

# Theatre

*Chair of the Department:* Charles S. Kading, Russell Hall, Gorham  
*Professors:* Kading, Kilroy, Picinich, Power, Steele, Stump; *Associate Professor:* Kent; *Instructors:* Ash, Zura; *Technical Director:* Meeds; *Costume Director:* Hall; *Professor Emeritus:* Rootes

The Department of Theatre offers a four-year program leading to a B.A. degree in theatre. An undergraduate degree in theatre offers valuable preparation for careers in educational or professional theatrical activities, as well as other nonrelated disciplines.

All students are reminded that, in addition to meeting departmental requirements for the major, they must also meet the requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the Core curriculum requirements.

## ***Programs and Requirements***

### *Bachelor of Arts in Theatre*

The minimum number of credits (exclusive of the University's Core curriculum) required for the major: 70

Students with the intent to major must complete the following courses during their first year:

THE	101G	Introduction to Drama
THE	106F	Practicum in Stagecraft
THE	120	Acting: Stage Movement
THE	121	Acting: Stage Voice
THE	141	Theatre Workshop
THE	142	Theatre Workshop
THE	134F	Production Management
THE	135F	Stagecraft
THE	150H	Play Analysis

All majors or intended majors are required to take 0.5 units of Theatre Workshop (THE 141, 142, 143, 144) per semester.

Theatre students who fail to maintain a 2.5 GPA in theatre courses and a 2.0 overall GPA may not be allowed to participate in Department productions in either an acting or technical capacity (except those lab duties or course requirements related to coursework).

The above GPA standards are required for graduation and a grade of C– or better is required in all theatre courses.

Students are encouraged to meet with the faculty or staff whenever questions arise or problems occur.

The following courses are required:

THE	101G	Introduction to Drama
THE	104	Practicum in Costuming
THE	105	Practicum in Stage Lighting
THE	106F	Practicum in Stagecraft
THE	120	Acting: Stage Movement
THE	121	Acting: Stage Voice
THE	134F	Production Management
THE	135F	Stagecraft
THE	139	Theatrical Make-up
THE	141	Theatre Workshop (to be repeated once)
THE	142	Theatre Workshop (to be repeated once)
THE	143	Theatre Workshop (to be repeated once)
THE	144	Theatre Workshop (to be repeated once)
THE	150H	Play Analysis
THE	170F	Public Speaking or THE 175F Oral Interpretation
THE	220	Acting: Scene Study
THE	230	Designing for the Performer
THE	325	Directing
THE	331	Scene Design
THE	334G	Costuming I
THE	335	Lighting Design
THE	351	Dramatic Literature and Theatre History I: Origins to 15th Century

THE	352	Dramatic Literature and Theatre History II: Renaissance to 1800
THE	353G	Dramatic Literature and Theatre History III: Romantic to World War II
THE	354	Dramatic Literature and Theatre History IV: Absurdist to Post-Modernism

In addition, students must also complete 9 credits of advanced coursework. These must be 300- and 400-level theatre courses and should be selected only after consultation with a Theatre Department advisor. Advanced coursework from other departments may be approved by Department vote.

Suggested areas of emphasis include: Advanced Topics in Acting and Performance, Design, Technical Theatre, Dramatic Literature and Theatre History, Playwriting, and Oral Interpretation.

### *Theatre Department Production Requirements*

The Theatre Department requires each major to participate in Theatre Department functions by completing Theatre Workshop courses and Theatre Department projects. Credit for these may be earned separately or concurrently according to Departmental guidelines. Each theatre major must enroll in 0.5 units of Theatre Workshop each semester (maximum of 4 credits). Theatre Workshop courses require, in part, participation in an approved Department project with a point value of 8 or more.

Theatre Department projects are assigned point values (relative to their complexity) by the Theatre Department. Theatre majors must accrue 64 points of project credit for graduation. These projects must be completed in a variety of discipline areas. To insure this variety, project points must be distributed as follows: acting area—24 points minimum; technical area—24 points minimum.

A listing of approved projects and their specific point values is available at the Theatre Department office.

In the event that a student repeatedly auditions or requests technical area positions for Department productions but is not given a role or a crew position, this effort will be considered a good faith effort on the part of the student and may fulfill the acting or technical area minimum point distribution requirement.

All cast and crew members of Department productions are required to participate in the closing night clean-up (strike) for that show.

