Revised BA Degree in Drama for LSA Undergraduates

This major provides students in LSA an opportunity to study drama through the study of dramatic texts and the experience of performance and production. The major – open to all LSA students – is housed in the Residential College and operates in collaboration with the Department of Theater and Drama in the School of Music. Students take a series of required introductory courses and pursue electives along two upper-level tracks, culminating in a “play production” capstone seminar – for a total of 35 credit hours.

Introductory sequences

Students are asked to take courses in theater history and in the fundamentals of acting and script analysis. These introductory requirements may be met as follows:

Two courses in theater history (Thr 321 History of Theater and Thr 322 History of Theater) (a total of 6 credits)

Two courses in the fundamentals of acting and script analysis – one from the RC and one from the Department of Theater and Drama (a total of 7 credits):

RC Hums 281 – Intro. to Comedy and Tragedy (4 credits)
OR
RC Hums 282 – Actor and Text (4 credits)

AND

Thr 101 – Intro to Acting (3 credits)
OR
Thr 102 – Intro to Acting (3 credits)
OR
Thr 110 – Acting for the Camera (3 credits)

In Depth Study of Texts and Performance

Beyond the introductory courses, students are asked to take five additional courses at the upper level in two categories or tracks of study – ‘period and place’ (exploring dramatic literature over time and in context) and ‘design and production’ (exploring approaches to putting plays on the stage). Depending on individual interest, concentrators will take three courses in one category of electives and two courses in the other, for a minimum total of 18 credit hours. No more than 6 credits may be below the 300-level. Approved substitutes may be used in consultation with the concentration advisor.

Category One: Period and Place (select two or three courses)
RC Hums 389 – Greek Drama (4 credits)
RC Hums 383 – Strindberg, Ibsen and Chekov (4 credits)
RC hums 387 – Shakespeare on the Stage (4 credits)
RC Hums 390 – Topics in Modern Drama (4 credits)
Thr 233 – Acting in the Black Experience (3 credits)
Thr 323/English 349 – American Theater and Drama (3 credits)
Category Two: Design and Production (select two or three courses)
Thr. 241 – Directing I (3 credits)
RC Hums 482 – Director and Text (4 credits)
Thr. 227 – Introduction to Playwriting (3 credits)
Thr 429 – Playwriting in Production (3 credits)
Thr. 240 – Introduction to Design (3 credits)
Thr 250 – Introduction to Technical Theater Practice (3 credits)
Thr. 251 – Production Practicum (3 credits)
RC Hums ?? – Using the Theater as an Instrument (4 credits)

Senior Capstone

To bring the elements of the concentration together, all students completing the major must take RC Hums. 481 – Play Production Seminar – in which selected texts are studied, analyzed, produced, designed, and performed over the course of a semester. Depending on interests and areas of focus, students may serve as dramaturges, actors, directors, and/or designers in this collaborative production, staged in the RC Keene Theater in East Quadrangle. (4 credits).

Advising

Students majoring in Drama may work with faculty in both the Residential College Drama program and the Department of Theater and Drama. The formal advisor for the concentration – responsible for certifying requirements within LSA guidelines – will be in the Residential College. Students may organize independent study projects, in line with their program of study, as long as these are approved by the concentration advisor and have a faculty sponsor in one of the units collaborating in this major.