Drama

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Courses


L15 Drama 107 Ampersand: A Performative Perspective on Chinese Culture and Identity
This course examines the diversified and rich history of Chinese visual and performance cultures from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and throughout the Chinese diaspora. A collaboration between the East Asian Languages and Cultures and Performing Arts departments, this course explores Chinese cultural narratives in relation to how they have been performed — on stage in traditional forms of dance-drama, on screen in film, and as lived in the practice of everyday life — from the late imperial period to the present. It includes a practice component that introduces the students to movement disciplines such as Tai’ Chi and opera, and it allows students to pursue creative assignments such as interview, stage plays, and filmmaking that demonstrate their developing knowledge of historical and contemporary Chinese culture. Building bridges of understanding between the United States and the Republic of China in Taiwan, the course will culminate in a spring break trip to Taiwan. This course is only for first-year, non-transfer students in the Ampersand: Encountering China program.
Same as L61 FYP 107
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: LCD, SC BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L15 Drama 1080 Ampersand: A Performative Perspective on Chinese Culture and Identity.
This course examines the development of modern Chinese culture and its dynamic relationship with traditions and renovations. During the past century, China has gone through a series of political, cultural, economic, and technological transformations that constantly reshaped the form and content of Chinese culture. Tracing the drastic changes in Chinese language, performance and media forms from the late 19th century to contemporary time, this course guides the student through the pivotal moments in modern Chinese history and analyzes their impacts on literature, drama, dance, film and internet culture. What transformative promise did new media and art forms deliver? How do we make sense of the intricate connection between tradition and renovation? The purpose of this course is to foster an understanding of Chinese culture as a dynamic process of formation rather than a static, homogeneous entity. However, instead of seeing this formation as a linear progression with one form or style replacing the other, we will study how past traditions — both ancient and recently constructed ones — are reconfigured in new cultural representations and practices.
Same as L61 FYP 1080
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L15 Drama 115 First-Year Seminar: What is Art?
Great works of literature, theatre, film, painting, music and dance provide us with new, intriguing — and often surprising! — ways of understanding reality. In this First-Year Seminar, we examine a variety of works in various media, paying close attention to works which have significantly altered or challenged the way we view and interpret reality. In an intimate, seminar setting, we analyze and discuss individual works of art from the Greeks to the present day. The course incorporates attendance at live performances (both on-campus and off), along with Master Classes by artists from the Performing Arts Department. Examining works both classical and the avant-garde, What is Art? forces us to understand and question how art complicates, enriches, disturbs and asks questions — both about ourselves and our world.

L15 Drama 1151 First-Year Seminar
A variety of topics in comparative literature, designed for first-year students — no special background is required — and to be conducive to the investigation and discussion format of a seminar. Previous topics include Story Telling Through Sound; Banned Books; Immigrants and Exiles; Literature and Democracy; Literature and the Art of Apology; Hell on Earth: Crime, Conscience, and the Arts; and Magical Thinking: Literature and Theory Engage the Occult.
Same as L16 Comp Lit 115

L15 Drama 1165 First-Year Seminar: On Broadway — Musicals, Race, Place
The Broadway theatres are closed, but pressure to make these stages more racially and ethnically diverse when they re-open is strong. This course looks at the history of the Broadway theatres and the ways this coveted theatrical real estate in midtown Manhattan has played host to white and non-white performers in the signature American theatrical genre: the musical. Using digital and archival research tools, including an abundance of maps, our study stretches from the creation of the Theatre District at the turn of the 20th century to the present. We will examine groundbreaking and all-too-typical shows — from "Show Boat" to "Hamilton" — and look closely for how systemic racism has played out on Broadway stages for Broadway’s mostly white audience. We will produce original research and explore digital humanities methods related to questions of racial inequality in commercial popular culture. This course is for first-year, non-transfer students only.
Same as L27 Music 1165

L15 Drama 119 Ampersand: Shakespeare's Globe: All the World's a Stage
Why-more than 400 years later-do we continue to read the works of William Shakespeare? Why do we continue to stage his plays, identify with his characters, and communicate our thoughts in his language? Why do his poems and plays retain their vibrancy and immediacy, even today? This course invites students to answer these questions by inhabiting Shakespeare’s language from the inside and out-breathing in the words of his characters with creative and careful study, while moving out to fully engage the text in performance. Reading plays, watching films, listening to monologues, voicing dialogue, physically enacting fight scenes, and even navigating plots with joystick students will develop deep appreciation for the writer who is the original GOAT—the greatest of all time. In this two-semester course, we will read and study Shakespeare’s plays in their historical context, learning about the original practices used in performance at both the Elizabethan and Jacobean court theatres as well as the public theatres on the South Bank of the Thames. We will also consider them as adaptable playscripts that have been rewritten over the past 400
years, reinterpreted at different times by different actors in different cultures the world over. Students will contribute to this performance repertoire with their own 21st-century interpretations, striding the stage of the reconstructed Globe Theatre in a capstone experience that concludes the course with a summer trip to London. If all the world’s a stage, come be a player in it!

Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 1192 Ampersand: Shakespeare’s Globe: All the World’s a Stage II
Why more than 400 years later do we continue to read the works of William Shakespeare? Why do we continue to stage his plays, identify with his characters, and communicate our thoughts in his language? Why do his poems and plays retain their vibrancy and immediacy, even today? This course invites students to answer these questions by inhabiting Shakespeare’s language from the inside and out-breathing in the words of his characters with creative and careful study, while moving out to fully engage the text in performance. Reading plays, watching films, listening to monologues, voicing dialogue, physically enacting fight scenes, and even navigating plots with Joysticks, students will develop deep appreciation for the writer who is the original GOAT—the greatest of all time. In this two-semester course, we will read and study Shakespeare’s plays in their historical context, learning about the original practices used in performance at both the Elizabethan and Jacobean court theatres as well as the public theatres on the South Bank of the Thames. We will also consider them as adaptable playscritps that have been rewritten over the past 400 years, reinterpreted at different times by different actors in different cultures the world over. Students will contribute to this performance repertoire with their own 21st-century interpretations, striding the stage of the reconstructed Globe Theatre in a capstone experience that concludes the course with a summer trip to London. If all the world’s a stage, come be a player in it!

Same as L61 FYP 1192
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 120 First-Year Seminar: Race and Performance
What does it mean to “act Black”? What about “acting Jewish”? This course looks at performances of racial and ethnic identity, mostly in the United States and mostly in the 20th century. We will examine novels (e.g., Nella Larsen’s “Passing”), plays (e.g., Anna Deavere Smith’s “Fires in the Mirror”), and performances of everyday life (e.g., “Cowboys and Indians”) to investigate the performance of race in public. Once we begin to explore the social and cultural performance of race, will it all turn out to be “only” an act?

Credit 3 units. A&S: FYS A&S IQ: HUM, SD BU: BA EN: H

L15 Drama 135 First-Year Seminar Ideation: Idea Generation
Ideation exists at all phases of a creative process: brainstorming, idea generation, innovation, prototyping, development and actualization. But Ideation is less like a line and more like a loop from observing to reflecting to making—and back again. It is a rarely understood but essential part of any creative or design process. Through collaboration and conversations with classmates, readings on the topic and group exercises, Ideation is a course that strives to define and demystify what we mean by “creativity,” help students identify their creative strengths and weaknesses, encourage artistic experimentation of new ideas, establish methods of design thinking and make it clear that collaboration among varied backgrounds and disciplines is the key to coming up with creative solutions for complex problems. Successful companies such as IDEO led by visionaries in the form of Tim Brown and David Kelley have pioneered the notion of Design Thinking. “Design thinking” is defined as “the ability to combine empathy for the context of a problem, creativity in the generation of insights and solutions, and rationality to analyze and fit solutions to the context.” This course encourages students to explore their collaborative talents in new ways that they find apply to virtually any discipline and career path: from A to Z.


L15 Drama 175 Designing Creativity: Innovation Across Disciplines
From “a-ha!” epiphanies to slow-developing discoveries, the creative process has been employed by innovators and artists in virtually every corner of the globe for centuries. This course will explore the study and practice of the creative process across many disciplines, with input from prominent thinkers and practitioners in the areas of medicine, neuroscience, law, engineering, architecture, human-centered design, business, stage design, and the performing arts. The course will also incorporate the practice of design thinking and creativity techniques via a lab component that will allow students to explore the development of innovative ideas in collaborative teams followed by project presentations to core faculty and classmates. This course is for first-year (non-transfer) students only.

