classic/modern, dramatic/comic, and musical/revue, 2) preparing audition pieces, 3) giving a winning audition, 4) evaluating performance for future guidance, and 5) resume and headshot needs. May be taken three times for credit.

THAR 330 MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION (1-3)

A course devoted to the study and performance of musical theatre literature. Designed for singers, actors, and others interested in musical theatre.

THAR 340 CHOREOGRAPHY II (2)

Further development of choreographic skills and artistry. Includes problems in group choreography and relationship to fundamentals of rhythm. May be taken three times for credit. Prerequisite: THAR 240.

THAR 343 ADVANCED SCENE PAINTING (2)

The basics of layout techniques and painting of full-scale scenery will be realized by the class with hands-on painting of the SSU productions for that semester. This course includes sections on being safe with toxic materials, and how to keep the environment green. Prerequisites: THAR 143A, 144A and B.

THAR 344A DESIGN FOR THE STAGE (3)

An advanced course examining design and rendering techniques for the stage. Students learn advanced drafting techniques. Class works as a team, with students assuming various design responsibilities for selected plays. Prerequisites: THAR 144A and B and consent of instructor.

THAR 344B DESIGN FOR THE STAGE (3)

Continuation of THAR 344A. Prerequisites: THAR 144A and B, THAR 344A, and consent of instructor.

THAR 345 CHOREOGRAPHY III (2)

Further development of choreographic skills and artistry, including more extensive group choreography and relationship of movement to sound and music. May be taken three times for credit. Prerequisite: THAR 340.

THAR 350 DIRECTING WORKSHOP (2)

A workshop in directing scenes and compositions. Rehearsal and techniques, composition, blocking, characterization, rhythm, style, and script analysis are explored. Approaches of significant directors are examined. May be taken three times for credit. Prerequisites: all lower division theatre major/minor requirements, or consent of instructor.

THAR 355 ADVANCED DIRECTING WORKSHOP (2)

An advanced workshop in composition, technique, and directed scenes and one-act plays that are rehearsed, presented, and critiqued as a means of reaching a final public performance. The course builds upon basic directing concepts and terms necessary for communication with actors and designers, while utilizing skills of research, text analysis, and staging principles. Prerequisite: THAR 350 or consent of instructor.

THAR 370A EARLY PLAYS: EVOLUTION AND INNOVATION (3)

An examination of Western theatre from the Greeks to the Enlightenment. Plays are used as a basis for understanding how theatre reinvents itself to reflect social and historical currents. Emphasis on how dramatic literature and history can be interpreted and re-examined to resonate with today's theatre. The theatre artist is viewed as a voice for humanity as well as a force for social change. Prerequisite: THAR 102 or consent of instructor.

THAR 370B MODERN PLAYS: EVOLUTION AND INNOVATION (3)

Seminar on dramatic literature from the late 19th Century to our own time. Continuation of THAR 370A. Prerequisites: THAR 103 or consent of instructor. May be taken out of sequence.

THAR 371A HISTORY OF DANCE A (3)

Survey of history of Western theatrical dance from ritual roots to 19th Century Romantic and Classical ballet. Prerequisite: THAR 202 or consent of instructor.

THAR 371B HISTORY OF DANCE B (3)

Survey of history of theatrical dance in the 20th Century, including global influences on most recent dance forms. Prerequisite: THAR 371A or consent of instructor.

THAR 373 DANCES OF THE WORLD (3)

An examination of dance as cultural expression primarily in non-Western, but not excluding, Western dance forms. This course will focus on ways in which dance flows across cultural boundaries, reflecting and creating culture. Satisfies upper-division GE, category C4.

THAR 374 THEATRE OF THE WORLD (3)

This course is an exploration of theatre traditions from around the world. Theatre is examined as the expression of specific cultures. Students learn how theatre practice influences theatre making in both Western and Eastern Cultures. Required for General Theatre Degree majors. Satisfies UD C4 general elective requirement. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing.

THAR 375 CONTEMPORARY PLAYS AND PLAYWRIGHTS (3)

This class explores contemporary American plays and their impact on the current American theatre scene. It offers some of the finest writing that is occurring in this country today. Students will discover theatrical trends of our own era, and how these trends relate to contemporary society and politics.

