New Fall 2014 Drama Courses

DR 93-02: FIRST-YEAR SHOWCASE
This new course offers first-year students with an interest in Drama and Dance an introduction to the department’s offerings. Throughout the semester we will design, research, and rehearse two short plays that will receive fully-staged performances at the end of the fall semester. Students will have opportunities to work as performers, designers, assistant directors, dramaturgs, technicians, stage managers, and production staff.

If you’re curious about our program or interested in exploring production opportunities at Tufts, this course will give you a great introduction to our faculty and our resources. It also offers a guaranteed opportunity to participate in a fall production – for course credit! Questions? Contact Department Chair Heather Nathans at the department website: dramadance.tufts.edu.

T/TH 10:30-11:45 a.m., with recitation T/TH from 12-1:15 p.m.
Instructor: Heather Nathans

DR 93-04: CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL THEATRE
Back by popular demand! An exploration of the contemporary musical as a national and global phenomenon. Consideration of what makes a musical “contemporary,” how musical theater and film find new expression and distribution through changing media technologies. Topics covered may include but are not limited to the American stage and screen musical abroad, intercultural engagement within musical narratives, international collaborations by musical creators, American appropriation of foreign styles and narratives, the musical and national identity, technology’s role in the globalization of the musical. Fulfills the Arts distribution requirement.

T/R 12-1:15 p.m.
Instructor: Barbara W. Grossman

DR 93-05: CLOWN
This course invites the actor into the pleasure of performance. To listen to the body through exercises in rhythm, balance, generosity, and abandon. Blocks and filters that stop impulse fade. The playful self is focused on, so the actor will learn to work without worry and begin to discover the personal clown that creates the world of comedy.

T/TH 1:30-3:15 p.m.
Instructor: Sheriden Thomas

DR 93-06: AFRICANA CINEMA
An investigation of the work of black filmmakers from around the world. Screened films ground our study of the intersection of cinematic form, representation, politics, and the economics of film production. Major and minors works of Spike Lee, Ousmane Sembene, Raoul Peck, and Steve McQueen, among others, will be considered toward a critical appreciation of their individual artistic projects, their place within the history of cinematic expression, and their contributions to our understanding of black life across the diaspora.

M/W 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Instructor: Khary Jones
**DR 93-07: WRITING THE SHORT FILM**
A workshop immersing students in the craft of writing the short film. Our study of film grammar and dramatic construction will mediate our efforts to compose short, engaging narrative works. The course prioritizes story structure and approaches to storytelling that depend heavily on the use of sound and the moving image in the construction of stories for the screen. This writing workshop is supplemented by screenings and analysis of classics of the medium and other innovative narrative short films from around the world. Writing exercises and scripted work build toward a public reading of final scripts.

**TH 1:20-4:20 p.m.**
**Instructor: Khary Jones**

**DR 193-01: ADVANCED FILM PRODUCTION & POST-PRODUCTION**
Students with filmmaking experience will join the production team of the Five Sisters Productions on their current project, “Half the History,” which represents a series of short films on women in American history. We will be working with the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites and the Minute Man National Park to highlight the stories of women associated with the park site, such as Louisa May Alcott and Harriett Lothrop. Production plans include shoots at the historic Wayside home in Concord.

The class will draw on film criticism, feminist theory, and other critical sources to examine the lives of select historical women and diverse representations in film. Through making the film for “Half the History,” students will learn and execute real life strategies for successful producing, including script breakdown, budget, fundraising, contracts, copyright and other legal issues, casting, shooting schedule, location scouting, shooting, editing, marketing and distribution.

**T/TH 10:30-11:45 a.m.**
**Instructor: Jennifer Burton**

**DR 193-04: DIRECTING FOR FILM**
Students with some film experience will hone skills in film directing. Through classes, film shoots, and workshops with industry professionals, students will develop film directing techniques, including how to work with professional actors and ways to use the camera for effective storytelling. Through the creation of short film projects, students will learn and practice the director’s role in pre-production (on set), and in post-production. Students will gain insight into the director’s responsibility as a leader, including the need to develop a clear vision for the film. Through practice, students will gain a working knowledge of the different creative and technical elements of filmmaking, techniques to motivate solid performances, skills in blocking for camera, and knowledge of how to combine aural and visual elements to create an effective film. This course is geared toward students who have taken making movies or have the equivalent film experience.

**T 1:30-4 p.m.**
**Instructor: Jennifer Burton**

For more information, visit dramadance.tufts.edu.