Theatre and Film Studies

Department Faculty
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Department Goals
The Department of Theatre and Film Studies seeks to help students to understand the dramatic arts from the perspectives of both informed audience members and godly-wise arts practitioners, by developing both critical and production skills, and developing Christian ethical problem-solving skills as students contemplate the professional theatre and film worlds as a “mission field” in need of Christian intervention.

Film Studies
Students interested in film will find a number of opportunities at Covenant. Because we believe in the importance of a liberal arts education, Covenant offers film studies within the department of Theatre and Film Studies, as well as within the English department. Introductory courses in film and in screen writing are available. In addition, students can choose to study film independently, write their Senior Integration Papers about film, and participate in the student-run Film Club. Covenant has a good track record of placing students in the CCCU’s Los Angeles Film Studies Center, which includes, among other things, an internship in Hollywood and a class in film production. Most Covenant College students who have attended the Los Angeles Film Studies Center have gone on to careers in television or film.

To learn more about film studies at Covenant, you may contact Professor Foreman.

Teacher Certification
Students who desire teacher certification in Theatre should complete a BA degree with a major in Theatre along with an Education minor, then enroll in the one-year Master of Arts in Teaching program at Covenant College. See Dr. Jim Drexler in Brock Hall 303 (jdrexler@covenant.edu) for more information.

Requirements for Major in Theatre

The core and distribution requirements for a major in Theatre are those listed for baccalaureate degrees on page 24, with the exception that a course in art, English or music is required to fulfill the core fine arts, and the core humanities will be fulfilled with ENG 201. Introduction to Literary Studies.

Core requirements .................................................. 55  
Electives ............................................................... 21-25  

ENG = English course at Covenant.  
THF = Theatre and Film Studies course at Covenant.  
UTC = University of Tennessee at Chattanooga theatre course.*

ENG 201. Introduction to Literary Studies ‘W’ ............. 3  
ENG 418. Shakespeare .............................................. 3  
THF 101. Company Muster (4 times plus every  
semester enrolled at UTC*) .................................. 0  
THF 202. Introduction to Theatre ................................... 3  
THF 220. Modern and Contemporary Drama ‘S’ ............ 3  
THF 235. Acting I ....................................................... 4  
THF 250. Theatre History to the 20th Century ............. 3  
THF 260. Basic Design ............................................... 3  
THF 290/390. Production Practicum (2 times one hour) ... 2  
THF 302. Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought ............ 3  
THF 310. Playwriting, or  
THF 315. Screenwriting .............................................. 3  
THF 492. Senior Integration Paper ............................... 2-3  
THF Electives: Three courses taken from:  
THF offerings (may include THF 390 more than once),  
UTC theatre courses,  
ENG 266. Reading Film,  
ENG 401. Special Topics in English (if having  
a dramatic literature focus),  
MUS 245. Introduction to Musical Theatre,  
MUS 313. Stage Movement I, and  
MUS 413. Stage Movement II ................................. 7-10  
UTC 1000r. Performance and Production* ..................... 1  
UTC 1410. Theatre Practice & Theory (Stagecrafts)* ....... 3  
UTC 4570. Conceptual Foundations of Modern Theatre* ... 3  
Total hours for the major ........................................ 46-50  
Total degree hours.................................................. 126  

* NOTE: Prerequisite for all UTC coursework. Students  
must have completed THF 302 and have the THF  
Department's approval before beginning course work at  
UTC. All work at UTC will have: 1) a prerequisite of  
having established a prayer support team for the student’s  
work at UTC and 2) a co-requirement enrollment in THF  
101. Company Muster.
Requirements for Major in Theatre with a concentration in Technical Theatre

The core and distribution requirements for a Theatre major with a concentration in Technical Theatre are those listed for baccalaureate degrees on page 24, with the exception that a course in art, English or music is required to fulfill the core fine arts, and the core humanities will be fulfilled with ENG 201. Introduction to Literary Studies.

