



THEATRE, FILM, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL 2020

TPS-0001-01 and 02: Introduction to Theatre

Theatre has been called “the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” By introducing the student to theatre as a socially expressive art form, this course illuminates aspects of history and human relations through interdisciplinary study. Students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply their knowledge and experiences to class discussion as we explore the process and place of theatre in societies of the past and present. Introduction to Theatre provides the student of any background with an opportunity to intermix their own interests with both the performing arts and cultural studies.

Section 01: MW 10:30-11:45am, Virtual, Huang

Section 02: TR 10:30-11:45am, Virtual, Engel

TPS-0012-01: Modern & Post Modern Theatre

This discussion-based course examines dramatic literature and its theatrical performance from the explosion of "-isms" at the beginning of the twentieth century, through the innovations heralding the beginning of the twenty-first. Modern societies and ways of thinking have undergone radical transformations during this period, as have dramatic and theatrical expression. We will journey through this era of change through the close examination of approximately twenty plays, related critical readings, films of plays, class presentations, and lively discussions.

Section 01: MW 4:30-5:45pm, Virtual, Incampo

TPS-0032-01: Evolution of Fashion

The ever-changing silhouette of clothing from ancient cultures to the present. Emphasis on how the style of each period of dress is influenced by other periods often a response to the previous period and its norms. Through slides, videos, museum visits, actual garments, and texts, students will learn how to recognize the sometimes obvious and other times subtle changes in fashion.

Section 01: R 1:30-4:00pm, Virtual, Pearson

TPS-0045-01, 02, and 03: Introduction to Acting

A basic course in acting aimed at enhancing self-confidence, oral expression, and creativity. Emphasis on concentration, motivation, and improvisation, and what it means to create a character and speak before an audience. Limit of eighteen students per section.

Section 01: MW 4:30-6:00pm, Virtual, Pearson

Section 02: TR 12:30-2:00pm, Virtual, Rezes

Section 03: MW 4:30-6:00pm, Virtual, Spearman

TPS-0048-01: Physical Comedy

Introduction to the principles and practice of physical comedy. Emphasis on theatrical play, comic timing, finding and declaring the game, states of tension, complicity, clowning, clown combat, commedia, and buffoon. Essential investigation of how comedy works, and how to rediscover the playful, ferocious, vulnerable self in the creative moment.

Section 01: TR 10:00-11:45am, Combination on-line and in-person, Thomas

TPS-0057-01: Voice/Speech – Confident Expression

A course in persuasive communication designed to empower students to speak with confidence and fluency in any situation. Explores the connection between sound and movement, breath and body, mindfulness and positive energy through physical and vocal exercises intended to maximize the full range of flexibility, variety and contrast in vocal expression. Focuses on such essential aspects of voice as pitch, pace, volume, inflection, and articulation, with special attention to the demands of public speaking.

Section 01: MW 1:30-2:45pm, Virtual, Grossman

TPS-0058-01, 02, and 03: Public Speaking

Introductory course exploring the fundamentals of clear, confident, and effective communication in one-on-one and group settings. Development of tension management skills, good breathing habits, awareness of body language, and the ability to engage an audience through a series of practical exercises. Specific vocal work focuses on tone, variety of pitch, rate, volume, and articulation.

Section 01: MW 1:30-2:45pm, Virtual, Cooney

Section 02: MW 3:00-4:15pm, Virtual, Cooney

Section 03: TR 4:30-5:45pm, Virtual, O’Leary

TPS-0061-01: Scene Painting

Study and practice of the techniques of scene painting and surface treatment applicable to the execution of theatrical designs.

Section 01: TR 4:30-5:45pm, In-Person, Simpson

TPS-0071-01: Costume Design

(Cross listed w/FMS 36)

Development of the skills of script analysis, rendering, and process for the design of costumes.

Section 01: T 1:30-4:20pm, Hybrid, Ross

[TPS-0079-01 and 02: Screenwriting I](#)

(Cross-listed as FMS 32-01)

Immersive workshop in the craft of writing short, engaging scripts. Introduction to screenwriting and dramatic construction, taking the short film from concept to screenplay. Screenings and analysis of narrative shorts from around the world supplement weekly script development and roundtable discussion of student work. Department Consent Required.

Section 01: T 9:00am-12:00pm, Virtual, Jones

Section 02: R 9:00am-12:00pm, Virtual, Jones

[TPS-0092-01: Special Topics: Computer Assisted Drafting NEW](#)

An introductory level course intended to introduce students to two of the industry-standard computer drafting programs: Vectorworks and AutoCAD. The course will explore drafting conventions, document set-up, commands, paper space, and more. The course will be taught in two modules, with each module focusing on one platform then rotating to the other. There are no prerequisites.

Section 01: MW 10:30-11:45am, Virtual, Lilienthal/Pizzuti.

[TPS-0093-01: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender on the U.S. American Stage](#)

(Cross-listed WGSS 85-43)

This class questions how artists have embraced the many challenges of representing “nation” in performance, exploring both their triumphs and their failures. We will explore works by those who challenged gender norms or fought racial and ethnic biases to share their stories.

