Revision of Theatre Major and Minor

A revision of the Theatre Department’s major and minor courses of study is long overdue. With the addition this year of a new faculty line and the restoration of a previously approved one, we believe now is the time to proceed. The curriculum has not been substantially revised in over 25 years, nor was it altered when the department was separated from Communications Studies; therefore, we believe the proposed alterations will improve our major and minor both pedagogically as well as substantively, while continuing to embrace the tenets of a liberal arts education.

Believing in the importance of providing our majors and minors with a specialized study of the foundational components of theatrical endeavor, we have balanced the course offerings to more equitably distribute them in three divisions of theatre study: history and dramatic criticism, performance, and design and technology. The current theatre major requires three history/dramatic literature courses and three design/technology courses, whereas only one course in acting and one course in directing are currently required.

Mirroring one intention of the AXLE implementation committee to provide students with more input regarding the choice of their classes, it is also our goal to offer students greater choice in the selection of elective courses to fulfill the revised major than that of the current one. When students complete the required introductory level courses selected to ensure breadth of understanding, the revised major allows students to select nine elective hours of course work from seventeen upper-level classes to further an in-depth investigation.

By refreshing the theatre department’s major and minor, we create a system reflective of the strengths of our present faculty and one which will appeal to a greater number of students attracted to this aspect of humanistic exploration. The addition of a third director on our faculty, for example, affords the department the opportunity to expand its offerings with another course, Intermediate Directing. With this new appointment also comes the opportunity for the creation of a capstone course, Senior Seminar, a class designed specifically for our graduating majors. This course will also serve to better allow us to assess learning outcomes of our students, as it is specifically designed to be taken when they have nearly completed their course of study.

Attention to accommodating a breadth of AXLE requirements is also a priority in refashioning the theatre major and minor. With the addition of a new class, 206W – Contemporary Drama and Performance Criticism, for example, we increase our number of Perspective courses available to Arts and Science students. With the new major, we will offer courses in four AXLE categories: Humanities and Creative Arts, International Cultures, US History and Culture, and Perspectives.
3. The tallied vote for the rationale of our revised major and minor was taken on 12/20/11. All present faculty members voted in favor of the proposal: Leah Lowe, Phillip Franck, Matt Stratton, Alexandra Sargent, Christin Essin, and Terryl Hallquist (Chair) and Jon Hallquist voted in favor by proxy.

4. This revision of our major and minor will have no additional impact on staffing, space, computing facilities, or the library.

5. This revision of our major and minor incurs no new costs.
Dear Michael,
Yes, I do give my confirmation of this CEP proposal from Theatre.
Thanks,
Terry

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From: Muise, Michael R  
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2012 2:45 PM  
To: Hallquist, Terryl W  
Cc: Hynek, Laura Marie  
Subject: Confirming: Theatre - Proposal for CEP

Dear Professor Hallquist,  
As a formality, do you as Chair of Theatre give your confirmation of this CEP proposal from your department?  
Thank you  
Michael

Michael Muise  
College of Arts and Science Registrar’s Office Vanderbilt University  
Phone: 615-343-3156  
Email: michael.r.muise@Vanderbilt.Edu

----Original Message-----  
From: Hynek, Laura Marie  
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2012 2:39 PM  
To: Muise, Michael R  
Cc: Hynek, Laura Marie  
Subject: Theatre - Proposal for CEP

Hi Michael,  

Here is the Theatre - Proposal for CEP. I will bring the Requests for Course Change Forms, etc. and Syllabi to your office tomorrow.  

Best,  
Laura
Hi, Terryl,

I’m happy to confirm that English will continue to support the playwriting course in Theater for the next two years, with the caveats that it would specifically be Rebecca Maggor we would be loaning (so if she should leave, while I’d be happy to explore other options, I can’t guarantee any), and that the dean’s office continues to be good with the plan.

Does this suffice, or do you need a more letterheady version?

Happy New Year...