Core Requirements ....................................................... 55
Electives ........................................................................ 23-24

ENG = English course at Covenant
THF = Theatre and Film Studies course at Covenant
UTC = Theatre course at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga *

ENG 201. Introduction to Literary Studies ‘W’ ..................3
ENG 418. Shakespeare.....................................................3
THF 101. Company Muster (4 times plus every semester enrolled at UTC*) ................................................................. 0
THF 202. Introduction to Theatre ........................................ 3
THF 220. Modern and Contemporary Drama ‘S’ ...............3
THF 235. Acting I ................................................................ 4
THF 250. Theatre History to the 20th Century ......................3
THF 260. Basic Design .....................................................3
THF 290/390. Production Practicum (2 times one hour; one of which must be in a technical assignment) ..................2
THF 300. Stage Management ...........................................3
THF 302. Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought .................3
THF 411. Theatre Internship or UTC 2000r. Performance and Production* (either must be in a technical assignment) ............................................................. 1
THF 450. Directing ............................................................4
THF 492. Senior Integration Paper .................................... 2-3
UTC 1000r. Performance and Production* (must be in a technical assignment) ................................................................. 1
UTC 1410. Theatre Practice & Theory (Stagecrafts)* ............3
UTC 4570. Conceptual Foundations of Modern Theatre* ....3
UTC 4610. Directed Studies in Advanced Production* ........3
Total hours for the major ..................................................47-48
Total degree hours ................................................................... 126

* NOTE: Prerequisite for all UTC coursework. Students must have completed THF 302 and have the THF Department's approval before beginning course work at UTC. All work at UTC will have: 1) a prerequisite of having established a prayer support team for the student’s work at UTC and 2) a co-requirement enrollment in THF 101. Company Muster.

Requirements for Minor in Theatre

ENG 418. Shakespeare ........................................................ 3
THF 101. Company Muster (4 times plus every semester enrolled at UTC*) ................................................................. 0
THF 202. Introduction to Theatre ........................................ 3
THF 220. Modern and Contemporary Drama .....................3
THF 235. Acting I ...............................................................4
THF 290. Production Practicum (2 times one hour) (UTC 1000r Performance and Production may be substituted for one of these*) ........................................... 2
THF 302. Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought .................. 3
THF Electives: Two courses taken from THF offerings (may include THF 390 more than once), UTC theatre courses*, ENG 266. Reading Film, ENG 401. Special Topics in English (if having a dramatic literature focus), MUS 245. Introduction to Musical Theatre, MUS 313. Stage Movement I, or MUS 413. Stage Movement II ......................................................... 2-7
Total hours for the minor ................................................ 20-25

* NOTE: Prerequisite for all UTC coursework. Students must have completed THF 302 and have the THF Department's approval before beginning course work at UTC. All work at UTC will have: 1) a prerequisite of having established a prayer support team for the student's work at UTC and 2) a co-requirement enrollment in THF 101. Company Muster.

** Prerequisite for ENG 418 for theatre students is ENG 201 or permission of the instructor. ENG 201 may also satisfy the Core Humanities requirement.

Theatre and Film Studies Courses

101. Company Muster
This course is a pass/fail requirement for theatre majors and minors to develop a greater sense of collaboration, community and ensemble as well as provide additional opportunities for continued development as a Christian artist. Most events also open to interested students outside of the department. Every semester. Zero hours.

202. Introduction to Theatre
A survey of historical theatre practice in the West (with some attention given to Eastern styles); introduction to the elements of theatre production together with an examination of the various crafts comprising this collaborative art form: acting, directing, playwriting, design, and criticism. Offered every semester. Three hours. FA
A study of European, English and American masterpieces of drama from Ibsen to the present and the movements they represent. Every other spring. Three hours. HUM

235. Acting I
This course is the first in a two-course sequence which aims to give students an introduction to and training of the stage actor’s tools: voice, body, imagination, concentration, etc., while also helping students to think Christianly about various ethical and aesthetic issues pertaining to acting and the production of plays for public consumption. Meets for three class sessions plus one lab session each week. Every fall. Four hours. FA

250. Theatre History to the 20th Century
This is a survey course examining Western theatre history from the Ancient Greeks, through the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Restoration up to the beginnings of Realism, as well as theatre traditions from Africa and Asia. Attention will be placed on the dramatic literature of various periods, conventions of production, subsequent interpretations of the literature, the larger historical context for each period and the changing relationship between religion and theatre. Every other spring. Three hours. FA

260. Basic Design
This course introduces students to the design process for the theatre in the areas of sets, costumes, lighting and sound. Emphasis will be placed on distilling a play into a design concept, developing a design from that concept and working with other designers to achieve a unified design. Every other fall. Three hours.

290. Production Practicum
Lower division laboratory course in a variety of aspects of theatre performance and production. Project assignments in departmental productions. Every semester. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit two times. One to three hours.