Section 01: MW 10:30-11:45am, Hybrid, Nathans & Levenson

[TPS-0093-02: Special Topics: Acting for TV & Film NEW](#)

You will learn how to use acting techniques to create believable characters in various gesture of Television and Film. You will work on Eye Line (where to look), how to best use your voice, how to access emotions, and physicality. Students will review each other’s work.

Section 02: MW 9:30-11:00am, Virtual, Parent

[TPS-0093-03: TV in the Age of Change NEW](#)

(Cross-listed FMS 165-01/ILVS 72-01)

Examines how new technologies and shifting viewing habits are transforming television; how storytelling is changing in light of TV’s industrial and technological evolution and our global, networked, media environment; and how contemporary viewing habits are reshaping our theories of audiences, styles, and viewing pleasures. Focuses on story creation, changing genres, programming conventions and global trends, shifting technologies, social media, TV fans, and streaming content—and how all these influence television narratives and our media culture.

Section 03: W 1:30-4:00pm, In-Person, Oren

[TPS-0093-04: Special Topics: From Page to Stage NEW](#)

An online exploration of the process of bringing a text to life that will go through the entire design and production process from early conceptual conversations to the final performance. The course will look at the work of the design team (set, costume, lighting and sound), the technical team (technical director, costume technician, master electrician, prop master, scenic artist, stage

manager and producer). Taught by a team of professional theater artists and artisans the course will be enhanced through a series of lectures and interviews with industry professionals. The list of potential guests includes Broadway producers, Artistic Directors, Tony award winning designers, Television designers (Conan O'Brien, "Stranger Things," "SVU") and numerous technicians and industry professionals. This course is being developed as an online offering.

Section 04: MW 7:30-8:45pm, Virtual, Smith, Lilienthal, Pizzuti, Girard, Pearson, Simpson

[TPS-0150-01: Film Directing](#)

(Cross-listed w/ FMS 136-01)

Advanced exploration of the art of the film director from both a critical and artistic perspective. Through focused study of films and writings by diverse narrative film directors, students will develop deeper understanding of how directors use film techniques to shape a story. Through practice-based exercises and workshops with industry professionals, students will hone directing techniques, including how to work with actors and ways to use the camera, movement, design, lighting, editing, and other film elements for effective storytelling. Prerequisite: Introduction to Filmmaking or Introduction to Film Studies. FMS 30 or permission of instructor

Section 01: T 1:30-4:00pm, Combination of in person and on-line instruction, Burton

[TPS-0155-01: Directing I](#)

Introduction to all aspects of translating a play from script to stage. Play analysis and interpretation, director's concept, visual composition, improvisational metaphors, and the history and theories of directing. Lectures/demonstrations, writing assignments, exercises, and scenes. Recommendations: TPS 1, 12, or permission of instructor.

Section 01: MW 1:30-3:15pm, Combination of in-person and online instruction, O'Leary

[TPS 0193-01: Advanced Stage Management and Production Management](#)

Advanced Stage and Production Management delves into the theatrical role these positions take in production at all stages of the process. It is an analysis of management styles within the arts and how these positions interface with designers, producers and talent. There is an emphasis on problem solving, collaboration, and leadership. (Approval required, TPS 59 pre-requirement)

Section 01: F 9:00-11:30am, Virtual, Williams

[TPS-0220-01: Intro to Grad Studies](#)

A survey of major published reference sources forming the foundation of theatre history and an introduction to the use of primary documents in theatre research. Both access technique and scholarly application are demonstrated by use of libraries such as the Harvard Theatre Collection. Department Consent Required

Section 01: M 1:30-4:30pm, Virtual, Nathans

[TPS-0293-01: Breaking the Frame: Innovative Musicals in Their Cultural Moments and Beyond](#) **NEW**

We'll focus on musicals that were seen as innovative, even revolutionary, in their original productions and explore the ways in which they've evolved over time through adaptation and revival. They include: *Shuffle Along*, *Oklahoma!*, *West Side Story*, *Cabaret*, *Hair*, *The Lion King*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Color Purple*, *Passing Strange*, *Fun Home*, and *Hamilton*.

Section 01: T 1:30-4:30pm, Virtual, Grossman

TPS 0293-02: Queer Trans Feminist Performance

“Queer, Trans, and Feminist Performance” is a graduate seminar (open to advanced undergraduates) exploring the relationship between gender, sexuality, and performance. If gender and sexuality, as embodied social categories, significantly inform how we become legible, how and to what ends do performers use bodies and their environments to transform, question, obscure, and expand what we understand as human, or even a body? This class draws on critical race, disability, indigenous, and postcolonial scholars who ask how power, pleasure, and violence are distributed and accessed via the management of gender and sexuality. Students in this class will build skills in writing about artists and their oeuvres by pairing critical theory with aesthetic analysis.

Section 02: W 1:30-4:30pm, Virtual, Khubchandani

Questions?

If you have any questions about one of the courses listed, please feel free to contact the instructor.

For general questions about the department, please contact our Department Administrator, Rita Dioguardi.

For general questions about our undergraduate program in Theatre, please contact our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Linda Ross Girard.

For general questions about our graduate courses in Theatre and Performance Studies, please contact our Interim Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Kareem Khubchandani.