

# THEATRE AND DANCE

## FACULTY:

*Kim Tritt, Chair*

*Shirley Huston-Findley (on leave Spring 2014)*

*Jimmy Noriega*

*Dale Seeds*

Theatre and Dance, as studied at The College of Wooster, emphasizes the relationship between scholarship and artistry, investigating both the range and depth of the human experience. The Theatre and Dance Major and Minor curricula offer a broad range of knowledge designed to examine acting, directing, dance, design and technology, history, literature, playwriting, and theory, focusing in each area on the importance of analyzing texts in their various modes: the written text, the visual text, and the physical text. While the Theatre and Dance student may choose to specialize in one of these particular areas of the discipline for their Senior Independent Study, the departmental philosophy remains dedicated to the liberal arts belief in developing, through its interdisciplinary curricular structure, a combination of historical and critical analysis in relationship to the study of various performance texts, resulting in the creation of the artist/scholar.

The Theatre and Dance major consists of a minimum of 12 course credits: three 100-level foundational courses focusing on the understanding of text from a variety of perspectives, three 200-level history/literature/theory/criticism courses, three 300-level Topics courses, Junior Independent Study and Senior Independent Study allow students to establish an area of emphasis in Theatre and Dance, including directing, design, technology, acting, choreography, playwriting, history and theory.

## Major in Theatre and Dance

Consists of twelve courses:

- THTD 10100
- THTD 10200
- THTD 10300
- Two of the following courses: THTD 20100, 20200, 24400, or 24600
- One of the following courses: THTD 24100, 24300, 24500, 24700 or 24800
- Three of the following 300-level courses: THTD 30100, 30200, or 30300
- Junior Independent Study: THTD 40100
- Senior Independent Study: THTD 45100
- Senior Independent Study: THTD 45200

## Minor in Theatre and Dance

Consists of six courses:

- THTD 10100
- THTD 10200
- THTD 10300
- One of the following courses: THTD 20100, 20200, 24100, 24300, 24400, 24500, 24600, 24700 or 24800
- Two of the following 300-level courses: THTD 30100, 30200, or 30300

## Special Notes

- Students choosing to include a Production component in their Senior IS must also take four sections of either THTD 12101 *Performance Practicum* (.25 credit each) or THTD 12102 *Production/Management* (.25 credit), and one section of

THTD 12103 *Stage Management Practicum* (.25 credit each). The fourth 12100 may be taken in any section for a total of one credit.

- Only grades of C- or better are accepted for the major or minor.

## THEATRE AND DANCE COURSES

### FOUNDATION COURSES

#### THTD 10100. THE WRITTEN TEXT

The Theatre and Dance program at Wooster emphasizes the importance of analyzing texts in their various modes: the written text, the visual text and the physical text of the performer's body. These modes interact simultaneously with each other in the process of performance. This course specifically poses fundamental questions about the nature of written texts, and how they become transformed in the performance process. This understanding of texts is fundamental to both the enlightened theatre and dance audience member and to the work we do as actors, dancers, directors, choreographers, dramaturges, designers, technical personnel, and support staff. *Annually. [W, AH]*

#### THTD 10200. THE VISUAL TEXT

The visual text, which includes the images created by the body, scenery, lighting, costumes, properties, film, and digital imagery, forms the ways in which the written text is performed. Students will focus on the following: how visual elements narrate the story; the basic tools and principles of design and the visual arts which communicate space, meaning, mood and emotion; and how visual communication in a performance context is culturally based and informed by historical and stylistic insight. The student is expected to develop a visual literacy and to apply this knowledge to both the understanding of how these elements create meaning and the development of creative visual representations of a text. *Annually. [AH]*

#### THTD 10300. THE PHYSICAL TEXT

An introductory level course intended to engage students in the study of movement as a primary text necessary for developing the art and craft of performance. Students will be introduced to the diversity of physical tools that shape movement of the performative body and how to analyze physical text with critical literacy and cultural theory of Western and non-western performance systems. *Annually. [AH]*

#### THTD 12101. PERFORMANCE PRACTICUM

Performing in a faculty-directed theatre or dance production. Rehearsal and performance time must total a minimum of 40 hours. Only those students who are cast in faculty-directed productions should register for the Performance Practicum. Students cast in non-faculty directed productions may receive credit pending faculty approval through a student petition. (.25 course credit) *Annually. Fall and Spring.*

#### THTD 12102. PRODUCTION/MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM

Practical experience in the production of a faculty directed play, or dance concert, including scene, costume or props design or construction; lighting design or execution; or serving on a stage or wardrobe crew. Non-faculty directed productions may receive credit pending faculty approval through a student petition. A minimum of 40 hours during the semester is required. *Prerequisite: Permission and arrangements are made through the instructor and the Department's Technical Director. (.25 course credit) Annually. Fall and Spring.*