THAR 380 RESEARCH (3)

Development of research skills. May be used in practical application to programs for theatre arts productions. Students are encouraged to investigate topics of personal interest. The final research project may consist of an exploration of a particular era or phenomenon, or may be groundwork for a major creative project. May be taken three times for credit. Prerequisites: THAR 202 or 203, THAR 300 and THAR 370, or by contract with an instructor, specifying course expectations, work to be completed, regular schedule of contract hours, and assessment criteria.

THAR 395 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (1-4)

Please see appropriate concentration advisor.

THAR 400 THEATRE OF TODAY (1)

A career preparation course in topics vital to the emerging artist such as career preparation guidance, resume writing, graduate school application, professional internships, and community theatre options. Professional guest speakers augment the regular faculty.

THAR 401 SENIOR PROJECT ENSEMBLE WORKSHOP (3)

An upper-division Theatre Arts student may petition the Theatre Arts faculty for permission to do a Senior Project. Such a project is the culmination of the student's work and may be an original work, a performance project, a research paper, a teaching project, or take some other form which represents and reflects the student's interests and accomplishments. The privilege of doing a Senior Project is awarded only to a student deemed exceptional by the department faculty. Students who participate in another student's Senior Project may enroll in Dance or Drama Ensemble to receive credit. Prerequisites: senior standing and consent of department faculty.

THAR 410A ADVANCED DANCE BLOCK (5)

A continuation of the work begun in 310, with the focus on increasing technical and improvisational skill and on more refined perception of the structure and meaning of movement. Prerequisites: THAR 310A and 310B and consent of instructor.

THAR 410B ADVANCED DANCE BLOCK (5)

A continuation of 410A. Prerequisites: THAR 410A and consent of instructor.

THAR 420A ADVANCED ACTING BLOCK (2-5)

Continuation of THAR 320A and B. See description above. Further development and integration of acting skills, including a wider scope of theatrical styles and scripts from the world's dramatic literature. Emphasis is placed on strengthening connections between performer and ensemble and between performer and director. Note: Acting concentration students enroll for 5 units. Technical Theatre concentration students enroll for 2 units. Prerequisites: THAR 300, THAR 320A and B, and by consent of instructor. THAR 320 and THAR 420 are taught concurrently.

THAR 420B ADVANCED ACTING BLOCK (2-5)

Continuation of THAR 420A. Prerequisites: THAR 420A.

THAR 421A ADVANCED TECHNICAL BLOCK / FOUNDATIONS (2)

Technical concentration students participate in foundations and script analysis portion of 420A acting block. Prerequisites: THAR 143A and B, THAR 144A and B, and THAR 244, 321A, 321B, and consent of instructor.

THAR 421B ADVANCED TECHNICAL BLOCK / FOUNDATIONS (2)

Technical concentration students participate in foundations and script analysis portion of 420B acting block. Prerequisites: THAR 143A and B, THAR 144A and B, and THAR 244, 321A, 321B, 421A, and consent of instructor.

THAR 430 SPECIAL TOPICS (1-3)

Special topics in theatre arts selected to introduce students to recent theory, research, and practice in the discipline. Consult Schedule of Classes for topic to be studied and current unit offering. May be taken two times for credit.

THAR 444 HISTORY OF ORNAMENT (2)

Form and function of props, furniture, and architectural structures produced by humankind through the ages. Examination of ways in which decorations, style, and uses of these objects has evolved under political, cultural, and socioeconomic influences. May include research and construction of properties for Performing Arts productions. Prerequisites: THAR 143A and 143B, THAR 144A and 144B.

THAR 460 DRAMA FOR CHILDREN (2)

Developing skills and resources for working with children, including creative dramatics, mime, storytelling, and scripted drama. Practical experience in working with children will be gained through master teacher observation and student teaching. May be taken three times for credit.

THAR 463 THEATRE MANAGEMENT (3)

The study of scheduling, promotion, ticketing, house and stage management, booking, budgeting, technical theatre in terms of budgeting, and marketing theatrical productions. Practical application is gained by participation in the evening performances of the Theatre and Dance productions.

THAR 470 DANCE FOR CHILDREN (2)

Developing resources and skills for working with children in creative movement. Class includes participation in rhythmic activities and movement exploration, with observation and student teaching of children's dance classes. May be taken three times for credit.