### *Student Participation*

Theatre succeeds in direct proportion to the quantity and quality of the group effort, and so it is not surprising that the USM Theatre program thrives on the participation of all majors, minors, and other interested students.

Theatre is a strict and demanding discipline; the time dedicated to production and rehearsal is extensive. Therefore, the Theatre Department urges students to select non-Departmental theatre activities prudently and with consideration for their overall academic and production commitments. The Department also strongly recommends that theatre majors consult their advisors in order to integrate the outside project into their overall program.

### *Minor in Theatre*

The minimum number of credits (exclusive of the University's Core curriculum) required for the minor: 21.

The courses required are THE 134F, THE 150H, THE 120 or THE 220 with permission of instructor and four other courses chosen in consultation with a Theatre Department advisor in accordance with the interests of the student.

### *Musical Theatre Major*

The musical theatre degree at the University of Southern Maine is offered as a collaboration between the School of Music and the Theatre Department (bachelor of music performance—musical theatre). It is designed for those individuals who wish to pursue a career in musical theatre performance. Private lessons in voice, solo and ensemble performance, as well as theatrical dance training are emphasized. This degree concentration complies with NASM guidelines for a musical theatre degree with an emphasis in music.

Applicants to the musical theatre major will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the following disciplines: voice, sight reading, general musicianship, acting, and movement. Applicants must reserve an audition time by calling the School of Music at (207) 780-5265.

Requirements for graduation also include successful participation in one back-stage assignment, one chorus role, and two significant roles in an approved musical theatre production.

Theatre Foundation Courses (required): 10 credits

Must be completed by end of sophomore year

THE	101G	Introduction to Drama
THE	103F	Contemporary Dance I
THE	120	Acting: Stage Movement
THE	130	Musical Theatre Workshop
THE	131	Musical Theatre Workshop

Additional Theatre Courses (required): 20 credits

THE	121	Acting: Stage Voice
THE	131	Musical Theatre Workshop
THE	132	Musical Theatre Workshop
THE	139	Theatrical Make-up
THE	203F	Musical Theatre Dance
THE	220	Acting: Scene Study
THE	303	Musical Theatre (4 credits)
THE	XXX	Theatre Elective (3 credits)

The musical theatre degree is granted by the School of Music as a music major with an emphasis in musical theatre. For additional information regarding specific School of Music required courses, please refer to the School of Music section of this catalog.

### *Fees*

Materials and/or admission fees may be required for some Theatre courses. Please contact the Theatre office at 780-5480 for specific requirements.

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*In the event that students believe they are qualified to enroll in a theatre course, but have not completed the USM prerequisites for that course, they may contact the Department to request permission to enroll.*

#### **THE 101G Introduction to Drama**

A lecture-discussion course designed to provide students with a conception of the development of the theatre and its literature. The course consists of a survey of Greek, medieval, Elizabethan, French neoclassic, and 18th, 19th and 20th-century theatre and drama. Cr 3.

#### **THE 102F Acting for Non-Majors**

This course will introduce core students to theatre through the eyes of the performer. Students will gain a basic understanding of theatre as a performing art through lecture, discussion and performance of scenes. Improvisational exercises, relaxation techniques and character analysis strategies will be included. Students will also attend campus and area theatrical productions and be required to write critical reviews of the performances. Cr 3.

#### **THE 103F Contemporary Dance I**

This course is designed to teach basic contemporary dance skills and vocabulary. The class is divided

into two areas of study. Physical and technical development are learned through strengthening and stretching exercises. Proper body alignment is stressed for the most efficient and injury-free movement. Dance phrases are taught to enhance rhythmic and locomotor skills. Equal time will be devoted to improvisational skills and the study of choreographic techniques. Students will be required to attend contemporary dance performances. Course may be repeated once for credit. Cr 3.

#### **THE 104 Practicum in Costuming**

This course is a laboratory session that allows practical application of theory discussed in THE 334G Costuming, by teaching sewing skills and allowing students to construct costumes for a University theatre production. Practicum is required for theatre majors and recommended for all costuming students, but need not be taken concurrently with THE 334G. Prerequisite: sophomore status or THE 101G. Cr 1.

#### **THE 105 Practicum in Stage Lighting**

A course focusing on the practical application of contemporary stage lighting technology and on the implementation of a lighting plot. Cr 1.