#### THTD 12104. STAGE MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM

Practical experience in stage management of a faculty directed play, musical or dance concert, including serving as an assistant stage manager or assistant director. Non-faculty directed productions may receive credit pending faculty approval through a student petition. A minimum of 40 hours during the semester is required. *Prerequisite: Permission and arrangements are made through the instructor and the Department's Technical Director. (.25 course credit). Annually. Fall and Spring.*

## HISTORY, LITERATURE, THEORY & CRITICISM

#### THTD 20100. CONTEMPORARY DANCE HISTORY

This course explores the development of contemporary dance as an art form. Rich in diversity, the modern dance is world-conscious, concerned with social, cultural, and personal issues. Beginning with an introduction to late-nineteenth-century theatrical dance, this class will examine twentieth-century concert dance choreographers and their work as evidence of identity and change through dance literature, critical essays, and film. *Alternate years. [C, AH]*

#### **THTD 20200. DANCE IN WORLD CULTURES**

An introductory overview to selected dance traditions of the world. The course will examine such issues as the role of the physical text in dance, influences from other cultures, and culture-specific choices of the physical body. Students will gain understanding of how dance is embedded in the belief systems of the people who created it, how dance forms have changed and why, and develop skills in communicating about dance orally and in written form. *Alternate years. [C, AH]*

#### **THTD 24100. LATINA/O DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE (Latin American Studies)**

This course is an introduction to the history of Latina/o theatre and performance in the United States. By dismantling borders and opening up the public space of performance, students will explore topics related to identity and representation within the various Latina/o communities in the U.S. Analyzing a variety of performance genres and styles, the course examines how creative forms challenge dominant ideology and culture. Topics of emphasis include: immigration and diaspora, family and heritage, gender and sexuality, assimilation and resistance, violence, politics, and class struggle. Students will engage in historical, social, political, and cultural analyses of the theatre being created by Latinas/os and the ways that their works bridge the gap between Latin America and the United States. *Offered every third year. [C, AH]*

#### **THTD 24400. ORIGINS OF DRAMA**

This course introduces students to the origins of eastern and western dramas, focusing primarily on Europe, the U.S. and India, emphasizing the relationships between history, dramatic literature, and theory. *Alternate years. [AH]*

#### **THTD 24500. FEMINISM AND THEATRE (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)**

This course is designed to explore theories of feminism and gender issues in relation to dramatic literature from a wide range of time periods and perspectives. Emphasis will be placed on developing student appreciation of and critical responses to traditional and non-traditional forms of drama as they relate to women as bodies in performance; the relationship of the male gaze (in film and on stage) to both canonical and non-canonical works; and marginalized voices (e.g.; women of color). *Offered every third year. [C, AH]*

#### **THTD 24600. DRAMATIC THEORY AND CRITICISM**

This course traces the various theoretical movements found in the development of world theatre from the introduction of Realism to Grotowski's ritual theatre, emphasizing the relationships between history, theory, criticism, and dramatic literature. *Alternate years. [AH]*

#### **THTD 24700. LATIN AMERICAN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE (Latin American Studies and Comparative Literature)**

This course is an introduction to the theatrical histories of Latin America. Students will examine the histories of Latin America. Students will examine the historical development of diverse performance traditions and read texts from some of the most influential Latin American theatre practitioners. Additionally, the course will focus on performances created from within "marginal" communities of the Americas, allowing for a comparative study of theatre across the hemisphere. Although each Latin American nation possesses its own history and identity, it is violence—from the conquest of Columbus to the twentieth-century dictatorships—that has been a common link between the people of the Americas. By focusing on texts that explore issues associated with violence and conflict, we will examine the ways Latin Americans use performance as forms of nation and community building. *Offered every third year. [C, AH]*

#### **THTD 24800. NATIVE AMERICAN PERFORMANCE (Film Studies)**

The performance traditions within Native American cultures are extremely rich and diverse, embracing ritual, myth, spirituality, oral literature, art, music, dance, film, and, more recently, improvised and written scripts and digital performance. A survey of this tremendous diversity would be impossible; accordingly, the course intends to indicate and suggest the diversity of recent Native performance in two ways: first, by focusing specifically on the range of recent performance practices of specific Alaskan Native and Native American peoples, and second, by the study of recent texts and performances by Native theatre groups and performance artists. *Offered every third year. [C, AH]*

