Theatre And Dance

Department Information

Department of Theatre & Dance website
https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/theatre/

The programs are designed to provide students with a theoretical foundation and a practical proficiency in the arts of theatre.

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) allows the student to gain a better understanding of the theatre, while the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) provides pre-professional training in the same field. Both include lectures, workshops, and practical experience in all phases of the theatre.

All first-time freshmen must successfully complete CAS 100: First Year Experience as a degree requirement. Students must enroll during their first term at USA, except for summer-entry students who must enroll in the fall semester following entry. DRA 150 will fulfill the technology proficiency requirement for Theatre & Dance majors.

Areas Of Study

Drama (BA)
Minor in Drama
Minor in Drama with Concentration in Dance
Theatre Arts (BFA) - Performance Concentration

Courses

Drama (DRA)

DRA 100  Theatre Wkshp Rehrs-Perform  1 cr
Practical experience in acting. May be repeated three times for a maximum of four credit hours. Prerequisite: Permission of department chair. Fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in general education.

DRA 101  Theatre Wksp Tech Production  1 cr
Practical experience in backstage work. May be repeated three times for a maximum of four credit hours. Prerequisite: Permission of department chair. Fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in general education.

DRA 102  Theatre Wksp Special Act  1 cr
Practical experience in theatre areas other than acting or technical production. May be repeated three times for a maximum of four credit hours. Prerequisite: Permission of department chair. Fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in general education.

DRA 103  Theatre Symposium  .5 cr
A symposium required for all full-time Theatre majors meeting weekly to share and discuss theatre activities. Four hours required for majors for graduation with adjustments made for transfer students. Prerequisites: Must be Theatre Major

DRA 104  Fundamentals of Dance I  3 cr
Beginning level instruction in dance, including theory and terminology, with a primary focus on classical ballet. Designed to prepare the student dancer for performance.

DRA 105  Fundamentals of Dance II  3 cr
Beginning-level instruction in Dance, with a primary focus on jazz and modern. Through the study of technique, theory, and terminology, students will be introduced to the form from the viewpoint of audience member, performer, and choreographer.

DRA 110  Introduction to Theatre  3 cr
A basic survey of theatre practice. Fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in general education.
DRA 111  Introduction to Dance  3 cr  
A basic survey of dance as an art form. Through readings, lectures, viewing of live and filmed dance, and basic studio work, students will gain a better appreciation of the historical development and forms of the art.

DRA 115  Acting for Non-Majors  3 cr  
An interactive course designed to introduce the non-major to the art and discipline of acting as both performer and observer. Through a sequence of exercises and practice, the student will be introduced to the actor’s mode of thinking, creating, and working. Fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.

DRA 116  Opera & Musical Theatre Workshop  .5 cr  
A performing ensemble dedicated to training students in the fundamentals of stage craft, performance, and production through experience with music for the stage. Standards of opera, operetta, and American musical theatre are explored in scene exercises and fully staged productions on and off campus. Enrollment is open to all students through audition or permission of the instructor. Course is cross-listed with MUO 116. Credit cannot be received for both MUO 116 and DRA 116. May be repeated four times for a maximum of two credit hours. Fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.

DRA 120  Acting I  3 cr  
A workshop-lecture course introducing a basic process for acting on the stage in the style of modern realism. Restriction: Must be a Drama major or minor or a dance minor. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.

DRA 130  Stagecraft  3 cr  
A lecture-laboratory course in the fundamentals of stagecraft. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.

DRA 131  Fundamentals of Stage Lighting  3 cr  
A lecture-laboratory course in the fundamentals of stage lighting. Prerequisite: This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education. Pre-requisite: DRA 133 Minimum Grade of C. DRA 133 can be taken concurrently with this course.

DRA 132  Costume Fundamentals  3 cr  
A lecture-laboratory course in the fundamentals of costumeing for the stage, including basic sewing skills as they apply to theatrical costumes. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.

DRA 133  Computer Graphics Theatre  1 cr  
The fundamentals of computer drafting and graphic design for the stage.

DRA 150  Text Analysis  3 cr  
Reading and analyzing play scripts as blueprints for dramatic actions, sights, sounds, characters, and productions. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.
DRA 301  Adv Wksp Technical Production  1 cr
Advanced practical experience in backstage work. May be repeated for a total of 4 hours. Prerequisites: Junior status and permission of instructor.

DRA 302  Adv Wksp Spec Activities  1 cr
Advanced practical experience in theatre areas other than acting or technical production. May be repeated three times for a total of four hours. Prerequisites: Junior status and permission of department chair.

DRA 310  Playwriting  3 cr
Studies in character, plot development, and the one-act play form. Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor.

DRA 315  History of Musical Theatre  3 cr
A comprehensive overview of the origins and evolution of American Music Theatre to present time. The course also includes both general and specific information toward appropriate performance choices. Cross-listed with MUL 315. Credit cannot be received for both DRA 315 and MUL 315.
Pre-requisite: EH 101 Minimum Grade of C and (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C).

