Drama

Students may select drama as a major through the Performing Arts Department (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/performingarts/). This major combines the historical, cultural, theoretical and literary study of theater and performance with a full array of theater arts courses, including acting, directing, performance art, design (set, costume, lighting), stage management and playwriting. The Performing Arts Department strongly believes in the mutually beneficial relationship between the study and the practice of theater. A major in drama develops students’ knowledge of theater by means of rigorous, immersive studio and lab courses, along with a strong and comprehensive grounding in theater history, dramatic literature, performance studies and dramatic theory.

The three-semester Theater Culture Studies sequence provides an expansive, global study of theater and performance, from prehistory to the 21st century; students take an additional two courses in theater and performance studies. Within the theater arts, students choose courses in acting, directing, playwriting or design. Our theater arts courses are based on a liberal arts model rather than a conservatory model. During the senior year, a capstone experience is required for all drama majors.

We also offer a special study abroad program that can be credited toward the major. Since 1991, we have been holding a national summer program at Shakespeare's Globe in London, which consists of a 3-unit course on acting Shakespeare and a 3-unit course on Shakespeare studies, in addition to several master classes taught by Globe personnel.

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