THAR 480 COORDINATED PROJECTS (1-3)

Involvement in on- and off-campus dance or drama projects with student directors, actors, designers, and/or technicians, all under faculty supervision. May be repeated six times for Cr/NC only. Prerequisite: consent of faculty supervisor.

THAR 485 TEACHING ASSISTANT IN THEATRE ARTS (1-4)

Teaching assistantship in Theatre Arts. Open only to upper-division students with knowledge of theatre with special interest in teaching and pedagogy. Intended to give students classroom experience by assisting an instructor in a Theatre Arts and Dance department course, or under the supervision of a faculty member, experience in tutoring students. Prior arrangements with faculty required. Graded only.

THAR 490 THEATRE PRACTICUM (1-3)

The use and development of a theatre skill such as acting, dancing, design, light, set, or costume construction, in a commercial environment where the evaluation of the work is under professional rather than faculty supervision. May be taken four times for Cr/NC only. Prerequisite: consent of faculty advisor.

THAR 495 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)

Individualized studies in topics beyond the scope of the regular curriculum. Contract with an instructor, specifying course expectations, work to be completed, regular schedule of contact hours, and assessment criteria. Prerequisite: consent of faculty advisor.

THAR 499 INTERNSHIP: THEATRE MANAGEMENT (1-4)

The student will gain practical experience in various management areas of theatre. Individual internships may include public relations, publicity, programming, scheduling, box office management, funding, sales, and budgeting. The unit value will be determined by each internship. May be taken three times for Cr/NC only.

University Courses (UNIV)**UNIV 50 WRITING SKILLS (4)**

This course focuses on developmental and learning skills in writing, including language mechanics, sentence patterns, paragraph patterns, spelling, vocabulary, and developmental skills in reading, in preparation for ENGL 99. UNIV 50 is taught by Learning Skills Services staff and features an intensive learning environment. Placement in this course is based on the score on the English Placement Test (EPT). Cr/NC only. Not applicable toward graduation.

UNIV 102 FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE (3)

Designed to foster a supportive learning community, provide mentoring, enhance academic skills, personal skills (self-awareness, responsibility, and relationships with others), and knowledge about campus resources to facilitate successful transition from high school to college. Other aspects covered are choosing a major, career exploration, health and social issues (sexual assault/harassment, and alcohol/drug abuse), information competencies, code of conduct, and diversity/multiculturalism. This course is strongly recommended for first semester students.

UNIV 103A LEARNING STRATEGIES: MATH THINKING (1)

An academic success course that explores mathematical thinking, problem solving, and personal and cultural approaches to mathematics. Suitable for all students who have not yet passed a GE math course. This course can be retaken for credit up to two times.

UNIV 103B LEARNING STRATEGIES: STUDY SKILLS (1)

An academic success course that provides in-depth study skills information and practice, including effective time management, test taking, textbook reading, stress management and memory techniques. This course can be retaken for credit up to two times. Cr/NC only.

UNIV 103C LEARNING STRATEGIES: WRITING (1)

An academic success course that reviews strategies, skills and habits that lead to improved academic writing. This course can be retaken for credit up to two times.

UNIV 103D LEARNING STRATEGIES: ACADEMIC READING (1)

An academic success course that introduces strategies to aid comprehension and retention of academic reading skills required across the university disciplines. This course can be retaken for credit up to two times.

UNIV 103S LEARNING STRATEGIES: SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION (1)

Discipline-specific study skills taught in the context of a designated GE course. Consent of instructor required. May be taken three times. Cr/NC only. Corequisite: enrollment in designated GE course.

UNIV 150A FRESHMAN YEAR EXPERIENCE: IDENTITY AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES (5)

Designed specifically for first-year students at Sonoma State University, provides an interdisciplinary examination of social, political, scientific, and personal aspects of identity (fall semester) and our global connections and responsibilities (spring semester). Through writing, research, and creative assignments, students develop analysis, research, and communication skills vital to success in college. Satisfies GE categories A1 and A3.

UNIV 150B FRESHMAN YEAR EXPERIENCE: IDENTITY AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES (4)

Designed specifically for first-year students at Sonoma State University, provides an interdisciplinary examination of social, political, scientific, and personal aspects of identity (fall semester) and our global connections and responsibilities (spring semester). Through writing, research, and creative assignments, students develop analysis, research, and communication skills vital to success in college. Satisfies GE categories A1 and A3.