295. Introduction to Filmmaking
An introduction to the conceptual and practical basics of the film production process. Through lectures, screenings, journals and hands-on production exercises students will be introduced to the essentials of screenwriting, script breakdown, film language, production management, lighting aesthetics and practice, camera technique, sound recording, shooting on-location, and picture editing. Particular emphasis will be placed on the artistic and practical challenges of low-budget location film production. Prerequisite: At least sophomore class status; art, English or theatre major, minor or concentration, or permission of instructor. Offered in May Term. Three hours.

299. Special Topics in Theatre
This course offers opportunities for study in various topics of interest within the field of theatre and film studies. These may be short-term courses offered during the semester or during the summer term. Topics will be decided upon by the faculty as need and interest arise. Credit hours to be determined, one to three hours.

300. Stage Management
A course exploring the various tasks and arts which encompass the job of a stage manager in various venues including Equity houses. Prerequisites: THF 202. Offered every other spring. Three hours.

302. The Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought
A study of Christian thought on the arts, with specific reference to dramatic forms. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing; THF 202 or permission of instructor. Offered every two years. Three hours.

310. Playwriting
A workshop on the art and craft of playwriting with the goal of creating a professionally competitive one act or ten minute play for possible production. Plays should not only be creative, effective, and marketable, but will also be morally responsible in terms of a Christian aesthetic. Lectures on craft issues include voice, structure, format, and the play development process. Class members are expected to produce a one act or ten minute play, to evaluate their own work and that of others in the class, and to complete various exercises and assignments given throughout the semester. Prerequisites: ENG 111 with a grade of “B” or higher and THF 202, or permission of instructor. Every other spring. Three hours.

315. Screenwriting
This course emphasizes the analysis and writing of film screenplays. It acts as a workshop for understanding story structure and development, and enables the scripting of scenes and short films through several informative lectures and workshops. The goal is to help the student identify and write a short script that is creative, marketable, and effective by Hollywood’s standards, while also reflecting a biblical Christian worldview. Prerequisite: ENG 111. English Composition with a grade of “B” or higher, or permission of instructor. Every other spring. Three hours.

335. Acting II
A continued study of principles/practices introduced in Acting I; emphasis laid on scene study, with attention being given to various historic dramatic styles. Meets for three class sessions plus one lab session each week. Every other fall. Prerequisite: THF 235. Four hours.
350. Costume History
A study of the history of clothing from Egyptian to present day. This class will bring into focus the silhouette and construction of the period, the natural progression from one fashion to the next and the historical context that affected the fashion of the period. Offered on demand. Three hours.

390. Production Practicum
Upper division laboratory course in a variety of aspects of theatre performance and production. Project assignments in departmental productions. Every semester. Prerequisite: two semesters of THF 290. or equivalent, plus permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit two times. One to three hours.

397. Accents and Dialects
Study in the elements of and practice in the production of various English dialects and foreign accents for stage and camera use, taken from the following list: American Southern, New York City, New England, Standard British, Cockney, Irish, Scottish, Italian, French, German, or others specially requested. Prerequisite: THF 235. Every other fall. Three hours.

399. Independent Study
Designed for the student who has demonstrated potential ability for independent study, this course allows him or her to choose and to explore, under the guidance of an instructor, an area of the discipline not fully covered in available courses. Credit to be determined in each case; maximum credit, three hours per semester.

402. The Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought II
A continued study of Christian thought on the arts, with specific reference to theatre and film. Prerequisites: THF 302, and Sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. Offered every two years. Three hours.

411. Theatre Internship
Experience working in various capacities, as assigned, in a professional theatre. Such capacities may include but need not be limited to acting, directing, stage management, house and publicity, design, set/prop/costume construction, make-up, crewing, work with theatre outreach and/or education ventures of the theatre. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Three hours.

450. Directing
An upper-division laboratory class in which students will learn the basics of directing plays for the stage as well as direct selections from plays. Prerequisites THF 202 and 235. Offered every other spring. Four hours.

492. Senior Integration Paper
The student will explore and analyze a topic related to the discipline of theatre and film studies in the light of Christian philosophy. The study may result in a written thesis, though often projects such as directing a play, performing a major role, designing a show, etc. are permitted if the student’s first reader deems that the student has successfully completed sufficient preparatory course work. Upon completion of the paper or project, there is a final oral exam. Two or three hours.

THF Courses in development: Improvisation, Voice and Movement.

UTC Theatre course descriptions for both required and elective courses may be seen at http://www.utc.edu/Academic/TheatreAndSpeech/curriculum.php