

# THEATRE

Department Office: 522 Hunter North; (212) 772-5148

Chair: Jonathan Kalb

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Web Site: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/theatre>

**Professors:**

Bosch, Calderon, Felner, Kalb, Rutenberg

**Associate Professor:** Orenstein

**Assistant Professors:**

Sikes, Thompson, Walters

**Adviser:** Louisa Thompson

HEGIS Code: 1007

Majors Offered	Number Credits	Major Requirements	Recommended/ Required GER	Prereq	Recommended Minor
BA in Theatre	30	THEA 211, 212, 213, 251, 261, 321 .....18 cr THEA 281 or 285 plus one course selected from the following: THEA 381, 383, 384, 385, or 387 .....6 cr Electives chosen from 300-level courses .....6 cr 2 production crews .....(not-for-credit)	See adviser	Students must have earned at least 24 credits to declare a Theatre major.	Theatre majors may select a minor from any department or program in the college that offers a program of study leading to a BA degree. Students should consult the departmental adviser regarding appropriate minor choices.

The Department of Theatre studies stage production, the history and theory of theatre and drama, and the relationship among text, theory and performance. Theatre courses include acting, playwriting, directing, history, theory, design, production, theatre for young audiences, creative drama and interdisciplinary performance. The curriculum was developed with an emphasis on professional standards within a liberal arts context.

The theatre major requires courses in practical hands-on work, as well as study of theoretical, critical, and historical approaches to theatre. Interdisciplinary courses include acting, lighting and design for theatre, film and television, adaptation for theatre and film, and comparative aesthetics. Students pursuing a major in theatre must work on theatre productions as part of their requirements for graduation. Advanced undergraduate playwrights may have their work produced by Hunter Playwrights.

Many students who graduate from the theatre program work as actors, directors, stage managers, and designers. Some of our students continue their creative study in conservatory or MFA programs. Others continue their education in history and theory as MA or PhD students. Graduates who concentrate in developmental drama frequently enter the field as teachers and directors of theatre in education.

The department maintains associations with major theatre institutions. Students have opportunities for placement as interns and apprentices with various professional groups.

**Honors**

Open to any qualified junior or senior with a 3.5 GPA in Theatre and an overall minimum GPA of 2.7 and permission of the chair. Individual work under faculty supervision. Departmental honors granted at graduation.

**MAJOR IN THEATRE**

(30 cr)

Students must have earned at least 24 credits to declare a Theatre major.

- THEA 211, 212, 213, 251, 261, 321 .....18 cr
- THEA 281 or 285 plus one course selected from the following: THEA 381, 383, 384, 385, or 387 .....6 cr
- Electives chosen from 300-level courses ..6 cr
- 2 production crews (not-for-credit)

**Minor**

Theatre majors may select a minor from any department or program in the college that offers a program of study leading to a BA degree. Students should consult the departmental adviser regarding appropriate minor choices.

**Minor for Non-Majors**

Any 12 credits including THEA 101, to be selected with major adviser.

**COURSE LISTINGS**

**BASIC COURSES**

**THEA 101 Introduction to Theatre**

GER 2/D

Study of elements of theatre arts — acting, directing, playwriting, design — from standpoints of both viewer and participant.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 151 Introduction to Theatre Production**

Lectures and practical backstage work in all aspects of production. Work on studio and major productions required.

5 hrs, 2 cr.

**THEA 161 Acting I: Basic Acting Techniques**

For intended majors and non-majors. Exploration of the fundamentals of acting technique through improvisation.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**INTERMEDIATE COURSES**

**THEA 211(W) World Theatre I**

GER 2/C PD/D

Survey of international theatre from its pre-Greek origins to the Spanish Golden Age.

prereqs: ENGL 120, THEA 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 212(W) World Theatre II**

GER 2/C PD/D

Survey of international theatre from the Elizabethan period to Wagner.

prereq: ENGL 120, THEA 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 213(W) World Theatre III**

GER 2/C PD/D

Survey of international theatre from 19th-century Naturalism to the present day.

prereq: ENGL 120, THEA 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 214(W) Multicultural Perspectives in Theatrical Performance**

GER 3/A PD/B

Study of a selected minority theatre tradition in the United States: original roots, development, and influence on the cultural life of the group to be studied and on American culture in general. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

prereq: THEA 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 215(W) Black Theatre**

GER 3/A PD/B

Background and development, present practice, and future possibilities of Black theatre in America.

prereq: ENGL 120, THEA 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 241 Creative Dramatics**

GER 3/A

An experiential class which focuses on process-centered drama in which participants imagine, enact, and reflect upon the human experience using role play, pantomime, theatre games, exercises, and story dramatization.

prereq: THEA 101  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 242 Theatre for Young Audiences**

GER 3/A

Study of dramatic literature, theatre scripts, and presentations, plus an overview of those companies that produce theatre for young audiences.