Same as I60 BEYOND 175

L15 Drama 200 Theater Projects
Independent study. Students may contract with a faculty supervisor for credit for their work on theatrical productions or research. Contracts must be signed by the student, the faculty supervisor and the coordinator of Drama 200 before the student’s work on the project commences. Credit and grade option are determined in each case. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 201 Acting
Independent study.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 202 Directing
Independent study.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 203 Technical Theater
Independent study.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 204 Voice, Speech
Independent study.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 205 Literature, Theory, Criticism
Independent study.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 201 Black Theater Workshop
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SC, SD BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 209 Introduction to Costume Construction
This course is a hands-on introduction to the sewing and costume-related skills most useful for creating costumes for theatre productions.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H
L15 Drama 212E Introduction to Theater Production
An introductory study of the major elements involved with mounting a theatrical production. Utilizing guest speakers in both theater arts and theater studies, the course addresses such topics as scenic, costume, lighting and sound design; production management and procedures; and the history and culture of theatrical space and design. Students are required to serve as a crew member on one departmental production and attend productions of the Edison Theatre Ovations series and the Performing Arts Department.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 214 Public Speaking: Embodied Communication
The ability to speak well and to communicate effectively in the public forum is an essential skill for all students. This course aims to offer a comprehensive and wide-ranging approach to developing the skills of the contemporary speaker. While acknowledging and utilizing traditional approaches to public speaking, this course expands its reach to include applicable techniques from the world of the Performing Arts — especially theater and dance. The course does not intend to train the student as a dancer or actor, but it maintains that the successful speaker would do well to harness some of the transferable skill sets from these disciplines. The speaker, like the performer, must stand before an audience with an objective to communicate something well. Both should be dedicated advocates for the message. They share the common ground of requiring a strong voice for a sure delivery of the material, and an expressive physicality willing to fully embody and serve the message.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 2150 First-Year Seminar: The Theatre as a Living Art
Moving in and out of practice and theory, this FOCUS plan interweaves a traditional introductory acting course with discussions of dramatic theory and visits to rehearsals where directors and actors work to shape the play. Must be taken concurrently with Drama 228C. Course is for first-year, non-transfer students only.
Same as L61. FYP 215

L15 Drama 223 Cross-Cultural Women Playwrights
This course provides an introductory survey of the work of African-American, Caribbean-American, Asian-American and Native American women playwrights. We explore the playwrights’ strategies for creating work that is by turns beautiful, fascinating, humorous, moving and occasionally terrifying as they chart for contemporary theater the intersection of race and gender in performative terms. Playwrights addressed include Adrienne Kennedy, Ntozake Shange, Suzan-Lori Parks, Anna Deavere Smith, Diana Son, Jessica Hagedorn, Cherie Moraga, Wakako Yamauchi, Migdalia Cruz, Spiderwoman Theatre, Marga Gomez and Velina Hasu Houston.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM; SD Art: HUM BU: BA

L15 Drama 227 Playwriting
An introductory course in playwriting. Limited to eight students.
Prerequisite: Writing 1 and permission of the instructor.
Same as L13 Writing 224
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 228C Theater Culture Studies I: Antiquity to Renaissance
This course is a survey of ancient, medieval and Renaissance theater and performance: in both the West and in the East, as it both reflects and shapes culture. Coverage will include the following areas: ancient Greece, ancient Rome, classical Sanskrit theater, Yuan China, medieval Japan, medieval Europe, Renaissance Italy, and Renaissance England.
Both scripted theater and performance practices will be examined through the lenses of dramatic literature, theater history, performance studies, and dramatic theory. A continual emphasis will be on marginal and underrepresented figures, as we will attempt to excavate forgotten histories from the theatrical past.
Credit 3 units. A&S: AMP A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM IS: H

L15 Drama 229C Theater Culture Studies II: From Renaissance to Romanticism
This course provides a survey of theater history from the early 17th through mid-19th centuries, covering plays, theories of drama and acting, and the material conditions of theatre production. We explore events in Asia, the Americas and Europe with particular attention to the Baroque era, Sentimentalism and Romanticism. The central objectives of the course are 1) to teach students to analyze plays in complex and creative ways, and 2) to cultivate understanding of the ways theater and performance practices reflect the philosophical ideas, aesthetic values, and sociopolitical realities of their historical context — even as these practices sustained and challenged such ideas, values and realities.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 230 Topics in Theater
Explores a variety of special interest topics in theater not included in the Theater Culture Studies sequence. Consult the course listings.
Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 233 Improvisation
This course introduces students to the fundamentals of improvisation. Students are provided with the tools and techniques to develop their artistic voice, both individually and within an ensemble, through various theater games, exercises, and techniques. Students will build self confidence, develop creativity, hone presentation skills, and learn collaborative practices for working with others. Students will understand the applied benefits of improvisation toward their professional and personal lives.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 239 Performance and Culture
What are Lady Gaga and Beyonce doing? How do young men and women in poverty use performance for survival? Why do we create performance and for whom? In this class we apply the vocabulary and concepts of Performance Studies to social and theatrical worlds, understanding performance broadly: from popular culture to everyday life to theatre. To understand performance, we look closely at ethnographies, plays and literature. Subjects span a range of topics: racial impersonation, drag/house balls, celebrity culture, reality television, black-latino theatre, and slam poetry. Key course questions: How does performance inform everyday culture? How does culture inform popular culture and theatrical performance? This course takes seriously the “doing” and the “undoing” of things — as culture shifts, transforms and adjusts as bodies engage in the art of performance.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: BA

L15 Drama 2401 Fundamentals of Acting
This course offers an opportunity to investigate the nature of the theater by way of performance. Students study a variety of theatrical texts in the most direct and experiential way; by acting in them. The course is designed for those who want to understand the interpretive work of the actor. Students are introduced to the practical work of building a character for the stage, and they also gain an understanding of how dramatic texts work both on the page and on the stage. Textual analysis, movement work and vocal production skills are developed.
part by new social media, podcasting, and online video, is remaking force in American entertainment, creating stars like Jerry Seinfeld. The first boom, during the 1980s, turned stand-up comedy into a major genre to gain firsthand experience in the conventions and forms of the stage. Textual analysis, movement work and vocal production skills are developed using monologues, scene work and exercises. These skills also should provide significant benefits outside the confines of the class itself, in the professional and personal lives of the students taking this class.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 240E Acting I: Fundamentals of Acting
This course offers an opportunity to investigate the nature of the theater by way of performance. Students study a variety of theatrical texts in the most direct and experiential way, by acting in them. The course is designed for those who want to understand the interpretive work of the actor. Students are introduced to the practical work of building a character for the stage, and they also gain an understanding of how dramatic texts work both on the page and on the stage. Textual analysis, movement work and vocal production skills are developed using monologues, scene work and exercises. These skills also should provide significant benefits outside the confines of the class itself, in the professional and personal lives of the students taking this class.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 250 Topics in Stage Movement
This is a rotating topics course on movement for actors.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM

L15 Drama 2503 Introduction to Performance Art
The focus of this course is on the history, theory and practice of performance art and performance theater. The class engages in exercises that generate text, movement, sound and performance scores. Students create original performances that incorporate contemporary critical concepts. Performance production is supplemented by readings and videos that introduce the history and theory of experimental performance and work by specific performance artists.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM

L15 Drama 251 The Art of Storytelling
As one of the oldest forms of human communication, storytelling is part of both mundane interactions and carefully crafted events. Many of us tell stories regularly in informal settings (e.g., when we tell a friend about an encounter we had in the cafeteria) as well as in professional settings (e.g., class or work presentations). But what, exactly, are the elements of a well-told story? How do we identify powerful storytellers? These questions ground this course, where we will explore stories as forms through which to present oneself and explain an event to others. We will study storytelling from two perspectives. First, we will look at stories through rhetorical analysis: we will focus on various examples of storytelling across different genres (ranging from cultural myths, fables, spoken word, speeches, hip-hop, R&B, and rock lyrics) to understand stories as an artistic practice, a teaching method, an identity shaper, and a conductor of history. Second, we will consider stories through embodied practice: we will perform and present stories in chosen genres to gain firsthand experience in the conventions and forms of the embodiems that complete the act of telling well-crafted stories. At the end of this course, students will have gained theoretical knowledge about storytelling as an art form as well as the practical skills needed to become confident storytellers.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 256 Contemporary Comedy: Stand-up, Sketch and Improv
The United States is in the midst of a second comedy boom. The first boom, during the 1980s, turned stand-up comedy into a major force in American entertainment, creating stars like Jerry Seinfeld, Eddie Murphy, and Ellen DeGeneres. The second, which is defined in part by new social media, podcasting, and online video, is remaking the way comedians find their voices and their audiences. However, even as young comedians chart new paths through a dynamic media landscape, live performance is still the heart of the modern comedy universe. This class is a detailed survey of the contemporary American comedy scene. Pioneering artists from vaudeville through the 1970s are introduced, the stand-up boom of the 1980s is presented as a formative force in the comedy business, and alt-comedy is discussed as a stylistic watershed. Select modern theories of comedy are read and discussed, although we studiously avoid explaining jokes. Short units on improv and sketch comedy round out the syllabus. Assignments include practical exercises in performing comedy onstage, and students can choose to perform a short original stand-up set for their final assignment.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 257 Dance Theater Production
Experience in technical production. Required stage work includes two studio dance productions supervised by faculty. Prerequisite: Dance 212E. Same as L29 Dance 257

Credit 1 unit. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 271 The American Musical Theater Songbook
From its birth in vaudeville and musical reviews to current future classics such as “Hamilton,” American musical theater has produced a voluminous catalogue of material referred to herein as the “American Musical Theater Songbook.” Part survey and part performance, this course will focus on the composers, lyricists, performers and subject matter that have been instrumental in defining musical theater and its role in describing a continually evolving human psychology and sociology. The performance aspect of the course will develop students’ existing vocal skills and knowledge of style. As both singing and non-singing students are welcome to participate in the course, adjustments for non-singing students will be accommodated so that they may participate fully in the class. The format of the course will be a seminar of student-generated presentations, discussions, and workshop performances. A sampling of shows from which repertoire will be sourced includes the following: early song-and-dance shows (“Girl Crazy,” “Anything Goes,” “Kiss Me Kate”); Rodgers and Hammerstein (“Oklahoma,” “Carousel,” “South Pacific”); Stephen Sondheim (“Gypsy,” “Sweeney Todd,” “Sunday in the Park With George”); modern era (“West Side Story,” “A Chorus Line,” “Cabaret,” “Hair,” “Pippin”); and contemporary (“In the Heights,” “Caroline, or Change,” “Kinky Boots,” “Dear Evan Hansen,” “Hamilton”). This course serves as a prerequisite for L15 372.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 295 Portfolio Review
This is an hour-long credit to meet every Friday for two contact hours. While the main focus of this course is to dedicate time to learning and preparing a solid professional portfolio, résumé and webpage, this class also trains the students how to interact and conduct themselves through the interview process. We review numerous résumés from industry professionals, develop our own, develop both physical and digital portfolios consisting of students’ academic and professional work, and culminate in building a strong and evocative webpage. Upon completion, the student has a solid understanding of the theater job market and be ready to face the world.