#### **THE 106F Practicum in Stagecraft**

A practicum allowing the application of theory dis-

cussed in THE 135F to the construction, painting, and mounting of sets for University theatre productions. Practicum is required for theatre majors and recommended for all stagecraft students, but need not be taken concurrently with THE 135F Stagecraft. Cr 1.

#### **THE 120 Acting: Stage Movement**

This is a practicum course designed to introduce students to basic elements of the creative process of acting. Students will be introduced to body awareness, methods of relaxation and physical flexibility, exploration of creative process, freeing the vocal mechanism, elementary stage combat and improvisation. Course culminates with student presentation of a performance piece that has been developed through improvisation. Cr 3.

#### **THE 121 Acting: Stage Voice**

This is a practicum course designed to continue exploring the body/voice relationship through the use of improvisation with emphasis on text. Cr 3.

#### **THE 130 Musical Theatre Workshop I**

A course designed to give students practical application of theatre practices in the fields of acting, design, scene construction, costuming, properties, lighting, management, and directing. A laboratory course. Prerequisite: restricted to musical performance majors with an emphasis in musical theatre. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 131 Musical Theatre Workshop II**

A continuation of THE 130. Prerequisite: THE 130, restricted to musical performance majors with an emphasis in musical theatre. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 132 Musical Theatre Workshop III**

A continuation of THE 131. Prerequisite: THE 131, restricted to musical performance majors with an emphasis in musical theatre. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 133 Musical Theatre Workshop IV**

A continuation of THE 132. Prerequisite: THE 132, restricted to musical performance majors with an emphasis in musical theatre. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 134F Production Management**

A survey/lab course designed to familiarize students with the organizational procedures of the theatre production process. Major areas of study include stage management and theatre production management with some reference to video and film production management. Additional topics include the running of crews in properties and wardrobe, operation of sound and lighting equipment, and production scheduling. This course includes a crew requirement for a University production. Cr 3.

#### **THE 135F Stagecraft**

A lecture course in technical theatre and related top-

ics relevant to technical direction. Specific areas of emphasis will include: theatre/stage terminology and organization, scene shop practices, and basic methods of construction, as well as methods of rigging and moving scenery for the stage. Cr 3.

#### **THE 139 Theatrical Make-up**

A practicum course in the fundamentals of design and application of theatrical make-up. Specific areas of study will include the relationship of character analysis to make-up, techniques of highlight and shadow, and make-up for youth, middle, and old age. Additional exercises introduce historical styles, creating a likeness, and nonrealistic make-up. Students will frequently apply theatrical make-up to their own faces in class. Cr 3.

#### **THE 141 Theatre Workshop I**

A course designed to give students practical application of theatre practices in the fields of acting, design, scene construction, costuming, properties, lighting, management, and directing. A laboratory course. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 142 Theatre Workshop II**

A continuation of THE 141. Prerequisite: THE 141. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 143 Theatre Workshop III**

A continuation of THE 142. Prerequisite: THE 142. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 144 Theatre Workshop IV**

A continuation of THE 143. Prerequisite: THE 143. The course may be repeated for credit. Cr 0.5.

#### **THE 150H Play Analysis**

Representative dramas for the stage are read, discussed and criticized using the Aristotelian elements of plot, character, thought, diction, music, and spectacle as analytical tools. Prerequisite: English proficiency. Cr 3.

#### **THE 170F Public Speaking**

An introductory course in the art of public discourse. Primarily a lecture-performance course, students will learn the basics of informative, persuasive, and argumentative speaking, as well as the processes of problem-solving and informative discussion. Cr 3.

#### **THE 171 Intercollegiate Forensics**

A course designed to acquaint students with intercollegiate competition. Students will compete at various forensic tournaments throughout the East. Permission of instructor is required. Cr 1.

#### **THE 172 Intercollegiate Forensics**

A continuation of THE 171. Cr 1.

#### **THE 173 Intercollegiate Forensics**

A continuation of THE 172. Cr 1.

**THE 174 Intercollegiate Forensics**

A continuation of THE 173.

Cr 1.

**THE 175F Oral Interpretation**

A course in the assimilation and analysis of literary material (poetry, prose, drama) with emphasis on the techniques used in reading written material aloud to an audience. Designed to stimulate an understanding and responsiveness to literature and to develop the ability to convey to others, through oral reading, an appreciation of that literature. Cr 3.