DRA 322  Adv. Voice and Movement  3 cr
An in-depth continuation of voice and movement training for the actor, with a focus on extending range and expressivity in the voice and body. Emphasis will be placed on understanding and transforming the actor's vocal and physical instrument. DRA 120, 220, and 221, or permission of department chair.
Pre-requisite: DRA 120 Minimum Grade of C and DRA 220 Minimum Grade of C and DRA 221 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 323  Acting II  3 cr
Course is designed to teach theory and techniques in character development and analysis, as used in Realistic theatre, through the use of scene study. Prerequisites: DRA 120 Acting I, DRA 220 Stage Movement, DRA 221 Voice of the Actor, or permission of the dept. chair.
Pre-requisite: DRA 120 Minimum Grade of C and DRA 220 Minimum Grade of C or DRA 222 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 330  Scene Design  3 cr
The fundamentals of scene design for the stage. Prerequisite: Limited to undergraduate status.
Pre-requisite: DRA 133 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 331  Lighting Design  3 cr
The course focuses on the fundamentals of lighting design for the Stage.
Pre-requisite: DRA 131 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 333  Design Portfolio  1 cr
An upper-level course meant to help graduating students focus on designing and developing an aesthetically pleasing portfolio for either graduate school interviews or professional theatre interviews. Development of a digital portfolio and a web page will also be included.

DRA 334  Costume Design  3 cr
A class in basic design theory, concentrating on design concept, characterization and research. Some instruction in figure drawing and rendering. Artistic and Technical concerns as they apply to Costume Design will be addressed through lectures, discussions, and critiques. The course will focus on the first half of the design process: research, direction and rendering of ideas. Special concentration will focus on character analysis and their physical manifestations. In-class critiques will help the student to identify and utilize the characteristics of good design.

DRA 340  Directing I  3 cr
The fundamental techniques involved in directing a stage play: analysis, casting, and blocking.
Pre-requisite: DRA 120 Minimum Grade of C and DRA 150 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 350  Theatre History I - W  3 cr
A comprehensive study of the important developments in theatre art from its beginnings to 1642, including a computer component.
Pre-requisite: DRA 120 Minimum Grade of C and DRA 150 Minimum Grade of C and EH 102 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 351  Theatre History II - W  3 cr
A continuation of DRA 350 from the Restoration to the present.
Pre-requisite: (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C).

DRA 352  Period Styles For The Theatre  3 cr
Historical study of dress in relation to costuming for the Stage. For Tech-Design students and Actors.

DRA 401  3-Dimensional Makeup and Masks  3 cr
A class in basic face casting, theatrical masks and slush mold latex appliances for the Stage.
Pre-requisite: DRA 210 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 416  Opera & Musical Theatre Wkshop .5 cr
A performing ensemble dedicated to training students in the fundamentals of stage craft, performance, and production through experience with music for the stage. Standards of opera, operetta, and American musical theatre are explored in scene exercises and fully-staged productions on and off campus. Enrollment is open to all students through audition or permission of the instructor. Course is cross-listed with MUO 416. Credit cannot be received for both MUO 416 and DRA 416. May be repeated four times for a maximum of two credit hours. Fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.

DRA 420  Studies in Acting Styles  3 cr
Variable content course featuring acting styles found in different theatrical genres as well as for the camera. May be repeated twice for credit when topic varies.
Pre-requisite: DRA 120 Minimum Grade of C and DRA 220 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 421  3-Dimensional Makeup and Masks  3 cr
A class in basic face casting, theatrical masks and slush mold latex appliances for the Stage.
Pre-requisite: DRA 210 Minimum Grade of C.
DRA 433  Studies in Advanced Design  -  3 cr
Advanced studies in either Scene Design, Costume Design, or Lighting Design for the Stage. May be repeated once if the topic varies for a total of six credits.
Pre-requisite: DRA 330 Minimum Grade of C or DRA 431 Minimum Grade of C or DRA 432 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 435  Design Practicum - Main Stage  -  3 cr
A class geared to giving the student practical application design theory, continued development of render/modeling skill, and actualization of design
Pre-requisite: DRA 330 Minimum Grade of C or DRA 331 Minimum Grade of C or DRA 332 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 460  Theatre for Youth  -  3 cr
The reading and production techniques of plays for children and teenagers.

DRA 480  Senior Capstone  -  3 cr
"A culminating experience for all theatre majors, this course will provide instruction in professional theatre business practices aimed at graduating students about to leave the university for early career opportunities, as well as afford the student the opportunity to prepare and present a major research project that builds upon and synthesizes the knowledge and skills acquired during their theatre studies. A presentation of the research project will be presented to the entire department, and adjudicated by the full-time theatre faculty."
Pre-requisite: DRA 340 Minimum Grade of C.

DRA 490  Special Topics  -  1 TO 3 cr
Various topics of special interest to Theatre majors.
Restrictions: Limited to undergraduate status. Prerequisite: Permission of department chair. May be repeated once for a maximum of six credit hours when topic varies.

DRA 494  Directed Studies  -  1 TO 3 cr
Independent study under faculty supervision, involving research readings, or artistic projects.
Restrictions: Limited to undergraduate status. Prerequisites: Permission of department chair. May be repeated seven times for a maximum of eight credit hours.

DRA 496  Theatre Internship  -  6 cr
Practical experience in stock, repertory, or touring theatre.

Faculty

MILLER, LYLE B.
Professor
BFA, University of Oklahoma-Norman
MFA, University of Oklahoma-Norman

NARA, JOHN A.
Part-Time Instructor
BA, Le Moyne College
MFA, University of Alabama

TATOM, LAWRENCE R.
Associate Professor
AA, Sacramento City College
BA, California State U-Sacramento
MFA, University of NC- Greensboro
PHD, University of Colorado-Boulder