Credit 1 unit. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 296 Internship
Students may receive up to 3 units of credit for an approved internship with an organization where the primary objective is to obtain professional experience outside the classroom. Students must file a Learning Agreement with the Career Center, a faculty sponsor and
thought that thought, then you've stumbled onto the fact that—despite
expression of dissent, and as an embodied imagining of another world
power, the constitution of a body politic, the shoring up of consent, the
(both on stage and in the streets) has played in the assertion of state
What is "political theater"? Is it a media stunt, designed to score points
L15 Drama 3013 Politics and Performance in Historical Practice
This course examines the roles that dramatic characters play within the “worlds” of the play and performance culture they inhabit. In some cases, we can speak of metaphorical “masks” presented to the world; in others, the theater may use actual masks. We begin with classical antiquity, examining the differentiation of physical masks and characters in both tragedy and comedy (we will note that the word “person” comes from the Latin word “persona,” the word for mask in ancient Roman comedy). We then consider the complex system of types in classical Indian and later Kathakali dance-drama: types that each had specific emotions associated with them. Chinese musical theater of the fourteenth century, with strong ties to a rapidly growing urban environment, had its own distinct types. Following this unit we consider the masked characters of Italian Renaissance comedy (the commedia dell’arte) and its uncanny parallels to the nearby Karagoz, Turkish shadow puppet theater. We next move to the theater of Shakespeare, considering the boy actor and gender fluidity in Twelfth Night. Then we consider the “realist” playwright Ibsen, in view of the social roles performed by the play’s characters. In Cloud Nine, Carol Churchill gives us insights into the performance of gender in modern life. A unit on modern and contemporary African drama examines the performance (or erasure) of political identity in crisis, as we read Athol Fugard’s Sizwe Bansi Is Dead and also the play Woza Albert! (Mtwa, Ngema, Simon). The course concludes with two African-American plays, August Wilson’s Fences and Lynn Nottage’s Sweat. This course fulfills the “Studies in Historical Practice” requirement in the Drama major/minor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM

L15 Drama 3015 Social Identity and Dramatic Character in Historical Practice
This course examines select theatre spaces from across the globe and from a long span of human history, from caves used in the upper paleolithic era to contemporary digitally-supported sensory experiences. We will treat theatre space as a socially generated phenomenon produced in many cultures that dynamically links performers and audiences. Theatre space will be used as a gathering concept through which many facets of performance culture can be examined, including architecture, scenography, script, and the physical features of embodied communication. Beyond this, theatre space also illuminates myriad aspects of the cultural practice of theatre, including social difference (especially gender and class), economic activity, and political representation. Distinct theories of historical space will be introduced and examples of historical theatre space will include Ancient Greece, Edo Japan, Neo-Classical France, Golden Age Spain, Classical India, and twentieth-century Environmental Scenography. The core of the reading for this course will be representative or exemplary playscripts that help open up interpretive approaches to historical theatre and performance space. This course fulfills the “Studies in Historical Practice” requirement for Drama majors and minors.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: VC

L15 Drama 3016 Blood and Magic: Special Effects in Historical Practice
Should Sarah Kane’s Cleansed have realistic or symbolic blood? Does The Tempest’s Ariel have to fly? This course integrates textual analysis with production to consider depictions of violence and magic in performance across centuries. By examining contemporary and historical staging conventions as well as creating their own scenework, students will consider how violence and magic are cultural constructions and explore how on-stage depictions of these cultural constructions can impact interpretations of the source text. Students will read key plays from antiquity to today and write dramaturgical analyses across multiple assignments. Additionally, in a structure based on director Anne Bogart’s legendary “Collaboration” course at Columbia University’s School of the Arts, students will experiment with practice as a way of knowing, as they work in small companies to create, stage, and review short, critically engaged adaptations of each play, every two weeks. Students will also join a Special Interest Group (SIG) based on rotating course themes, which may include Adaptation, Immersivity, Interactivity/Participation, Stage Technology, and Historical Context. This course fulfills the “Studies in Historical Practice” requirement for Drama majors and minors.

L15 Drama 3011 A History of African-American Theater
A survey of African-American theater from post-Civil War “coon” shows and reviews to movements for a national black theater, such as Krigwa, Lafayette and Lincoln, and the Black Arts Movement. Early black theater and minstrels; black theater movements and other ethnic theater movements in America. Critical readings of such plays as Amiri Baraka’s Dutchman, Lorraine Hansberry’s A Raisin in the Sun, Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston’s Mulebone. Also works by August Wilson, Ed Bullins, Charles Fuller, Georgia Douglas Johnson.
Same as L90 AFAS 301
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H
UColl: CD

L15 Drama 3012 Theater Space in Historical Practice
This course examines the roles that dramatic characters play within the "worlds" of the play and performance culture they inhabit. In some cases, we can speak of metaphorical "masks" presented to the world; in others, the theater may use actual masks. We begin with classical antiquity, examining the differentiation of physical masks and characters in both tragedy and comedy (we will note that the word "person" comes from the Latin word "persona," the word for mask in ancient Roman comedy). We then consider the complex system of types in classical Indian and later Kathakali dance-drama: types that each had specific emotions associated with them. Chinese musical theater of the fourteenth century, with strong ties to a rapidly growing urban environment, had its own distinct types. Following this unit we consider the masked characters of Italian Renaissance comedy (the commedia dell’arte) and its uncanny parallels to the nearby Karagoz, Turkish shadow puppet theater. We next move to the theater of Shakespeare, considering the boy actor and gender fluidity in Twelfth Night. Then we consider the “realist” playwright Ibsen, in view of the social roles performed by the play’s characters. In Cloud Nine, Carol Churchill gives us insights into the performance of gender in modern life. A unit on modern and contemporary African drama examines the performance (or erasure) of political identity in crisis, as we read Athol Fugard’s Sizwe Bansi Is Dead and also the play Woza Albert! (Mtwa, Ngema, Simon). The course concludes with two African-American plays, August Wilson’s Fences and Lynn Nottage’s Sweat. This course fulfills the "Studies in Historical Practice" requirement for Drama majors and minors.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM

L15 Drama 3014 Body Language: Acting, Rhetorical Gesture, and Dance in Historical Perspective
Why do actors in silent films seem to gesticulate so wildly? Who could have ever thought that was "realistic"? Would time-travelers from the future think actors in our day appear just as ridiculous? If you’ve ever thought that thought, then you’ve stumbled onto the fact that despite its claims to represent the reality of its audience’s experiences with the verisimilitude of the actor’s body in the here and now-acting is a historical practice. Moreover, it is a culturally-variable practice, with claims to represent the "real" that are both symbolic and mimetic, and usually both at once. In this course, we will trace the history of acting in five thematic units: "rhetorical gestures;" "representing the collective;" "festive formations;" "signs, codes, and animated hieroglyphs;" and "approaching the real." From the ancient Greeks to digital avatars, we will study how bodies in motion create meanings for their audiences in different cultures and across time. Through kinesthetic, emotional, psychological, and visceral appeals, actors not only represent their audiences as they think they are, but also offer to transform them into whom they think they could be. This course fulfills the "historical practice" requirement in the Drama major/minor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM
L15 Drama 304 Makeup for the Stage
A hands-on introduction to the makeup techniques most commonly used for theater productions, including basic corrective, age, changing the shape of the face, and special effects, as well as the designing process. Students will apply makeup to their own faces and are required to purchase the makeup kit specified by the instructor. Credit 2 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3081 Costume Rendering and Design
Costume Rendering and Design is an introduction to the skills required for designing costumes for theater productions. Class topics will include duties and responsibilities of costume designers for theatre, elements and principles of design, research methods, drawing the human figure and clothing, various color media, text analysis and creating costume-related paperwork for plays, communicating character with costume renderings, and the time management required to complete designs in a deadline-based industry. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 309 Stage Technology
Practical study of technical theater procedures and scene shop; production techniques. Course outline includes lectures, demonstrations of equipment, production assignments and research-oriented project work. Prerequisite: Drama 212E or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 310 Stage Lighting
This course places an emphasis in the aesthetic practice of lighting design through the understanding of technology as it relates to time and space. Early on the student learns how to properly use and apply designer’s tools and then through reading, research and experimentation explore the limitless boundaries of color and texture. This culminates in a stage design in collaboration with directing or dance class. Upon completion of the course, the student is able to speak eloquently on design theory and be able to move on to further design study in Drama 410 Advanced Lighting Design. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 311M Scenic Design
An introduction to the process of scenic design, as it relates to aesthetics, dramatic literature, collaboration and production. Projects involve design conceptualization, documentation, graphics and realization. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 314 Voice-Speech Laboratory
Fundamentals of speech for the stage focusing on breath support, resonance, articulation and speech as an expression of an individual’s needs. The course includes an introduction to stage dialects. Preference given to majors. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3153 The Women of Greek Tragedy
This course examines the role of women in Athenian drama. Students will read English translations of the works of the three major tragedians — Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides — and their near contemporary, the comedian Aristophanes. Direct engagement with ancient texts will encourage students to develop their own interpretations of and written responses to the political, social, and ethical manipulation that these mythological women were compelled to endure and the subtle ways in which they appear to exercise power themselves. Selected scholarly articles and book chapters will help students to contextualize these ancient dramas in their culture of origin. Because such issues continue to preoccupy both sexes today, students will see how Greek tragedy addresses perennial historical and cultural concerns through the examination of adaptations of Greek tragedies ranging from Seneca in ancient Rome to Spike Lee’s “Chi-Raq” and Luis Alfaro’s “Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles.” The final research paper will encourage students to consider how a specific female character from antiquity is transformed for a “modern” dramatic audience. Same as L08 Classics 3153. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3201 Concepts in Theater Architecture and Performance Space
Can a cloakroom or a stairwell become a theater? How do site and placement affect the meaning potential of performance? How does contemporary environmental staging conjure a world different from that of the modern box set, the baroque perspective stage or Shakespeare’s Globe? We engage such questions by drawing on theory, history and hands-on creation to examine historical, actual and potential performance spaces. Readings in architectural and dramatic theory, theater history, performance studies and philosophy provide both a critical descriptive vocabulary and a conceptual repertoire for use in creative class assignments — both informing students’ investigations of actual theaters or other performance — ready spaces and provoking their creation of experimental performance spaces. Readings cover semiotic, materialist and situationist approaches to space, as well as concepts including site specificity, space vs. place, framing, perspective, miniature, the door, the curtain, the cloakroom and the monument. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3212 Topics in Theater
Rotating topics course. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3227 Devising, Adaptation, Docudrama
This course explores three ways of theatre-making that have revolutionized the contemporary stage: devising (a collaborative process emphasizing physical techniques to realize ideas), adaptation (the transposition of a narrative from one mode to another), and docudrama (the self-conscious staging of history through the assemblage of documentary records). Beginning with a focus on the current “postdramatic theatre” and the pre-histories of these contemporary practices, we will engage current scholarship on each of the three methods of creating performance. Students to consider how a specific female character from antiquity is transformed for a “modern” dramatic audience. A theme (variable by semester) will unite the three sections of the course, helping students to see how a single topic can be illuminated in different ways through these three methods of creating performance. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 323 Topics in American Drama
A rotating topics course on various subjects relating to the history and theatrical practice of modern American drama. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H
L15 Drama 3301 Performing Gender
This course investigates an array of contemporary performances to explore manifestations of and challenges to gender norms in American culture. An initial reading of crucial performance theories by Judith Butler, Jill Dolan and others help set the stage for our examination of a diverse collection of contemporary texts, including plays, solo performances, stand-up and pop culture phenomenon. We raise questions about feminist performance strategies, butch/femme performance, camp, cross-dressing, feminist spectatorship, multimedia performances and the representation of lesbian desire. Prerequisite: any 100-level Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies course.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SD BU: BA EN: H