*prereq:* THEA 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 243 Theatre for Young Audiences:****Laboratory**

GER 3/A

Casting, rehearsal, and production of a play for children.

*prereq:* audition or perm instr.  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 244 Drama and Disability**

GER 3/A

Examines the many myths of disabilities and uses those myths to create dramatic material to educate and help others to understand these misconceptions through theatre.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 251 Theatre Production**

Practical and academic work on the departmental production.

*prereq:* THEA 101 or perm instr.  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 261 Acting II: Contemporary Drama**

GER 3/A

Fundamentals of scene study focusing on text analysis, personalization, objective and action using American realism.

*prereq:* THEA 161 or perm instr.  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 262 Acting III: Contemporary Drama**

GER 3/A

Continued work on scene study using realistic plays from the world repertory.

*prereq:* THEA 261 or perm instr.  
*coreq:* THEA 263  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 263 Basic Voice and Movement for Performers**

Freeing the natural voice; resonance and range; movement systems and skills.

*coreq:* THEA 262  
3 hrs, 2 cr.

**THEA 281 Visual Elements of Theatre**

Theory and practice of various design elements that constitute complete theatrical production. Course for actors, directors, playwrights, and others not concentrating in design. Practical work on productions included.

*prereq:* THEA 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 282 Theatrical Design Techniques**

GER 3/A

Practical training in skills of drawing, painting, and model-making necessary for designing of scenery, costumes, and lights. Studio design work included. Prerequisite for all advanced design courses.

*prereq:* THEA 101

**THEA 283 Stagecraft**

GER 3/A

Technical problems of production: construction, rigging, and handling of scenery. Practical work included.

*prereq:* THEA 101  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 284 Makeup for the Stage**

GER 3/A

Practical instruction in use of stage makeup.

*prereq:* THEA 101  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 285 Design Concepts for Theatre, Film, and Television**

GER 3/A

Theoretical and practical elements of design in theatre, film, and television.

*prereq:* THEA 101 or FILM 101  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 298 Special Topics in Theatre and Film**

GER 3/A

A specific topic will be listed in the Schedule of Classes for a given semester.

*prereq:* perm dept.  
1-3 hrs, 1-3 cr.

**UPPER-LEVEL COURSES****THEA 321(W) Play Analysis**

GER 3/A PD/D

Principles of play analysis; examination of play structure, theatrical form, and historical period.

*prereq:* THEA 211 or 212 or 213  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 322(W) Theatre Theory and Criticism**

GER 3/A PD/D

Major theatrical theories, with emphasis on modern, as applied to acting, design, directing, and playwriting.

*prereq:* THEA 211 or 212 or 213  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 323(W) 20th Century Aesthetics in Theatre and Film**

GER 3/A

Points of interaction, mutual influence, and cross-fertilization between theatre and film in theory and praxis.

*prereq:* THEA 213 or FILM 211 or 212; ENGL 120  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 324(W) Adaptation in Theatre and Film**

GER 3/A

Examination of examples of works adapted to the stage or screen from another medium.

*prereqs:* THEA 321 or FILM 211 or 212; ENGL 120  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 331(W) Avant-Garde Theatre of the 20th Century**

GER 3/A PD/D

Departures from realism — Expressionism, Artaud, Brecht, Grotowski — from Alfred Jarry to the present.

*pre- or coreq:* THEA 211 or 212 or 213  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 332 Theatre of Realism and Naturalism**

GER 3/A PD/D

Plays, theory, and stagecraft of realism and naturalism movements from the late 19th century to the present.

*pre- or coreq:* THEA 211 or 212 or 213  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 333 Alternative Performance**

GER 3/A PD/D

Study of performance styles and practices using theatre and/or film in non-traditional modes.

*prereqs:* THEA 213 or THEA 323  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 341 Creative Drama Leadership Techniques: Special Groups**

GER 3/A

Creative drama for groups such as handicapped, emotionally disturbed, geriatric, and the institutionalized.

*prereq:* THEA 241  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 342 Creative Drama in the Community**

GER 3/A

Practical application of techniques and processes of creative drama in community-centered groups.

*prereq:* THEA 241  
3 hrs, 3 cr.



**THEA 351 Theatre Workshop**

Individual assignments to backstage positions in production and management of departmental presentations.

*prereq:* THEA 252  
5 hrs, 2 cr.

**THEA 361 Acting: Departures from Realism**

GER 3/A

Scene study as it applies to nonrealistic works such as absurdist plays, epic theatre, and expressionist works.

*prereqs:* THEA 211 or 212 or 213; THEA 262, 263 or *perm instr.*  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 362 Acting: Period Drama**

GER 3/A PD/D

Scene study from such periods as Greek, Elizabethan, and Restoration.

*prereqs:* THEA 211 or 212 or 213; THEA 262, 263 or *perm instr.*  
*coreq:* THEA 363  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 363 Advanced Voice and Movement for Performers**

GER 3/A

Continuation of voice and movement exercises; integration into systematic approach for actors.