Mark
Fall 2012

100 – Fundamentals of Theatre – Christin Essin
110 – Intro to Theatrical Production-Matt Stratton
111-Fundamentals of Theatrical Design – Phillip Franck
115F – First-year Writing Seminar - Leah Lowe
201 –Dev. Of Drama and Theatre I- Christin Essin
214- Elements of Basic Design: Costume/Makeup- Alex Sargent
219 -01 - Acting One- Jon Hallquist
219-02- Acting One- Jon Hallquist
230-Play Direction- Terryl Hallquist

Spring 2013

100 – Fundamentals of Theatre - Christin Essin
110 – Intro to Theatrical Production-Matt Stratton
111-Fundamentals of Theatrical Design – Alex Sargent
206W-Contemp.Drama/Perf.Criticism-Christin Essin
213- Elements of Basic Design: Lighting/Sound –Phillip Franck
219 -Acting One – Jon Hallquist
220-Acting II- Terryl Hallquist
223- Problems of Acting Style – Jon Hallquist
225-Playwriting-Rebekah Maggor
232- Shakespeare in the Theatre – Terryl Hallquist
261- Senior Seminar – Leah Lowe

Fall 2013

100 – Fundamentals of Theatre – Christin Essin
110 – Intro to Theatrical Production-Matt Stratton
111-Fundamentals of Theatrical Design- Alex Sargent
115F – First-year Writing Seminar Terryl Hallquist
202W –Dev. Of Drama and Theatre II- Christin Essin
212- Elements of Basic Design: Scenery/Props-Phillip Franck
218-Management in the Theatre-Phillip Franck
219 - Acting One- Jon Hallquist
230-Play Direction – Terryl Hallquist
231-Intermediate Directing – Leah Lowe

Spring 2014

100 – Fundamentals of Theatre - Christin Essin
110 – Intro to Theatrical Production-Matt Stratton
111-Fundamentals of Theatrical Design – Phillip Franck
204-Development of American Theatre -Christin Essin
216-History of Fashion – Alex Sargent
219 -Acting One – Jon Hallquist
220-Acting II- Terryl Hallquist
223- Problems of Acting Style – Jon Hallquist
225-Playwriting-Rebekah Maggor
232- Shakespeare in the Theatre – Terryl Hallquist
261- Senior Seminar – Leah Lowe
Students majoring in theatre are required to complete a minimum of 35 hours in courses concerned exclusively with theatre and dramatic literature. Required courses are 100/100W or 115F, 110, 219, 111, 230, and 261; two courses chosen from 201, 202W, 204, and 232; additional nine hours chosen from other theatre courses.

(The following is a long version description of the changes to the major, not actual catalog copy.)

**New Theatre Major**

**Required:**
- 100 or 100W – Fundamentals of Theatre -3 hrs – offered each semester  OR
- 115F – First-Year Writing Seminar – 3 hrs – offered every Fall semester
- 110 – Intro to Theatrical Production – 4 hrs – offered each semester (or 3 out of 4 Semesters)
- 111 – Fundamentals of Theatrical Design – 4 hrs – offered each semester
- 219 – Acting I – 3 hrs – offered each semester
- 230 – Play Direction – 3 hrs – offered every Fall semester
- **261 - Senior Seminar – 3 hrs – offered every Spring semester**

**Two courses from:**
- 201 – Development of Drama and Theatre I – 3 hrs – offered Fall semester – alternate years
- 202W – Development of Drama and Theatre II – 3 hrs – offered Fall semester – alternate years
- 204 – Development of the American Theatre - 3 hrs – offered Spring semester – alternate years
- 232 – Shakespeare in the Theatre – 3 hrs – offered every Spring semester