L15 Drama 332 Comedy, Ancient and Modern
In this course we will examine the nature of dramatic comedy and its role in society. We will read, discuss and write about comedies from ancient Greece and Rome and from various modern nations, paying particular attention to the following questions: Do comic plays reinforce or challenge the preconceptions of their audiences? How have comic playwrights responded to issues such as class, gender, religion, and politics? Why does comedy have such power both to unite and to divide people? This course has an extensive writing component, so much of our time will be spent writing about the comedies we will read, revising what we have written, and discussing how best to write about comedy. Same as L18 Classics 385W
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCC, WI Art: CPSC BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 336 Modern Drama

L15 Drama 3361 Modern Drama, 1945 to the Present
Course concentrates on the development of modern drama from 1945 to the present. Focus is on both literary and theatrical techniques as well as the examination of trends in the contemporary theatre from Samuel Beckett through Sam Shepard. Perspective is comparative and international in scope, with particular attention given to women and minority playwrights.
Same as L14 E Lit 3361
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 338 Physical Theater: An Exploration of Viewpoints and Suzuki Training
In this course students study two very different but complementary styles of movement training. Developed by the Saratoga International Theatre Institute, this method of actor training combines the improvisational exploration of time and space through "Viewpoints" with the rigid structure and physical demands of the Suzuki method. This combined approach is designed to develop heightened awareness and acute focus in the performer. In addition, it fosters greater impulsion and freedom in the moment while maintaining discipline and control. Students gain flexibility and strength and enhance their creative potential by balancing these seemingly opposing methods. Prerequisite: Drama 341 Acting II Fundamentals of Movement or Dance 106E Introduction to Dance as a Contemporary Art Form.
Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 340 Topics in Stage Movement
Exploration of a variety of theatrical and movement concepts with emphasis on process rather than product. Concentrates on developing the expressive flexibility of the body and linking the imaginative impulse with physical movement. Preliminary work in relaxation and efficient self-use. Prerequisite: Drama 240E or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 341 Acting II
Fundamental scene study using texts with emphasis on integration of voice and body and the playing of actions. Students are encouraged to precede this course with Drama 207C. Prerequisite: Drama 240E. Preference given to majors.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3411 Intermediate Acting: Scene and Character Study
This course expands and develops the work begun in Fundamentals of Acting. The focus is on developing systematic strategies for challenging theatrical texts. Emphasis will be placed on integrating the use of the voice and body as well as the development of character via actions in scene study projects. We will focus on investing fully in the imaginary/given circumstances of the plays we encounter. In addition, students will augment their study of character through audition preparation and monologue techniques. Research and analysis are featured, and students are asked to demonstrate their proficiency in written assignments. Prerequisite: Drama 240E/2401.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3412 Acting II — Acting Styles in Theory and Practice: Modern
This 5-unit class fulfills both one theater studies and one theater arts requirement for the major. It combines fundamental actor training with dynamic, performance-oriented study of the stylistic foundations of modern acting. Text-based scene study that emphasizes the integration of voice and body and playing of actions is paired with units on contemporary and historical acting styles that give context to modern acting practice. Class units cover practical aesthetics and tactical choices for actors interpreting texts, as well as theories of the body in performance ranging from early modern notions of electric and vital passions, to oratorical gesture, Stanislavski, biomechanics, Brechtian alienation, and postmodern practices including documentary theater and cross-media mimesis. Since it fulfills both the Acting II requirement and a Theatre Studies requirement for the major, the class incorporates research, writing and critical thinking assignments. However, with the notion that performance constitutes a type of research outcome, student research projects involve kinetic elements. Acting styles are researched in archival sources and embodied in studio exercises and creative student projects.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 342 Acting III
Emphasis on characterization while working with a diversity of playwriting styles. Prerequisites: Drama 341, either Drama 207C or 208C, and permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3422 Acting Styles: Realism to Nonrealism
Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 343 Fundamentals of Directing
Directing is the most liberal arts of the creative theatre-making areas, drawing analytical, critical thinking, communication, design and actor coaching skills. This course will explore fundamental lessons in some of those areas, including text analysis from a directorial perspective, stage composition, auditions/casting, actor communication, time management and team leadership skills. Major course components will include one extensive script analysis paper and the direction of a scene from a contemporary play. The latter will require outside-of-class rehearsal time. Prerequisites: Drama 212E, Drama 240E/2401, junior or senior standing. Preference given to drama majors. For junior/senior status or grad students only.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H
L15 Drama 347 Shakespeare Globe Program: Acting Shakespeare
This course is a three-week summer intensive program taught by world-renowned artists and scholars at London’s Globe Theatre under the supervision of Washington University faculty. Students will take master classes in acting, movement, voice, stage combat, theatre history, and script analysis; they will hear scholarly lectures on interpreting Shakespeare’s plays, situating them within their cultural and historical context and understanding how they were performed on the early modern stage; and they will attend five or more professional productions of Shakespeare’s plays at the reconstructed Globe Theatre and other venues. Centered in London, the course includes an excursion to Stratford-upon-Avon, where students will visit Shakespeare’s birthplace and related historical sites and attend plays performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company. The course culminates with student performances of scenes and monologues on the Globe stage. The application process must be initiated either through the College of Arts & Sciences’ Ampersand Program or the Performing Arts Department office. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3491 Media Cultures
This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of cultural and media studies. Through a focus on television and new media, it analyzes current theoretical ideas and debates about culture. Main topics include the relationship between new technologies and everyday life and popular culture; analysis of media messages and images; how media help construct new identities and mark differences between groups; analysis of the globalization of the production and circulation of media culture; the rise of multimedia cultural industries; and the role of the audience. Required screenings. Same as LS3 Film 349 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA EN: H