#### **THTD 24900. INDIGENOUS FILM (Film Studies)**

The course explores how indigenous cultures throughout the world have combined ritual, myth, oral literature, art, music, and dance with contemporary film. It will focus primarily on the films that have recently emerged from indigenous cultures of North, Central, and South America, Northern Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania and how they have created a culturally specific indigenous film genre, free from colonial domination. *Alternate years. [C, AH]*

## TOPICS

Intended to create a natural extension from 100-level foundation courses, THTD 30100-30104 *Topics in the Written Text*, THTD 30200-30210 *Topics in the Visual Text*, and THTD 30300-30309 *Topics in the Physical Text* educate students in a variety of areas pertaining to the many possible foci available in the performing arts: acting, dance, directing, design, writing, and/or history, as well as practical application to Film Studies when possible. Four 300-level Topics courses will be provided each year, two per semester, rotating emphasis upon the Written Text, the Visual Text, and the Physical Text as appropriate. *Annually.*

**THTD 30100-30104. TOPICS IN THE WRITTEN TEXT** (some sections cross-listed with Film Studies)

*Prerequisite:* THTD 10100 or permission of the instructor. [AH]

### **THTD 30103. PLAYWRITING**

Playwriting is intended to provide beginning playwrights an opportunity to explore the craft through various writing exercises involving structure, character and idea development, setting, dialogue and more. Writing assignments include the creation of a ten-minute play and a one-act. In addition, students will be exposed to several dramatic texts, the process of writing, and the ins and outs of the professional world. (W)

**THTD 30200-30211. TOPICS IN THE VISUAL TEXT** (some sections cross-listed with Film Studies)

*Prerequisite:* THTD 10200 or permission of the instructor. [AH]

### **THTD 30201. LIGHTING DESIGN**

This course focuses on the concept development, planning and execution of a lighting design as part of an integrated, collaborative expression of performance. These performances may include but not be limited to theatre, dance, ballet, and opera. Students will consider the aesthetic and interpretative elements of design, director/choreographer communication and the technical knowledge, skills and tools used to execute the design. Students will apply this knowledge directly to the design and execution of the Department's productions of theatre and dance during the semester. *Prerequisite:* THTD 10200 AND permission of the instructor.

### **THTD 30202. SCENIC DESIGN**

This course explores the development of the scenic design as part of the collaborative performance of theater and dance. To this end, students will develop skills in textual interpretation, designer director/choreographer communication, concept development and the communication of the design to the production staff and crew through sketches, drafting, rendering and model making skills. *Prerequisite:* THTD 10200 AND permission of the instructor.

### **THTD 30203. COSTUME DESIGN**

This course provides core skills for the beginning costume designer. Students will explore aspects of costuming including character analysis, research, rendering, swatching, and professional presentation skills. Students will apply these tools to the creation and implementation of 2D designs based on assigned scripts.

### **THTD 30204. SCENIC PAINTING**

This course intends to introduce the more advanced theatre and dance student interested in design to the art of scenic painting. This course will employ practical projects as a means to focus on color theory, basic painting methods, lay out, highlight and shadow work and *trompe l'oeil* techniques. The course will also include the painting and preparation of decorative properties.

**THTD 30300-30312. TOPICS IN THE PHYSICAL TEXT** (some sections cross-listed with Film Studies)

*Prerequisite:* THTD 10300 or permission of the instructor. [AH]

### **THTD 30302. STYLES OF MODERN DANCE**

A comprehensive introduction to the principles of modern dance the art form will be investigated through movement explorations, movement patterning and technique, movement compositions, short essay readings and visual texts, discussion, and critical analysis of modern dance. This course will introduce foundational traditions of modern dance and examine how contemporary styles of modern dance are influenced by them. Emphasis will be placed on activities that investigate the creative, technical, and critical aspects of the art form.

### **THTD 30304. ACTING METHODS**

This course is a comprehensive study of different styles and methods of acting. The students will gain skills in acting, voice, movement, script and character analysis, improvisation, visualization, and artistic creation, as well as a working vocabulary of theatre terms. Additionally, this course will include an overview of different

acting genres and techniques from around the globe. Students will direct, watch, and evaluate performances of scenes in class.

#### **THTD 30305. CLASSIC PILATES**

The primary focus of Pilates mat work encourages strength and flexibility of the spine and hips, and the development of a neutral spine alignment through the deep core muscles of the abdomen and back in support of this posture. Sophistication of the technique emphasizes mind/body theories of control, breath techniques, and fluidity of motion.

#### **THTD 30306. CHOREOGRAPHY**

Choreography is a course that investigates principles and theories of motion in the making of dances. Through a sequential growth of movement improvisations out of a motivating idea, each student will explore motion with its many permutations and various compositional structures in the organization of movement. Critical skills necessary to dance composition will also be explored.