**Nine hours from:**
- 218 - Management in the Theatre – 3 hrs- offered Fall semester- alternate years
- 206W – Contemporary Drama and Performance Criticism – 3 hrs – offered Spring semester – alternate years
- 211 - Rehearsal: Production
- 212– Elements of Basic Design: Scenery and Properties – 3 hrs – offered Fall semester alternate years
- 213 – Elements of Basic Design: Lighting and Sound – 3 hrs – offered Spring semester alternate years
- 214 – Elements of Basic Design: Costumes and Makeup – 3 hrs – offered Fall semester alternate years
- 215 - Costume Technology – 3 hours --- not currently offered
- 216 - History of Fashion– 3 hrs – offered Spring semester – alternate years
- 220 –Acting II – 3 hrs- offered every Spring semester
- 221 - Rehearsal: Acting
- 223 – Problems of Acting Style – 3 hrs – offered every Spring semester
- 225 - Playwriting – 3 hrs – offered every Spring semester?
- 231 - Intermediate Directing – 3 hrs – offered Fall semester – alternate years
- 280 - Theatre in London – 3 hrs – offered Maymester
- 289 - Independent Study
- 294 - Selected Topics in Theatre
- 299 a/b - Senior Honors Thesis

**Total:** 35 hours
A minor in theatre requires a minimum of 18 hours in the department, all of which are involved in one of three major areas of work offered to majors. Theatre 100/100W or 115F and 232 are required in each option, plus courses from the following lists:

Dramatic Literature/Theatre History : Choose 4 from 201, 202W, 203, 204, 205, or 206W
Acting/Directing: 219 is required; Choose three from 220, 223, 230, or 231
Design/Technology : 110 and 111 are required; Choose two from 212, 213, 214, or 218

(The following is a long version description of the changes to the minor, not actual catalog copy.)

Revised Theatre Minor

Required for each option:
100 or 100W – Fundamentals of Theatre – 3 hrs – offered each semester
115F – First-Year Writing Seminar – 3 hrs – offered every Fall semester
232 – Shakespeare in the Theatre – 3 hrs – offered every Spring semester

Plus, courses from the one of the following options:

Dramatic Literature/Theatre History: Choose 4 from 201, 202W, 203, 204, 205, or 206W
201 – Development of Drama and Theatre I – 3 hrs - offered Fall semester – alternate years
202W – Development of Drama and Theatre II - 3 hrs - offered Fall semester – alternate years
203 – Contemporary Drama and Theatre – 3 hrs - not currently offered
204 – Development of American Theatre - 3 hrs - offered Spring semester – alternate years
205 – The American Musical – 3 hrs - not currently offered
206W – Contemporary Drama and Performance Criticism - 3 hrs - offered Spring semester – alternate years

Acting/Directing: 219 is required; choose three from 220, 223, 230, or 231
219 – Acting I – 3 hrs - offered each semester
220 – Acting II – 3 hrs - offered every Spring semester
223 – Problems of Acting Style – 3 hrs - offered every Spring semester
230 – Play Direction – 3 hrs - offered every Fall semester
231 – Intermediate Directing – 3 hrs- offered Fall semester – alternate years

Design/Technology : 110 and 111 are required; Choose two from 212, 213, 214, or 254
110 – Introduction to Theatrical Production– 4 hrs - offered each semester (or 3 out of 4 semesters)
111 – Fundamentals of Theatrical Design – 4 hrs - offered each semester
212 – Elements of Design: Scenery and Properties – 3 hrs - offered Fall semester – alternate years
213 – Elements of Design: Lighting and Sound - 3 hrs - offered Spring semester – alternate years
214 – Elements of Design: Costume and Makeup – 3 hrs - offered Fall semester – alternate years
218- Management in the Theatre – 3 hrs – offered Fall semester- alternate years

18-20 hours
Theatre

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

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

Work in the productions at Vanderbilt reflects the instruction that occurs in the classroom at Neely Auditorium. Because the academic endeavors require hands-on, project-oriented teaching, students can expect small-to-medium class enrollments and numerous opportunities for exposure to faculty instruction outside of the classroom. The department’s curriculum includes courses in acting, directing, design, technology, dramatic literature, theatre history and criticism, and playwriting. Students can either major or minor in theatre at Vanderbilt. The major consists of a minimum of 33–35 hours that include courses in acting, directing, dramatic literature, theatre history/criticism, design, technology, and stagecraft. For the minor, students select one of three more narrowly focused tracks (dramatic literature/theatre history, acting/directing, or design/technology) and complete a minimum of 18 hours of course work.