L15 Drama 351 Intro to Playwriting
Same as L13 Writing 351 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3524 Topics in Literature: Drama Queens: Cleopatra in Elizabethan England
Same as L14 E Lit 3524 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 361 Stage Management
A practical approach to the study of theater stage management focusing on organizational and communication skills. Workshops, lectures and discussion; guest speakers and field trips covering the pre-production, rehearsal and performance periods; labor relations/performing arts unions; career opportunities; and supporting the vision of the artistic team. Prerequisites: Drama 212E and Drama 240E. Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 365C Theater Culture Studies III: Melodrama to Modernism
The third in the department’s three-course history sequence, TCS III surveys the dramatic literature and cultural history of the modern theater. Beginning with Romanticism’s self-conscious break with the past, we’ll study the rise of bourgeois melodrama with its intensely emotional rendering of character and spectacular effects. We’ll consider how those effects were made possible by advances in industrial stage technology which reproduced the everyday world with unprecedented verisimilitude, and how playwrights responded to those technologies by calling for the theatre to become either a “total work of art” — plunging its spectators into a mythical realm — or a petri dish — analyzing the struggles of the modern individual within their modern milieu. Exploring a range of aesthetic modes — including Realism, Naturalism, Symbolism, Expressionism, the Epic Theatre, and the Theatre of the Absurd — we will read classic plays by modern playwrights to consider how the modern theatre helped its audiences understand as well as adapt to the rapidly changing conditions of the modern world. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH, HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 367 Introduction to Drafting for the Theater
This course provides the student with a basic understanding of all of the various types of technical drawings needed to successfully execute a scenic design. Throughout the course the student masters all the technical and aesthetic skills needed to produce clean and effective draftings for the theater. In order to successfully complete this class, the student is required to purchase a drafting board and related drafting materials. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 368 Black Theater Workshop III
A performance-oriented course that explores the black experience through acting, directing and playwriting. Students develop through classroom improvisation short performance pieces during the semester. They also are required to attend three to five plays. Each student must participate in a final performance which is in lieu of a written final examination. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SD Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 372 Advanced American Musical Theater
This course focuses on developing the acting, singing and dancing techniques required for performing in musical theater. The student develops group pieces and participates in scenes that explore character within a musical theater context. The class culminates in a workshop performance. Prerequisites: Drama 221 and permission of instructor, by audition. Repeatable one time for credit. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 374 Theories of Modern Drama
What makes modern drama "modern?" How does it differ from the drama of other cultural movements? When does the modern period begin? This course takes up such fundamental questions in order to examine not only the influential plays that have come to define the "canon" of modern drama, but the various theories that have been proposed as a way of understanding them in relation to the history of Western culture. From Friedrich Nietzsche’s The Birth of Tragedy to Walter Benjamin’s thesis on the Trauerspiel to Emile Zola’s Manifesto on Naturalism in the theater, we start by considering when modern drama begins and what constitutes its defining features. With such provisional definitions in place, we then engage the responses of fellow modernists such as Richard Wagner, William Archer, T.S. Eliot, Bertolt Brecht, Georg Lukacs and Theodor Adorno. We also consider whether so-called postmodern drama has broken with the modern period to introduce something altogether new, and how recent debates concerning interculturalism, the ideology of form and performance invite new ways of understanding the cultural function of modern drama and its legacy in our own historical moment. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H
L15 Drama 3751 American Culture: Methods & Visions: Home, Bittersweet, Home: Histories of Home and Homeownership
Required course for AMCS Majors. See semester listing for current topics. As a Writing Intensive course, 3751 serves as an occasion for AMCS students to think about matters of argument and presentation, and to develop ideas and models for future research. This course is intended for students at the Junior Level or Higher; it fulfills the "multidisciplinary" (MD) requirement for AMCS Minors and the "Methods Seminar" requirements for AMCS Majors.
Same as L15 AMCS 375A
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 378 Contemporary American Theater
This course is a focused investigation of the aesthetic, political, and urban landscapes of the contemporary American theatre. We will read published and unpublished plays, familiarize ourselves with the country's most important companies, festivals, and institutions, and discuss issues facing the American theatre now. We will explore the role of the arts in urban planning and development, and address the relationship between higher education and arts institutions, paying particular attention to ideas of community engagement and social justice work undertaken by both. Artists to be studied may include Tony Kushner, Suzan-Lori Parks, Caryl Churchill, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Lynn Nottage, Young Jean Lee, and Lin-Manuel Miranda. This course will include a mandatory class trip at the end of March to the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville, Kentucky. Students will prepare for this trip by reading the works of featured playwrights and establishing a research project that will be carried out on-site. Findings from the research project will be presented upon the return to St. Louis. Admission to the course is by instructor permission only; an application form will be sent to all registered students at the conclusion of the registration period. In consultation with and with the permission of the instructor, this course may fulfill the Fieldwork requirement for American Culture Studies majors.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 379 Expressionism in Theater and Film
This course is designed as an advanced introduction to the aesthetic movement of Expressionism as it appeared in Germany and the United States in the media of theater and film. Characterized by stylized settings that "ex-press" the internal spiritual/emotional/psychological state of its central character, Expressionism is usually discussed as a reaction to Realism, given its overt symbolism, telegraphic diction and episodic action. Beginning with a brief general introduction to the movement (including its manifestation in the visual arts), we will consider its cultural, political and critical history, while exploring more recent scholarly investigations into the significance of its performance dimensions.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 384 Digital Media for the Stage
Entertainment technology continues to evolve and push boundaries by taking our imagination and turning it into a version of reality. Digital Media will attempt to explore some of the tools used to bridge the two worlds of thought and sight. We will learn how to think creatively about imagery and how to paint that onto a stage through a different type of light: digital. Using QLab and Green Hippo — two of the most widely used media control systems in the world — we will learn how to deliver thought-provoking illusions of light and texture on the stage.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 387 In Living Color: Performing the Black '90s
From Cross Colours overalls to oversized sweatshirts and boom boxes, the 1990s was loud, colorful, and in your face. But along with the fun of house parties and the growing prominence of hip-hop, Black people in the United States also contended with heightened criminalization and poverty codified through the War on Drugs, welfare reform, police brutality, and divestment from public education. In the midst of insurgency, creativity, and the quiet that undergirded both, we will study the various cultural productions of Black performers and consumers as they navigated the social and political landscapes of the 1990s. Focusing primarily on urban centers, we will study major works growing out of hip-hop, R&B, comedy, television shows, films, and popular literature that attends to the regional differences throughout the nation. In this course, we will use theories from performance and cultural studies to understand the specificities of Blackness, gender, sexuality, religion, and geography in the 1990s.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: BA, HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 388 Asian and Asian Diaspora Theatre
It is often falsely assumed that Asian and Asian American theatre is a theatre for specific ethnic communities. However, its significance in the US and in broader world theatre scenes has reverberated with audiences of diverse backgrounds, leading to a production of vibrant arts and scholarly discussions on its power in shaping cultures and politics in America and in other global regions. This course is designed as an advanced introduction to the aesthetic, political, and critical apparatus. Accordingly, course-long projects will find students tool, performance, or installation in conversation with a discipline's critical making, theatrical practice, and interdisciplinary, team-based agile development processes. Each two-week "sprint" engages a multidisciplinary (MD) requirement for AMCS Minors and the "Methods Seminar" requirements for AMCS Majors.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 390 Immersive Story Studio
What possibilities and pitfalls do immersive practices create for live storytelling? How do the affordances of a digital tool amplify or suppress aspects of a source story? What new insights into familiar stories can we generate with radical adaptation? To engage these questions, this studio seminar blends humanistic scholarship with critical making, theatrical practice, and interdisciplinary, team-based agile development processes. Each two-week "sprint" engages a multidisciplinary, theatricalized context, asking students to envision how the tools utilized therein might illuminate latent aspects of familiar stories. Topics include spatial computing/AR/VR/ XR, immersive theatre, theme parks, and cultural institutions/museums. Additionally, this course utilizes "critical making" as an epistemology, wherein the site of knowledge creation is the process of devising an object, tool, performance, or installation in conversation with a discipline's critical apparatus. Accordingly, course-long projects will find students selecting and using immersive tools-digital, analog, or both-to radically adapt a familiar story, broadly construed. Importantly, while
technological skills are welcome, they are not required. Students are encouraged to envision gloriously and scope effectively as they design a hypothetical or prototyped research project and complementary critical engagement. This course may be repeated for credit for students who wish to design and execute a more robust project. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 394W Writing For and About the Theater
In this course, students will learn to write for and about the theater, exploring different forms of dramatical and scholarly research as well as journalistic and academic writing. To build skills in both critical analysis and synthesis, students will learn how the key elements of the playwright's text (e.g., language, character, plot, setting) work to create meaning within the work of dramatic literature and how theatre-makers use the various "languages" of the stage (e.g., costume/scenic/lighting design, music, acting) to give expression to an overarching interpretation of the play. Because research is essential to this course, students will learn how to access a variety of library resources by working closely with our subject librarians. By the end of the semester, students will have assembled a portfolio consisting of both journalistic and academic performance reviews, a dossier of dramatical research, and a research-based scholarly paper. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3950 American Musical Film
Film musicals were crucial to the success of the American film industry from the dawn of sound film in the late 1920s to the demise of the studio system in the late 1950s. This course examines the American film musical from a variety of aesthetic, critical, and historical perspectives, with particular attention to how the genre interacted with popular music and dance and the major political and social trends of the Thirties, Forties, and Fifties. Required screenings. Same as L53 Film 359 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3952 Shakespeare in Performance
Same as L14 E Lit 3952 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 396 History of Western Costume
Of particular interest to fashion, history, anthropology, and performing arts majors, this course is an exploration into the clothing worn by predominantly Western cultures from Ancient Greece through the 1890s. Lectures incorporating images of extant garments, sculpture, art, and photographs will inspire discussion regarding the influences on fashion evolution and the cyclical nature of fashion. Assessment is by exam, the first of which is on the fourth class meeting, so this is not a recommended course to "shop." Please note that this course is a prerequisite for History of Western Costume in the 20th Century, which is offered in the spring semester. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM: BU: HUM: EN: H