*prereq:* THEA 263  
*coreq:* THEA 362  
3 hrs, 2 cr.

**THEA 364 Mime and Masks**

GER 3/A

Practical course in mime and mask exercises for actors, designed to open new avenues for emotional expression.

*prereq:* THEA 363  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 365 Screen Acting**

GER 3/A

Fundamental techniques unique to acting in film and television.

*prereqs:* FILM 101, THEA 262  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 371 Directing I**

GER 3/A

Principles of play production; directorial concepts; focusing audience attention on dramatic values.

*prereqs:* THEA 211 or 212 or 213, THEA 261, 321 or *perm instr.*  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 372 Directing II**

GER 3/A

Continued study of principles; incorporation of design elements; full laboratory production of one-act play by each student.

*prereq:* THEA 371 or *perm instr.*  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 376(W) Playwriting I**

GER 3/A

Study of problems in playwriting based on the student's own work.

*prereq:* THEA 101 or *perm instr.*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 377 Playwriting II**

GER 3/A

Continued study of playwriting techniques, with emphasis on the structure and form of the full-length play.

*prereq:* THEA 376 or *perm instr.*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 378 Scriptwriting for Young Audiences: Theatre, Film, and Television**

GER 3/A

Fundamentals of scriptwriting for young audiences for stage, film, and television; critique of original student scripts.

*prereq:* THEA 101 or FILM 101 or *perm instr.*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 381 Scene Design I**

GER 3/A

Fundamentals of design for theatre, film, and television.

*pre- or coreq:* THEA 281  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 382 Scene Design II**

GER 3/A

Problems of set design for plays, musicals, ballet, opera, film, and television; scene painting.

*prereq:* THEA 381  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 383 Costuming for the Stage**

GER 3/A

Study and practice in stage costuming; historical periods and styles; fabrics, patterns, and construction.

*prereq:* THEA 281  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 384 Stage Lighting**

GER 3/A

Principles, techniques, and practice of lighting for theatre, emphasizing its contribution to dramatic interpretation.

*prereq:* THEA 281 or FILM 251  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 385 Production Design I for Theatre, Film, and Television**

GER 3/A

Theory and practice in scenic design for theatre, film, and television.

*prereqs:* THEA 101 or FILM 101 and THEA 285  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 386 Production Design II for Theatre, Film, and Television**

GER 3/A

Theory and practice in costume design for theatre, film, and television.

*prereqs:* THEA 101 or FILM 101 and THEA 285  
4 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 387 Concepts of Light in Theatre, Film, and Television**

GER 3/A

The aesthetics, styles, conventions, and vocabulary of lighting in theatre, film, and television: how light establishes style, mood, rhythm, and atmosphere as interpretive elements of performance.

*prereq:* THEA 281 or THEA 285  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 388 Theatres and Movie Palaces: Contemporary Culture**

GER 3/A

Exploration of the architecture and evolution of selected 20th-century theatre and movie palaces.

*prereq:* THEA 213 or FILM 211  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 391 Theatre Projects**

GER 3/A

Experimental work in design or directing for advanced theatre students.

*pre- or coreqs:* THEA 372, 381, *perm chair*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 398 Studies in Theatre**

GER 3/A

Specialized topics for majors will be listed in the Schedule of Classes for a given semester.

*prereq: variable*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**SPECIAL AND INDIVIDUAL STUDIES COURSES****THEA 253.01 Special Topics in Theatre Performance**

GER 3/A

Credit for participation in the departmental production. This course may be taken up to three times for credit.

*prereq: perm instr*  
5 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 297 Special Topics in Theatre**

GER 3/A

Not offered at all times. A specific topic will be listed in Schedule of Classes for a given semester.

*prereq: perm dept.*  
1-3 hrs, 1-3 cr.

**THEA 397 Studies in Theatre**

GER 3/A

Not offered at all times. Specialized topics for majors will be listed in Schedule of Classes for a given semester.

*prereq: variable*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 401 Seminar**

GER 3/A

Not offered at all times. Readings, discussion, and papers on significant problems in theatre and film.

*prereq: perm dept.*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.

**THEA 402 Independent Research**

GER 3/A

Open to majors only. Directed program of reading, research, or creative presentation, arranged on an individual basis with a faculty mentor.

*prereq: perm chair*  
1-3 hrs, 1-3 cr.

**THEA 498 Internship**

GER 3/A

Placement in appropriate off-campus locations, arranged on an individual basis with a faculty mentor.

*prereq: perm dept.*  
1-6 hrs, 1-6 cr.

**THEA 499 Honors Project**

GER 3/A

Open to majors only. Individual work under faculty supervision, qualifies student for departmental honors at graduation.

*prereq: 3.5 major GPA, 2.7 overall GPA,*  
*perm chair*  
3 hrs, 3 cr.