

Projects in Theatre and Performance Practicum

The department has established two ways for students to receive credit for working on productions (separate from Production classes/crew). Projects in Theatre is used for non-acting work, such as stage management, design, dramaturgy, playwriting, directing, etc. It is available to both undergraduates and graduate students. The number is 049:196. Performance Practicum is used for actors who wish credit for performing in a faculty-directed production. The number is 049:198 (or, in unusual cases, 188:198).

With these new elements, Theatre Arts students have four ways to get independent credit: (a) Independent study, mostly for academic work; (b) Projects in theatre for production related independent work under the strict supervision of a faculty member; (c) Performance practicum for acting in a faculty directed play; and (d) Honors.

Projects in Theatre for Graduate Students

These notes indicate how graduate programs give credit to students for production related projects. The maximum number of hours an MFA student can be required to take, formally by the Graduate College, is 64. The total maximum number of hours we (and the Graduate College) permit is now 82. "Projects in Theatre" is not required. It is a method of providing elective courses to students to recognize their work in production, and to recognize the teaching/mentoring of faculty.

Acting

- Semester Hours: 1 per project
- What students do: Students act in faculty directed productions. In addition, they Students are expected to perform in at least 2 new works while in residency at Iowa. They will receive one production credit for each new work in which they perform, not to exceed 3. This will take the total earnable credits from 72 to 76, but may go as high as 82. All production credits will be graded pass/fail.
- Supervision: the faculty director supervises all main stage, faculty directed productions; a member of the Acting faculty supervises all approved works not directed by a faculty member.
- Expectations: Performances will be well rehearsed and performed.
- Evaluation: will be completed by both the director and the acting faculty.

Design

- Semester hours: 1 each semester for 1st years; 3 each for 2nd years; 3 each for 3rd years.

- What Students Do: Design gallery, second stage, or mainstage productions in Theatre Arts or Dance.
- Supervision: A design faculty member closely supervises the entire process, from preliminary designs to finals, including the budgeting process and technical rehearsals. Students and faculty meet at least every week, more if situations merit such.
- Expectations: Designs will be completed fully and successfully.
- Evaluation: Students must provide a full set of designs with other relevant materials, such as drafting, models, or costume plots, as well as a complete set of production photographs to the full design faculty at the end of the semester at which time students will formally present the designs along with an oral account of the process and receive detailed faculty feedback.

Directing

- Semester hours: 3 per production; maximum number of productions: 6
- What Students Do: Direct a Gallery, Workshop or New Play Festival production. (Main stage productions are already given credit through the thesis).
- Supervision: A directing faculty member closely supervises the entire process, from preparation of the script through casting, rehearsal, technical rehearsal and performance. Student and faculty meet at least every other week, more if situations merit such.
- Expectations: All aspects of the production process will be completed fully and successfully.
- Evaluation: Students write a 3-4 page paper reflecting on their strengths and weaknesses in both the process and product. A final meeting between student and faculty member is required, during which the paper is submitted and discussed.

Dramaturgy

- Semester hours: 1-3 per production, depending on duties of the dramaturg in the process. Maximum number of semester hours: 18.
- What Students Do: Serve as dramaturg on department Mainstage or Gallery production. Conduct research and analysis for director, playwright (if appropriate), and creative team. Attend creative meetings and rehearsals and provide dramaturgical feedback to director and playwright. Prepare program notes, study guide, and other production-related documents, as needed.
- Supervision: A member of the Playwriting/Dramaturgy faculty closely supervises the student's work throughout the production process. The work is also discussed in the Dramaturgy Practicum. The faculty member meets with the student an average of once every two weeks and conducts a follow-up conference with the student after the production closes.
- Expectations: Fullest possible dramaturgical engagement with the production process.
- Evaluation: The student compiles a casebook consisting of samples of research, writing, rehearsal notes, and a short (2-3 pp.) paper reflecting on the process and his/her role in it as dramaturg. All or parts of this casebook may in turn, become part of the student's

dramaturgy portfolio at the end of the second year.

Playwriting

- Semester hours: 3 s.h. per production; maximum number of productions: 6
- What Students Do: Write and develop a new play for Gallery or New Play Festival production.
- Supervision: A member of the Playwriting/Dramaturgy faculty closely supervises the development of the script throughout the production process and advises on the student's collaboration with the director, dramaturg, and creative team. Faculty supervision includes meeting with the student an average of once every two weeks, attending at least one rehearsal, and conducting a follow-up conference with the student after the production closes.
- Expectations: Fullest possible development of the script and successful collaboration with the director, dramaturg, and creative team.
- Evaluation: Conducted verbally in the post-production conference, in which the script and its process of development will be assessed in relation to the student's overall progress in the program.

Stage Management

- Semester hours: 3
- What students do: Stage Manage or Assistant Stage Manage a mainstage or opera production; PSM New Play Festival
- Supervision: For mainstage and opera, James Birder acts as supervisor; meets with student at least every other week, more if situations merit such. For New Play Festival, David McGraw acts as supervisor and meets with student at least every other week, more if situations merit such.
- Expectations: The expectation is that the students will successfully perform their responsibilities in a timely manner and professional fashion.
- Evaluation: A 3-5 page self-reflection paper is written by the student and the overall experience is discussed with the appropriate faculty member, James or David.

Projects in Theatre for Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate students: available for all areas with special permission of a faculty member. 1-3 semester hours.

Performance Practicum For Acting Students

Description: In this course students act in a faculty-directed production produced by the Theatre Arts Department. Permission of instructor (director) required.

049:198, or 188:198, Performance Practicum. Students should use 049:198 if possible; they will generally use 188 only if 049 will push them over 18 s.h. in a term. 188 should be cross-listed and have its home in Theatre. New numbers are THTR: 4695/PAE:4695

1-2 S.H. There is no limit to the number of times the course can be repeated.

S/U only. Note that only 6 s.h. of pass/fail credit are counted toward the 120 required for graduation. Students who have more than 6 hours may decide which 6 are to be counted. All completed courses are included on the transcript.

Approved by the Theatre Arts Faculty, spring, 2010