L15 Drama 3961 History of Western Costume in the 20th Century
History of Western Costume in the 20th Century is a continuation of the themes explored in Drama 396 (History of Western Costume from Ancient Greece Through the 19th Century). Ideally, students will have already taken Drama 396 before enrolling in this course. This is a fast-moving, lecture-style course that examines objects of human apparel from 1900 through the present and analyzes the causes of fashion evolution throughout the 20th century. Students will explore the influence and aesthetics of major designers, and they will observe and discuss the ways in which contemporary interpretations of the past are modified to comply with contemporary modes and expectations. Assessment is through exams and evaluation of a presentation to the class. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM: VC BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 3975 Wolves of Wall Street: American Business and Popular Culture
America's perceptions about Big Business and the Free Enterprise system have evolved and changed over time from the 1920s to the present. During the 1980s, for example, Oliver Stone's Wall Street seemed to endorse the notion that "greed is good." Today, however, the topic of rising income inequality has been connected with the collapse of prestigious Wall Street firms, the "housing bubble," a declining middle class, and widespread fear about the future of "The American Dream." This new course examines a variety of artistic, ethical and historical perceptions about American Business as depicted in popular culture and the arts over the past hundred years. How have America's foremost artists (among them F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, Martin Scorsese), dealt with questions of conspicuous consumption, the acquisition of capital for its own sake, and the disparity between rich and poor? We survey several artistic genres and artistic forms, including American tragic works like The Great Gatsby and Death of a Salesman, to popular musicals such as How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying and The Producers. Same as L98 AMCS 3975 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 400 Theatrical Rendering for Scenery
An exploration of media and rendering techniques used for presentation of design ideas in scenery. A variety of stage sets, still lifes and figure drawing are rendered during a two-hour studio format with some additional studio time required. Materials are provided by students. Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 4001 Computer-Assisted Design for the Theater
This course is an in-depth study of how computers can assist designers in drafting and rendering processes. Primary study is focused on the program Vectorworks. We fully explore the use of this program in development of scenic and lighting design projects from basic line drawings to fully rendered 3D images. Other programs covered are Autocad, Google Sketch Up, AG132, Photoshop CS3 and some lighting design previsualization software. Projects are centered on theatrical applications and based on students' imaginations. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 4011 Staging Atrocity: Theater of the Holocaust
Responding to the Holocaust has challenged artists working in every medium. Nowhere are these challenges more extreme than in the theater, where the intimacy of the space, the close proximity of live actors and audience, and the subject matter itself may serve to intensify its effect. We will read a careful selection of modern and contemporary dramas and explore the range of responses. Underneath each weekly topic reverberate the nagging question of whether one can—or should—make art from the Holocaust, as well as a serious exploration of the uses and effectiveness of theater to communicate on this subject. We look at the ways in which the Holocaust has been used as a subject to raise moral dilemmas, examine the limits of humanity, elicit doubt or faith, and provide political commentary. We will also discuss the ways in which playwrights have stretched the limits of the theater to meet the challenge of staging the Holocaust. Topics considered include the nationalization and personalization of the Holocaust, the role of the second generation, issues of audience, and the use of experimental forms and obscenity. The plays on the syllabus are from North America, Israel and Europe. All readings are in English (original or translation).
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SC Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 403 Dramaturgical Workshop
A laboratory course that investigates dramaturgy from four vantage points: New Play Dramaturgy, Institutional Dramaturgy, Dramaturgy of Classics, and Dramaturgical Approaches to Nontraditional and Devised Theater. This is a "hands-on" course where student dramaturges will not only pursue the study of dramaturgy, but will work actively and collaboratively with playwrights, actors and each other. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM

L15 Drama 4031 Black and White in American Drama
This course addresses the complex issue of race in America through the 19th and 20th centuries as dramatized by American playwrights, black and white. Authors include Countee Cullen, Lillian Heilman, Eugene O'Neill, Jean Toomer, Langston Hughes and Arthur Miller. Prerequisites: junior standing, two 300-level courses or better. Same as L14 E Lit 403. Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L15 Drama 404 Topics for Writers: Beckett
Waiting for Godot, Happy Days, Krapp’s Last Tape: These are but three of Samuel Beckett’s revolutionary texts for theater. The complete canon of plays are examined for structure and compositional elements. Students undertake exercises in dramatic composition and perform a chamber presentation of Endgame. Course is intended for writers with some experience of the dramatic form. Intending students must interview with instructor Nov. 12-14. Same as L14 E Lit 404. Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L15 Drama 4081 Theater for Social Change
Drawing upon the principles and teachings of Brazilian director Augusto Boal, students explore ways of effecting positive social change in a theatrical context. The student facilitates exercises with the group that mine a chosen area of oppression with which the group is grappling. The student guides playmaking with the group that highlights this area of oppression. The resulting plays are presented then to the larger school or organization community. This culminating event is an interactive forum theater presentation that the student leads as “Joker.” Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 409 The Modernist Revolution in the Arts
What is/ was Modernism? How did this worldwide phenomenon impact the arts in every genre and medium from the turn of the 20th century to the present? Do we still live in the age of Modernism, or should we consider ours a new, Postmodern age? This course examines these and other questions as they relate to the theater, prose, poetry and the visual arts. Our investigation focuses on most of the major literary and artistic movements, including Naturalism, Impressionism, Symbolism, Surrealism and Expressionism. We examine literary manifestoes that help to illuminate the periods under discussion, as well as look at individual works themselves. Central to our approach in the course is an interdisciplinary perspective. Among the luminaries whose work is considered are Ibsen, Strindberg, Chekhov, Hemingway, Dali, Picasso, Stravinsky, Artaud, Kafka and Beckett. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 410 Advanced Stage Lighting
This course is an advanced course and a continuation of Drama 310 Stage Lighting. Emphasis is placed on cultivating design aesthetics and a further exploration of controlling light in a laboratory and live setting. Students will dive deeper into color theory, light plot development, and ultimately into advanced lighting console programming. The course objectives will cover a wide range of production styles and performance venues within a series of challenging design projects. Prerequisite: L15 310 or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 4101 Lighting Technology
Lighting Technology is an extremely hands-on approach to learning how the top industry designers create major shows and concerts with the most state-of-the-art equipment. We spend a considerable amount of time learning how to use and program robotic/moving lights, LED fixtures and video integration for use in drama, dance, musical and concert settings. The student gains intensive training in the use and programming of the ETC Express, ETC Ion and GrandMA 2 Light consoles with a full range of Vari*Lite robotic fixtures. In addition, the student receives training in Isadora, a very powerful video design program. Prerequisites: Drama 212 and Drama 310. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 412 Advanced Practicum in Technical Theater
Independent Study. Intensive practical experience in scenic design building and painting; lighting design and installation; costume design, coordination and construction; makeup; and audio production. Prerequisites: Drama 212E, credits on at least two productions, and permission of staff. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.
L15 Drama 4140 Topics in Embodied Communication
This course is about listening. We will begin by mediated and unmediated listening with the human auditory system and continue into an exploration of multi-modal listening, focusing on vibration and on somatic attention. We will work in the "studio," which will include a music studio, a dance studio, and the environment. Our investigation will include the study of sensing in more-than-human organisms as well as theoretical perspectives from sound studies, critical improvisation and history of science. The course will encourage the perspective that the practice of listening is a political act of tending to the invisible, the non-normative, and the incomplete.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 416 Period Style and Design History
Examination of period styles as they relate to theatrical design and history. Study of architecture, furniture and props from Greek to contemporary periods. Prerequisite: Drama 212E.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L15 Drama 4224 Acting Styles: Realism to Nonrealism
This course builds on skills in character development and scene study, beginning with psychological realism and then shifting into various forms of nonrealism. Through written analysis and performance, students apply acting techniques that address a variety of playwrighting styles. Prerequisites: Drama 240E/2401 and Drama 341/3411. The semester begins with a deepening understanding of psychological realism through the exploration of Anton Chekhov's plays. Focus then shifts to nonrealism with Harold Pinter. The second half of the semester is solidly rooted in nonrealism. Students hone their skills by exploring two more scenes from classical and/or contemporary texts. Additionally, in the final scene, students are encouraged to explore applicable considerations of gender-identity, race, and ethnicity in play and character selection. Prerequisites: Drama 2401 Fundamentals of Acting, Drama 3411 Intermediate Acting This course is open exclusively to seniors and graduate students
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 422A Film Stardom, Performance and Fan Culture
This course focuses on the Hollywood star system. We explore stars in relation to celebrity and consumerism, especially how "stardom" is created by a system that seeks to create effects in film viewers whether conceived as audiences, fans or spectators. We examine the performance element of stardom and its relationship to genre, style and changing film technology. Also of concern is how stars and their discursive construction of stardom intersect with gender representation, race, ideology, sexuality, age, disability, nationality and other points of theoretical interest to and historical inquiry in contemporary film studies. While emphasis is placed on mainstream commercial U.S. cinema, students are encouraged to pursue questions beyond this framework within their own research. Required screenings. Same as LS3 Film 422
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA EN: H

L15 Drama 4234 Performing Knowledge: Arts Integration Pedagogy in Theory and Practice
This course invites students interested in the performing arts to apply their talents to the K-12 classroom through a service-learning component that allows them to develop and implement an arts-integrated curriculum grounded in current research in the cognitive sciences. Divided into four units, the course begins with a survey of recent research in cognitive science that traces the effects of arts-related activities on brain development. The second unit builds upon that theoretical grounding, focusing on a model of arts-integrated pedagogy developed through Harvard University’s “Project Zero.” The third and fourth units are practice-based, with students developing a lesson plan in a core subject area that incorporates the performing arts. Then — in consultation and collaboration with an Interchange artist-in-residence and a master teacher in the St. Louis or Normandy Public Schools — students implement their curriculum in a K-12 classroom, testing its efficacy as well as the theoretical assumptions upon which it is based. This course is open to all students across campus who have a strong interest and/or background in the arts, and who wish to explore opportunities in service learning.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 4261 Performing the Political in American Dance
This course is an exploration of the politics of performance and the performance of politics through the lens of American dance in the 20th and 21st centuries. Through readings, screenings, and discussions, we will examine the ways in which American dance developed against and alongside political movements in the United States, particularly ones concerning nationalism, race, gender, and human rights. We will also investigate how the lens of dance and choreography offers an expansive means to conceptualize political questions of citizenship and social protest, broadening our understanding of embodied performance. Guided by several key philosophical texts, this course will focus on the concepts necessary for examining the convergence of performance and politics (e.g., representation, ritual, spectacle, body, mimesis, propaganda) while also paying special attention to the politics of funding and censorship that has governed the creation and presentation of dance in the United States. No dance experience is necessary.
Same as LS9 Dance 426
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SC, SD, WI Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: BA EN: H