#### **THTD 30307. DIRECTING**

This course is a comprehensive study of the various skills necessary to be a stage director, including: play selection, script analysis, creating a director's concept and vision, casting, production administration, communication with designers, director-actor relationships, the rehearsal process, technical and dress rehearsals, opening night, and receiving feedback. Students will direct, watch, and evaluate performances of scenes in class. This course will expand the students' knowledge of acting and directing, in addition to further developing the fundamental directorial and analytical processes necessary to present a play to the public. *Prerequisite: THTD 10300 AND permission of the instructor.*

#### **THTD 30308. ACTING FOR THE STAGE**

In this course students will gain a theoretical and practical understanding of the basic skills necessary to act for the stage: self awareness, relaxation, concentration, use of voice, body movement, sense memory, spontaneity, self awareness, privacy in public, imagination, visualization, truthful actions, objectives, tactics, script analysis, and living the reality of the given circumstances. Students will explore these concepts through practical work inside and outside of the classroom, including: physical and vocal warm ups, improvisations, theatre exercises, object exercises, scene work, monologue work, audition work, class discussions, self-evaluations, and written analysis.

#### **THTD 30309. INTRODUCTION TO BALLET**

Designed for the student with little or no training in ballet, the course introduces the study and theories of ballet with an emphasis on increasing physical competence and the understanding of underlying theory. Historical traditions of ballet and its relationship to society from the 16th century to the present and other non-western Royal Court dances will be examined. The course will also contain a unit on critical analysis as it applies to the art form of dance.

#### **THTD 30313. THEATRE OF SOCIAL CHANGE**

According to Brazilian director and theatre scholar Augusto Boal, "Theatre is a weapon. A very efficient weapon." If he is correct, then in what ways has theatre historically been used as a tool for change? Who yields that power? And how can people use theatre as a means to envision and create a better world? This class will examine the different ways performers have used theatre as a form of resistance and public critique. Students will read some of the most important works that speak to theatre's capacity to transform society and will also create and devise their own performances for social change. In this way, students will become artist/scholars as they explore the critical interventions that theatre and performance can make locally and globally.

### **OFF-CAMPUS STUDY**

#### **THTD 39100, 39200. INDIVIDUAL SUMMER STUDY**

This course is intended to provide the advanced theatre student an opportunity to develop professionally by accepting a Summer Internship or Apprenticeship with a recognized theatre or dance company. Students will submit a detailed course proposal to the departmental faculty at the beginning of the second semester prior to commencing summer study. The reputation and operational procedures of each theatre organization will be closely scrutinized by the faculty in order to assure a significant experience for the student. Special attention will be paid to the supervision and evaluation of the summer experience by a Theatre and Dance faculty member. Students must turn in a journal to the supervising faculty member at the conclusion of the course. (1 – 2 course credits) *Prerequisite: Permission of the department.*

### **THTD 40700, 40800. PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIPS**

Internships with established professional theatres are included under this classification. Interns are assigned responsibilities by the host theatre, which they are expected to fulfill, and the theatre will make available other opportunities for observation and participation. The student's choice of theatre and its intern program must be approved by the department. Students choosing to study off-campus for a full semester are strongly encouraged to do so in either the Spring of their sophomore year or the Fall of their junior year to avoid conflict with the Junior Independent Study offered in the Spring only. *S/NC course.*

### **GLCA NEW YORK ARTS PROGRAM**

A semester of study and work in New York with professionals in various aspects of theatre and dance according to individual interest. Students live in a dormitory-type environment where they also attend a number of seminars. The major portion of time is spent on-the-job as an intern with a well-known artist or artists and companies. *Prerequisite: Recommendations by the department chairperson and adviser, and acceptance by the administrators of the program in New York. (4 credits)*

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

### **THTD 40100. JUNIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**

An application of methods of research (historical, theoretical, analytical) pertinent to the performing arts, with emphasis on developing a research agenda and writing process, including the formation of a critical question, sentence outline, and annotated bibliography. Requirements include a 25-30-page research paper. *Prerequisites: THTD 101, 102, 103, the completion of a writing-intensive (W) course, at least one 300-level Topics course, and at least one of the three required history courses. Annually. Spring.*

### **THTD 45100. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER ONE**

The first semester of the Senior Independent Study project, in which each student produces a thesis and/or a project. The project can be in stage management, directing, acting, play writing, design, dance, or a devised production and must include a companion research paper that articulates and explores a critical question posed by the project. *Prerequisite: THTD 40100.*

### **THTD 45200. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER TWO**

The second semester of the Senior Independent Study project, which culminates in the thesis and/or project. *Prerequisite: THTD 45100.*