

Feb. 8, 2015

To: The Committee on Educational Programs

From: Leah Lowe, Chair, Department of Theatre

Re: Change to the Theatre Major

The Theatre Department proposes a change to its major and design/tech track minor.

Proposed major change: We want to drop THTR 111, Fundamentals of Theatre Design, from our major requirements. In its place, we will require students majoring in theatre to take one design course (THTR 212 Elements of Basic Design: Scenery and Props; THTR 213 Elements of Basic Design: Lighting and Sound; or THTR 214 Elements of Basic Design: Costumes and Makeup). At present, THTR 111 is a 4 credit hour class and THTR 212, 213, and 214 are 3 credit hour classes, but we have submitted course change requests to increase the credit hours for THTR 212, 213, and 214 to 4 credit hours so that, in the future, these classes will incorporate the lab hours now associated with THTR 111. Thus the total hours required to major in Theatre will remain unchanged.

Proposed minor change: We want to drop THTR 111 from the design/tech track minor and require THTR 212, 213, 214, or 218 in its place.

Rationale: We want to make this change because enrollment in THTR 111 is depressing enrollments in our design courses. We added THTR 111 to our curriculum in order to provide all theatre students with a foundational course in design concepts common to all areas of theatrical design, assuming that many students would go on to take a design course. What we have found in the four semesters that we have offered THTR 111 is that very few students go on to take a design course after fulfilling their major requirement through enrollment in THTR 111. Upon reflection, our department believes that it is far more important that majors take a course in theatrical design rather than THTR 111.

Vote tally: The department discussed the major change extensively and voted to approve it over email on Feb. 8. All seven members of the department voted to approve this change. There were no abstentions or proxy votes. We voted by email to change the design/tech minor on April 3. There were no abstentions or proxy votes.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about this proposed change to our major.

Leah Lowe

Leah.lowe@vanderbilt.edu

322-3617

Theatre

CHAIR M. Leah Lowe

DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES Jon W. Hallquist

PROFESSORS EMERITI Robert A. Baldwin, Cecil D. Jones Jr.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Phillip N. Franck, Jon W. Hallquist, Terryl W. Hallquist, M. Leah Lowe

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR E. Christin Essin

SENIOR LECTURERS Alexandra A. Sargent, Matthew D. Stratton

VANDERBILT'S Department of Theatre offers a vital center of innovative scholarship, teaching, creative expression, and exploration. The study of theatre introduces students to a major form of literature and performing arts, thereby developing a familiarity with one of the greatest cultural heritages and an understanding of human behavior and civilization as it is reflected through the ages. Theatre uniquely shapes perceptions about life into an active experience. Because this process encourages critical thought and discussion, the department provides a singular and important aspect of a liberal arts education through its production season and course work. Viewed as a practical extension of the department's curriculum, plays are produced in Neely Auditorium, a laboratory where students learn to form creative expressions as well as to evaluate and to critique them.

On one level, the Department of Theatre helps the general liberal arts student develop reasoned standards of criticism and an understanding of the intimate correlation between the theatre and the society which it reflects, preparing Vanderbilt graduates for successful careers in theatre as well as other fields of interest. For its majors and minors, the department provides a more detailed and specialized study of the major components of theatrical endeavor, allowing opportunities for the practical application of course work in the productions staged at the theatre. In many cases, the department helps to prepare students with professional aspirations as either artists or teachers in their specialized area of interest.

Work in the productions at Vanderbilt reflects the instruction that occurs in the classroom at Neely Auditorium. Because the academic endeavors require hands-on, project-oriented teaching, students can expect small-to-medium class enrollments and numerous opportunities for exposure to faculty instruction outside of the classroom. The department's curriculum includes courses in acting, directing, design, technology, dramatic literature, theatre history and criticism, and playwriting. Students can either major or minor in theatre at Vanderbilt. The major consists of a minimum of 35 credit hours that include courses in acting, directing, dramatic literature, theatre history/criticism, design, technology, and stagecraft. For the minor, students select one of three more narrowly focused tracks (dramatic literature/theatre history, acting/directing, or design/technology) and complete a minimum of 18 credit hours of course work.