L15 Drama 431 English Drama Exclusive of Shakespeare to 1642
Studies of selected major plays against a background of change and tradition in English drama from its beginnings to the closing of the theatres.
Same as L14 E Lit 431
Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L15 Drama 4310 Borders and Boundaries
International borders affect you every day. In the United States and elsewhere, they play a role in determining whether you are a birthright citizen or an unauthorized migrant. They showcase a nation’s ability or inability to guarantee your wellbeing. They factor into immigration, asylum, and national security debates. Those who live near an international border often deal with a particular set of issues. Living in an either/or environment can impel border residents to strategically recognize or deny cultural forms to be hyper patriotic, for example, to speak one language at home and another at school, or to understand gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity in site-specific ways. This course will draw from the work of performance theorists, playwrights, anthropologists, historians, and geographers to write critically about and devise artistic work that opens up foundational theories, debates, and genealogies in the study of borders and boundaries. This course will use North America as its primary reference point, but it will also draw our attention to border and boundary dynamics elsewhere to think about global challenges such as forced migration and climate change.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SC EN: H

L15 Drama 432 Topics in Renaissance Drama
A study of Elizabethan and Jacobean theatrical culture — the plays, players, playwrights and audiences of public theaters, private theaters and banqueting halls. Study includes the plays of Lyly, Kyd, Marlowe, Jonson, Chapman, Ford, Beaumont, Fletcher, Marston, Middleton, Webster and Shakespeare.
Same as L14 E Lit 432
L15 Drama 435 Expressionism in the Arts
A close study of expressionism as an international phenomenon in the arts, from the anti-naturalist movements of the 1890s to Hitler's condemnation of expressionism as decadent. The evolution of expressionist theater from Wedekind to Tollier and Kaiser and such composers as Schoenberg and Berg; in the visual arts, such groups as Der blau Reiter and Die Brucke, such independents as Kokoschka; in cinema, such figures as Pabst, Murnau, Von Sternberg and Lang. Prerequisite: Drama 208E, Drama 336 or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L15 Drama 436 Seminar in Comparative Drama
The course begins with Plato’s critique of mimesis and Aristotle’s defense, as we read The Poetics as a response to Plato. We take some of Aristotle’s basic concepts, such as mimesis, plot, character and thought, and attempt to apply them to drama up to the present day. We also consider fundamental elements of both the dramatic text and the dramatic production, such as space, time, dialogue, narrative devices and perspective. Brecht’s theory of “epic drama” form the other conceptual pole in the course, opposing Aristotle. Besides these two theorists, other figures include Ben Jonson, Corneille, Dryden, Diderot, Schiller, Hegel, Zola, Artaud and Grotowski. The course, then, has both chronological and thematic axes. Three papers and one oral presentation. Same as L15 Comp Lit 436 Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L15 Drama 437 Performing Ghosts: Blackness, Performance, and Archival Erasure
Taking ghost as apparition, metaphor, an imaginary, and type of possession, this course focuses on the intersections between performance, affect theory, and archival practice to investigate how scholars and artists contend with the psychic and affective terrors against blackness. Part of these terrors, the course asserts, happened and is happening in the realm of the affective, ephemeral and archival. Moving across theoretical works, literature and theater, our readings differently query: How can performance enable us to recuperate the lives of those violently erased from the archive? How to imagine embodiment for subjects “tracked” by history, such as black folks whose bodies suggest other forms of pathology, like sexual deviancy, mentally “insanity,” and other forms of criminalization? How have attachments to ghosts been used as a methodology to stage and reperform blackness in the past and in the present? And lastly, how can we capture embodiment (or enshinement) without live bodies? By rethinking “liveness,” “abuse,” “loss” and “remains,” the readings and discussions will offer performance as a methodological and analytical infrastructure to conduct historical and/or archival research. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SD Arch: HUM Art: CPSC, HUM BU: BA, HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 4370 Music and Performance
Christopher Small has asserted that music is not a thing but an activity—something that people DO. Starting from this premise, this course explores popular music in performance and introduces students to the flourishing scholarship at the intersection of performance studies, sound studies, and popular music studies. We will attend to sound, music, listening, and voice—and we will consider these elements of performance in combination with costume, choreography, stage design, and audience participation and interaction. Exploring the choices of performers and the expectations of audience members in settings from gospel churches to Radio City Music Hall, this course moves through a wide variety of musical genres, including cabaret, blues, opera, musical theater, and rock. We will consider the pleasure and politics embraced by everyday people and activists who have used music in protest movements from the labor movement to Black Lives Matter. We also attend performances around St. Louis, guided by the interests of the class. Upper-level undergraduates and graduate students (enrolled under a 500-number) with an interest in music, theater, dance, cultural history, American studies, and African American studies are especially welcome. Same as L15 AMCS 4370 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 440 Acting IV
Acting IV synthesizes the student’s performance training, creative and scholarly writing skills and knowledge of dramatic literature. The advanced acting student is encouraged to develop and articulate his/her own aesthetic convictions. The course includes intensive solo performance projects, including writing and performing original monologues. Also, significant emphasis is placed on preparing the student for the work of professional acting, including workshops on audition monologues, head shots, resumes, and economic issues. In addition, the students become familiar with various American theater cities, the regional theater system and prominent working theater artists. The course closes with a public performance of the original, scripted and audition material developed over the semester. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 4401 The Creative Artist: Empowering the Actor
In this course, the projects are designed to synthesize the student’s theatrical training and experience through solo performance as well as ensemble-based critical support. While the course’s performance work is explored through an actor’s lens, the class is open to all advanced drama students who meet the prerequisites. Students will be encouraged to develop and articulate their own aesthetic convictions through an examination of the creative process, the development of original solo material, the exploration of the theater profession within the current American and international theatrical climate, the development of new audition pieces, small group presentations and an analysis of plays and other reading assignments. The course closes with a public showcase of the original material written and developed over the semester. Prereq: L15 240E/2401 and 341/3411. This course is open only to seniors and graduate students. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 444 Directing II
Further study in the fundamentals of directing. Emphasis on the director’s work with actors, designers and a realized metaphorical concept. Prerequisites: Drama 343 and permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 445 Seminar
Rotating upper-level seminar. Senior seminar normally offered each semester and meant to satisfy the 400-level requirement for the drama major. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 4452 Senior Drama Capstone
This course, which is required for seniors completing the drama major, is team-taught by one PAD faculty member in Theater Arts and one in Theater and Performance Studies. In order to remain responsive to each senior class as well as the particular expertise of the faculty pair, the course is built on a flexible curricular model. Components will include an exploration of contemporary theatre literature and theatre-making, individual and ensemble-based activities, research and critical writing projects. A culminating project that synthesizes the semester’s study will be part of the course. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H
L15 Drama 448 The History of Theater Design
Survey course covering the history of the performance space and the scenic design elements contained within that space. The visual elements and theater architecture of each period are examined in relationship to the art and technology of the time. Prerequisites: Drama 207C or Drama 208C, and Drama 212E.
Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L15 Drama 449 Seminar in Dramatic Theory
This course is an in-depth exploration of core works of dramatic theory from the ancient world to the present, and it will introduce texts that enunciate what theater is, has been, and should be. We will study authors’ expressions of theater’s role in society, their articulations of and responses to anti-theatrical prejudice, and their negotiations of the contradiction of putting “the real” on stage. Other significant themes include accounting for the aesthetic pleasures of drama and theater; theater as a means of educating the citizen; and the relationship between dramatic form and social and political revolution. Moving chronologically, we begin with foundational documents of the ancient world, including Aristotle’s “Poetics,” Bharata’s “Natyasstra,” and Horace’s “Ars Poetica.” The course then progresses through the Middle Ages, the Neoclassical and Romantic eras, and the explosion of fin de siecle avant-gardes. We will also read key texts from beyond the European tradition, including works of dramatic theory written in medieval Japan (Zeami), postcolonial Nigeria (Soyinka), and the millennial, multicultural United States (Parks). Along these same lines, we will also be attuned to transnational exchange and influence, particularly as it appears in the 20th-century theories of Bertolt Brecht, Antonin Artaud, and Konstantin Stanislavsky. Although the course will be focused on efforts to describe and prescribe theories of drama, dramatic genre, and theatrical pleasure, it will also position play scripts alongside the theoretical treatises that guide or are guided by them.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: SSC EN: S

L15 Drama 450 Advanced Scenic Design
Advanced projects in scenic design including drafting, rendering, model building, and conception. Prerequisite: Drama 311M, or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 451 Topics in Period Style: Baroque Opera and Neoclassical Style
An exploration of the dynamic interplay between high Baroque culture and the perceived style of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Primary sources used are paintings, sculpture and renderings for Baroque operas, as well as rare artifacts which exist from that time as these sources relate to classical evidence extant in that period. Secondary sources are journal articles and records of fully staged productions of intervening years. Primary interest is retranscultural the thought processes of the designers of Baroque opera. Focus is on Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas, looking at the libretto and its relationship to source texts, both ancient and contemporary, and also its place within the cultural history of the theatre. Projects include: in-class presentations and a research paper or fully realized design project.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM