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

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

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

Program of Concentration in Theatre
Students majoring in theatre are required to complete a minimum of 33 35 hours in courses concerned exclusively with dramatic literature and the theatre and dramatic literature. Required courses are 100/100W or 115F, 110, 111, 219, 230, and 232-261; two courses chosen from 212, 213, 214; three courses chosen from 201, 202W, 203, and 204.; and 232; additional nine hours chosen from other theatre courses.

Honors Program
The Honors Program in Theatre is designed to afford superior students the opportunity to pursue more intensive work within their major field.

Admission requirements are: (1) completion of junior year; (2) completion of at least 21 hours of the theatre major; (3) 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA and a 3.5 minimum GPA in courses counting toward the major.

Candidates who successfully complete the following requirements may graduate with honors or highest honors: (1) maintain the aforementioned GPA throughout the senior year; (2) complete all requirements of the theatre major; (3) complete 6 hours of independent research 299a–299b (Honors Research and Thesis) normally taken during the senior year; (4) write an honors thesis to be completed by the spring of the senior year; (5) successfully complete an honors oral examination on the topic of the thesis.
Minor in Theatre
A minor in theatre requires a minimum of 18 hours of courses in the department, all of which are involved in one of three major areas of work offered to majors. Theatre 100/110W or 115F and 232 are required in each option, plus courses from the following lists:

Dramatic Literature/Theatre History: Choose four from 201, 202W, 203, 204, 205, or 206W.
Acting/Directing: 219 is required; Choose four three from 219, 220, 221, 223, 230, or 231, appropriate 294 credit.
Design/Technology: 110 and 111 are required; choose two from 212, 213, 214, or 218.
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Admission requirements are: (1) completion of junior year; (2) completion of at least 21 hours of the theatre major; (3) 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA and a 3.5 minimum GPA in courses counting toward the major.

Candidates who successfully complete the following requirements may graduate with honors or highest honors: (1) maintain the aforementioned GPA throughout the senior year; (2) complete all requirements of the theatre major; (3) complete 6 hours of independent research 299a–299b (Honors Research and Thesis) normally taken during the senior year; (4) write an honors thesis to be completed by the spring of the senior year; (5) successfully complete an honors oral examination on the topic of the thesis.

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all of which are involved in one of three major areas of work offered to majors. Theatre 100/100W or 115F and 232 are required in each option, plus courses from the following lists:

**Dramatic Literature/Theatre History:** Choose four from 201, 202W, 203, 204, 205, or 206W.

**Acting/Directing:** 219 is required; Choose three from 220, 223, 230, or 231.

**Design/Technology:** 110 and 111 are required; choose two from 212, 213, 214, or 218.
Dear Timothy and Jonathan,

Please see attached the Theatre catalog changes that CEP has approved with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining. I hope that I am following correct procedure. If not, please do let me know how to correct this correspondence.

My best,

Leonard, CEP Chair

Leonard Folgarait  
Professor of History of Art 
Vanderbilt University 
Box 0274 GPC 
230 Appleton Place 
Nashville, TN 37203

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From: Muise, Michael R  
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:17 AM  
To: Folgarait, Leonard  
Subject: RE: Quick CEP vote on Updated Theatre Catalog changes

Dear Leonard,  
The votes for the Theatre proposal are approved 6-0.  
Please find the final proposal attached.

This is really something of note too. A proposal that passed with just one meeting and one email. The department should be proud.  
Sincerely,  
Michael

Michael Muise  
College of Arts and Science Registrar’s Office Vanderbilt University  
Phone: 615-343-3156  
Email: michael.r.muise@Vanderbilt.Edu