Students may also learn about theatre by studying with Coe Artists, distinguished guest-artist professionals brought to campus each year to benefit majors, minors, and those with a serious interest in theatre. Weeklong master classes are taught by playwrights, actors, designers, and directors College of Arts and Science / Women's and Gender Studies 171 from the professional world of theatre, television, and film. Previous Coe Artists have included such celebrated artists as Karl Malden, Olympia Dukakis, Fiona Shaw, Eva Marie Saint, the Living Theatre, and Actors from the London Stage. The Department of Theatre also offers a month-long program of study of theatre in London during the May session. Students have the opportunity to witness a variety of theatrical experiences, as well as hear professional artists speak as guest lecturers.

Theatre majors and minors from Vanderbilt have entered a wide variety of professions and post-graduate opportunities after they graduate. Those seeking employment in the fields of theatre, film, radio, or television have secured positions at appropriate graduate schools or internships with professional companies immediately following their study at Vanderbilt. Many distinguished professional theatre companies across the nation, television networks in New York, and the film industry in Los Angeles include Vanderbilt University Theatre alumni as writers, actors, designers, technicians, dramaturgs, and stage managers. In addition, many Vanderbilt theatre students have secured teaching assignments at either the college/university level (once they have completed appropriate post-graduate education) or the elementary/secondary education level.

The practice of theatre requires individuals to participate through a variety of means: to collaborate with all other members of a production team; to express elements of abstract thought in both oral and written form; and to develop the critical ability to assess and analyze aesthetic choices. As a result of these experiences, recent graduates have also pursued careers in such widely diverse fields as law, medicine, psychology, and business.

Program of Concentration in Theatre

Students majoring in theatre are required to complete a minimum of 35 credit hours in courses concerned exclusively with theatre and dramatic literature. Required courses are ~~100/100W~~1010/1010W or ~~115F, 110, 219, 230~~111, 1711, 1611, 2651, and ~~261~~4961; two courses chosen from ~~201, 202W, 204~~2201, 2202W, 2204, and ~~232~~4201; one course chosen from ~~212, 213~~3721, 3761, and ~~214~~3741; additional nine credit hours chosen from other theatre courses—above the 2000 level.

Honors Program

The Honors Program in Theatre is designed to afford superior students the opportunity to pursue more intensive work within their major field. Admission requirements are: (1) completion of junior year; (2) completion of at least 21 credit hours of the theatre major; (3) 3.3 minimum cumulative GPA and a 3.5 minimum GPA in courses counting toward the major. Candidates who successfully complete the following requirements may graduate with honors or highest honors: (1) maintain the aforementioned GPA throughout the senior year; (2) complete all requirements of the theatre major; (3) complete 6 credit hours of independent research ~~299a–299b~~4998–4999 (Honors Research and Thesis) normally taken during the senior year; (4) write an honors thesis to be completed by the second semester of the senior year; (5) successfully complete an honors oral examination on the topic of the thesis.

Minor in Theatre

A minor in theatre requires a minimum of 18 credit hours of courses in the department. All students minoring in Theatre ~~100/100W~~ must complete 1010/1010W or ~~115F~~1111 and ~~232~~ are required in 4201. In addition, each option, plus courses from student must complete one of the following ~~list~~three clusters:
Dramatic Literature/Theatre History: Choose four from 201, 202W, 204, or ~~206W~~2201, 2202W, 2204, and 3201W. Acting/Directing: ~~219~~1611, 3611, 4611, and 2651. Design/Technology: ~~1711~~ is required; choose three from ~~220, 223, or 230.~~ Design/Technology: 110 and 111 are required; choose two from ~~212, 213, 214, or 218~~3721, 3761, 3741., or 3781

Course descriptions begin on page 234.

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Course descriptions begin on page 234.

Bremer, Jonathan E

From: Bachmann, Brian O
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 9:21 AM
To: Bremer, Jonathan E
Subject: CEP decision Theater
Attachments: CEP_response_Theater_program.pdf; Theatre major - Proposal for curriculum revision -150420.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Jonathan,

Attached you will find the application materials for a proposal for revisions to the Theater curriculum, approved pending minor revisions, by the Committee for Education Programs on January 15th, 2015 (5 voting in favor). Attached are the revised documents, redline and approval memo indicating that the CEP is recommending this for consideration by Faculty Council.

Best Regards,

Brian Bachmann

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