

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. Please note: Admittance to the Theatre Arts (BFA) Performance Concentration requires a successful audition and interview. Incoming students who are interested in this concentration will be initially enrolled as drama (BA) students.

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)

DRA 100 Theatre Practicum: Performance 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 Practicum: Tech 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 Practicum: Leadership 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 106 Theatre Cornerstone 1 cr

An introductory course designed to familiarize incoming majors to the basics of professional theatre, the expectations for the upcoming 4-year degree, and the processes of the USA Department of Theatre and Dance.

- 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 Wkshop** .5 TO 1 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 125 Fundamentals of Acting** 3 cr
An introductory class in acting for the stage, aimed at those with little or no previous experience. Students will be introduced to a basic acting vocabulary, begin to develop skills in necessary script analysis, observe acting through live and recorded performances, and gain practical experience in acting through exercise, rehearsal and performance.
- 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 costuming 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 135 Fund of Technical Theatre I** 3 cr
A basic survey of fundamentals of scenery and lights for the theatre. This course prepares students for the Essential Skills in Entertainment Technician exams as proctored by the United States Institute of Theatre.
- DRA 136 Fund of Technical Theatre II** 3 cr
A basic survey of fundamentals of Costuming, Wigs/Stage Make-up and Properties for theatre. Course prepares students for the Essential Skills in Entertainment Technician exams as proctored by the United States Institute of Theatre.
- 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 204 Dance Techniques I** 3 cr
A review and expansion of technique, vocabulary, and history of ballet, jazz, and theatrical dance. Pre-requisite: DRA 104 Minimum Grade of D or DRA 105 Minimum Grade of D.
- DRA 205 Dance Techniques II** 3 cr
An exploration of modern dance techniques, vocabulary, and history with ballet as their basis. Pre-requisite: DRA 204 Minimum Grade of D.
- DRA 210 Makeup** 1 cr
A study of the materials and techniques of theatrical makeup.
- DRA 220 Stage Movement** 3 cr
Through exercises and scene study, student-actors explore movement for the stage. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education. Pre-requisite: DRA 121 Minimum Grade of C.
- DRA 221 Voice for Actors** 3 cr
A workshop-lecture course in speaking voice and articulation for performance. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education. Pre-requisite: DRA 121 Minimum Grade of C.
- DRA 230 Drawing & Drafting for Theatre** 2 cr
Drawing and Drafting for the Theatre-An introductory course designed to develop basic skills in freehand drawing and mechanical drafting for theatre and the entertainment industry.

- DRA 233 Rendering for the Theatre** 1 cr
This course focuses on the major painting mediums, styles, of illustration, and techniques utilized in the visual presentations of costume, scene and lighting design for the theatre. The student will develop artistic skills and techniques through studio work in drawing and painting projects for the theatre. One (1) hour (second of three one (1) hour courses designed to develop Theatre Design & Technology students portfolio skills).
- DRA 235 Fund of Theatrical Design** 3 cr
A basic survey of theatrical design practices including the fundamental elements of line, shape, texture, composition, and color utilized for visual communication.
Pre-requisite: DRA 135 Minimum Grade of C and DRA 136 Minimum Grade of C.
- DRA 250 Theatre Management** 3 cr
A basic course in the principles of accounting, purchasing, box office management, house management, and promotion. This course fulfills the Fine Arts and Humanities requirement in General Education.
- DRA 261 Creative Dramatics** 3 cr
A practical course concerned with improvisational acting with children. Of special interest to students in Education and Leisure Services.
- DRA 290 Special Topics -** 1 TO 3 cr
Theatre and drama topics not covered in regular curriculum. May be repeated when subject varies for a total of 9 hours.
- DRA 300 Adv Wksp Rehearsal and Perform** 1 cr
Advanced practical experience in acting. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 hours. Prerequisites: Junior status and Permission of Instructor.
- 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 or DRA 220 Minimum Grade of C or DRA 221 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 235 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 235 Minimum Grade of C.
- DRA 332 Costume Design** 3 cr
The fundamentals of costume design for the stage.
Pre-requisite: DRA 235 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 410 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 TO 1 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 and DRA 221 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

JOHNSON, CHRISTINA L.
Assistant Professor
BA, Southern Arkansas Univ-Main
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