L15 Drama 453 American Drama
Topics in American Drama.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 454 A Madman in the Theater: The History of Insanity on Stage from Sophocles to Shaffer
The image of the madman and the theme of insanity have been extraordinarily captivating to theater artists from the Greeks to the present. In this course we consider some of the most remarkable examples from the classical period, including Sophocles’ Ajax and Euripides’ Medea and The Bacchae, and the Renaissance (Hamlet, Othello, The Spanish Tragedy, The Duchess of Malfi, Life is a Dream). We investigate these works both for what they tell us about the image of the madman in the historical period and culture in which they were written as well as in order to closely examine the texts themselves. We also examine plays from the 19th and 20th centuries, including Buchner’s Woyzeck, O’Neill’s Emperor Jones, Anouilh’s The Madwoman of Chaillot, Miller’s Death of a Salesman and Shaffer’s Equus. Finally, the course makes extensive use of the Performing Arts Department’s production of Peter Weiss’ extraordinary work Marat/Sade and incorporate theoretical writings such as Michael Foucault’s Madness and Civilization into discussions.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L15 Drama 455 Practicum in Arts Management
Assigned work and projects under faculty supervision in Washington University’s Edison Theatre or off-campus cooperating institutions. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 456 The Filmed Stage Play
Close textual analyses of stage plays and their film adaptations, examining structural parameters such as space, time point of view, spectator position and performance in the two art forms. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.
Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 460 The Creative Impulse
Developed with the director and designer in mind, this course encourages imaginative theater making by developing the student’s own sense of creative confidence and ability, by expanding the source options for artistic inspiration, by recognizing and valuing the synergistic properties of transcendent theater making, and by strengthening the collaborative skills essential to the art. The course includes creativity exercises, comprehensive forms of text analysis, exploration of other art forms, cooperative conceptual projects, and
L15 Drama 465 The Chinese Theater
This course is a survey of the performance and literary traditions of the Chinese theater from their pre-Tang origins to the present day. The course focuses on three forms: 14th-century zaju plays, 16th- and 17th-century chuanqi plays, and recent films from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Background in either China studies or theater in other cultures recommended. Prerequisite: junior level or above or permission of instructor.
Same as L04 Chinese 467
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 469 Topics in Shakespearean Production
This course examines Shakespeare’s comedies in performance. Combining scene work and production history, students gain access to the world of the comedies from a hands-on, theoretical and historical perspective. Prerequisites: Drama 354C or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM: EN: H

L15 Drama 4691 Shakespeare and Early Modern Performance
Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 4692 Shakespeare and Performance
How were Shakespeare’s plays performed in their own day— in the Globe theater, with boy actors, and with very short rehearsal times? How, for the actor, did performance work on the outdoor stage, with the Globe’s wide and deep acting platform and its intimate relationship to the audience? How might one stage Shakespeare today in an outdoor environment without lighting and with minimal sets, and with the capacity to move easily from one outdoor venue to another? From what social types in Renaissance England— such as merchants, prostitutes, aristocrats, constables, beggars, and princes— did Shakespeare draw? How can evolving ideas about race, gender, and sexuality inform the way we perform Shakespeare today? Addressing these questions and others, the course weaves together performance and literary, critical, and historical study. Topics include blank verse, performing Shakespeare’s prose, playing with figures of speech, working the Globe stage, engaging an outdoor audience, acting from a written “part” rather than an entire script, performing types, exploring Shakespeare’s sources as performance alternatives, making Shakespeare new- and more. Students will rehearse and perform sonnets, scenes, and monologues based on social figures from Shakespeare’s England. The course assumes a willingness to perform but not specialized acting training.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 471 Millinery Design and Construction
A hands-on course exploring the major sewing and patterning techniques used to make hats from a variety of materials in a variety of styles. Students will be required to purchase some of their own materials to create several hats over the course of the semester. Prerequisite: Drama 207 or sewing equivalent or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 473 Advanced Playwriting
This course explores the tendencies and relationship between each individual student writer and the page. Exercises dispel any lingering doctrine that presupposes a certain style of writing. A large part of the class centers around collaborations. The writers write scenes as a final project for an acting class, and also work with two professional actors in an extended writing project that culminates in a script-in-hand presentation. The informal moments between collaborations look at the process beyond the first draft — i.e., the playground of language, nonverbal options, and the maintaining of “the work” through rewrites, readings, workshops and productions. Prerequisite: Drama 227.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 474 Acting Theories
This course explores in depth the major theoretical texts on acting and performance theory. Pertinent philosophical texts, dramatic theories, acting systems and methodologies are studied. The survey operates chronologically from early documents on acting (Greek, Roman, Italian Renaissance) through to modern and contemporary documents that inform acting and acting training today (Stanislavsky, Brecht, Grotowski, Meisner, Spolin, Suzuki). Methodologies and practices of select major stage actors are explored as well. In some cases, directing theories that have had major influence on acting theory are examined.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM

L15 Drama 479 Fundamentals of Sound Design
Encompassing both creative and technical aspects of sound in the performing arts, the course gives theoretical knowledge of and practical experience in the following areas: fundamental rules of physics and electronics related to sound, use of standard digital recording studio equipment, “training” of the ear, and basic techniques of sound montage. Students are expected to participate in a variety of conceptual and research-oriented exercises as well as complete several lab projects. Sound-related work on Performing Arts Department productions may be required. Prerequisites: Drama 212 and permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 487 Theater Culture Studies Seminar
Rotating upper-level topics course. Topics come from Theater Culture Studies sequence.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, WI

L15 Drama 4891 Topics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Jingju (Beijing/Peking Opera)
Topics course in Chinese literature and culture; subject matter varies by semester. Prerequisite: junior level or above or permission of instructor. Same as L04 Chinese 4891
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: S UColl: CD

L15 Drama 491 Staging Illness
“Suddenly some force struck him in the chest and side, making it still harder to breathe, and he fell through the hole and there at the bottom was a light.” This quotation, from Tolstoy's story "The Death of Ivan Ilyich," offers an example of how artists have employed serious or life-threatening diseases as a means of illuminating both physical suffering and spiritual rebirth. Even as it invades the body and isolates us from our fellow man, illness may offer opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal, serving as an apt metaphor for human survival in times of extremis. In her brilliant essay, "Illness as Metaphor" (1978), Susan Sontag takes issue with how illnesses like tuberculosis were misunderstood or even romanticized during the 19th century in works like Dumas’s "Camille" and Puccini’s "La Boheme." During the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and 1990s, American artists — particularly theatre artists, whose communities were decimated by the disease — were
L15 Drama 493 Senior Project
Specialized study in a selected area in drama. Required of all drama majors not taking Drama 499. Prerequisite: 15 units of advanced work in drama at the 300 or 400 level.
Credit 3 units.

L15 Drama 497 Performance Theory
This course introduces students to contemporary theories of performance, with “performance” understood as both metaphor and event. From a multidisciplinary perspective, students consider how cultures produce meanings — and, indeed, perform those meanings — to create and/or disrupt their own social coherence. Theories likely to be studied include: J.L. Austin’s speech-act theory and its engagement by John Searle and Jacques Derrida; Victor Turner’s analysis of ritual as social process and Richard Schechner’s use of it to transform “theater studies” into “performance studies”; Erving Goffman’s sociology of the self and its relation to a post-structuralist model of subjectivity; Michael Fried’s screed against minimalist art and its relation to Happenings, Body Art, Fluxus, and other mid- to late-20th century examples of “performance art;” and Judith Butler’s influential revision of Austin’s performative in her theory of queer “performativity.”
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L15 Drama 498 Special Topics in Playwriting: Art and Activism
Taught by guest teaching artist, Regina Taylor, playwright, director, stage/screen actor; this course will focus on how art can effect change through personal expression. The monumental cultural shift that is in motion throughout the world will be explored through the specific lens of each student’s life. Students will write short pieces and one-act plays that will explore where they are at this moment in time. Works in the class may be added to Regina Taylor’s black album mixtape. No playwriting experience necessary. Course open only to juniors, seniors and graduate students.
Credit 3 units. BU: HUM

L15 Drama 499 Study for Honors
Prerequisites: senior standing, a cumulative and a major GPA of 3.5, and permission of the chair of the Performing Arts Department.
Credit variable, maximum 6 units.

L15 Drama 4990 Independent Work
Students may contract with a faculty supervisor for credit for their work on theatrical productions or research. Contracts must be signed by the student and the coordinator of Drama 500 before the student’s work on the project commences. Credit and grade option to be determined in each case. In order to enroll for this course, students must complete a contract and submit it to the Performing Arts Department office.
Credit variable, maximum 6 units.

L15 Drama 4991 Acting
Independent study. In order to enroll for this course, students must complete a contract and submit it to the Performing Arts Department office.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 4992 Directing
Independent study. In order to enroll for this course, students must complete a contract and submit it to the Performing Arts Department office.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 4993 Technical Theater
Independent study. In order to enroll for this course, students must complete a contract and submit it to the Performing Arts Department office.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 4994 Voice, Speech
Independent study.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 4995 Literature, Theory, Criticism
Independent study.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L15 Drama 4996 Race, Memory, and Performance
This course takes as its starting point the vexing questions of history, memory, and identity that activists, scholars, artists, and others have posed in recent years. What is to be done with the commemorative landscape of monuments and memorials? How do we account for the silences and erasures in archival records? How should histories of racial violence be commemorated? These are questions that have been taken up in many arenas of civic life, including public art, “living history” tourism, museum studies, and urban planning. They have also been taken up by theater artists and performance artists who use their bodies, narrative, historical fact and, sometimes, fiction to bear witness to the past and to imagine new futures. In this course, we will examine the role of theater and performance in constituting-and challenging-the historically contingent meanings of “race;” we will also explore how performance of history shapes national narratives. Artists to be explored might include Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Mary Kathryn Nagle, Dread Scott, Quiara Alegria Hudes, Simone Leigh, and Heidi Schreck. Artistic and/or performance experience is not required. Students will have the opportunity to propose their own commemorative projects; together we will explore whether and how performances of the past can do a certain kind of reparative work necessary for a more equitable future.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, SC Arch: HUM Art: HUM, VC BU: BA, ETH EN: H