**THE 203F Musical Theatre Dance**

This course will build upon basic movement skills with an emphasis on the dance styles required for musical theatre. Techniques offered will include jazz, ballet, and tap. In addition to skill training, class projects will include the staging and choreography of musical theatre selections. Cr 3.

**THE 220 Acting: Scene Study**

This is a practicum course designed to introduce students to basic skills of stage movement and characterization through the use of scene work. The course evolves from simple storytelling through monologues to scenes. The emphasis is on internal preparation through developing a role as well as on external techniques for projecting that role. Prerequisites: THE 120 and 121. Cr 3.

**THE 224 Acting for the Camera**

This course will give students practical experience acting in videotaped dramatic scenes, industrial role playing, commercials, and narration. The course will emphasize the difference between stage and video/film acting techniques. Cr 3.

**THE 226 Professional Audition and Marketing Techniques**

This course will give students practical experience in and information related to seeking employment as an actor. The audition section will include simulations of stage and related film and video situations. The marketing section will provide strategies in the professional actor's most time-consuming endeavor: looking for work. Prerequisite: THE 220. Cr 3.

**THE 230 Designing for the Performer**

This course offers the student an opportunity to explore the process of creating an environment for the performer, incorporating elements of scenic, costume, lighting, and audio design. Coursework includes the presentation of multimedia design projects, supplemented by a practicum as an assistant designer for one major Theatre Department play or media arts production. Cr 3.

**THE 235 Theatrical Drafting**

A lecture/discussion/lab course in basic theatrical drafting/graphic practices relating to theatrical construction and design techniques. Concurrent enrollment in THE 236 Practicum in Design required. Prerequisite: THE 135F. Cr 3.

**THE 236 Practicum in Design**

A course focusing on the practical application of theory relevant to scenic, costume, lighting, and other theatre-related design topics. Cr 1.

**THE 250 Playwriting**

A lecture-practicum course designed to acquaint the student with playwriting principles. Emphasis is placed on the one-act play form. Students will be required to complete a series of creative exercises culminating with writing of a one-act play. Prerequisite: THE 150H. Cr 3.

**THE 271 Creative Drama**

Study of methods for introducing young people to theatre as a total art form. Course to include the development of children's plays through improvisation as well as traditional children's literature. Work with children in various community settings will provide practical experience for the student. Cr 3.

**THE 275 Readers Theatre**

This course teaches the process involved in arranging literature and other materials for performance or for use as a teaching tool. Elements of scripting, directing, and acting for simple, staged, chamber, and story theatre will be analyzed. Prerequisite: THE 175. Cr 3.

**THE 303 Musical Theatre Performance**

This course will provide students the opportunity to combine the skills of singing, acting, and dance as demanded by the art of musical theatre. In addition to vocal coaching, acting exercises, and choreography, students will be exposed to a variety of musical theatre genres and will be performing throughout the semester. The class will culminate with a public presentation. Prerequisites: THE 203 and THE 220. Cr 4.

**THE 321 Acting: Advanced Scene Study: Playwright Focus**

This is a practicum for advanced actors, providing an in-depth scene study focusing on one or more playwrights. Emphasis will also be given to preparation for auditions. Prerequisite: THE 220. Cr 3.

**THE 322 Acting: Contemporary Methods**

This course will introduce a variety of acting techniques developed by master artists, beginning with an overview of the Stanislavski System and advancing to the work of Lee Strasberg, Sanford Meisner, Uta Hagen, Augusto Boal, and others. These techniques will be applied to exercises, scenes, and monologues performed throughout the semester. Prerequisite: THE 220. Cr 3.

**THE 325 Directing**

This course is designed to train students in theatrical organization and rehearsed techniques. It encompasses composition, picturization, movement, and rhythm. Some practicum is involved. Prerequisites: THE 150H, THE 220, and THE 230. Cr 3.

**THE 331 Scene Design**

Lecture and practicum in stage scenic design. Emphasis on the visual art and drafting of designs. Prerequisites: THE 150H and THE 230. Cr 3.

**THE 334G Costuming**

This course introduces costume history and design. A survey outlines major trends in fashion from the Greeks to the 19th century. Students learn costume design by using the basic elements of line, color, and texture, by fulfilling the costume requirements encountered in scripts, and by analyzing characters. Drawing and rendering techniques are taught. The practicum (THE 104) supplements lectures by teaching sewing skills and allowing students to construct costumes for a University theatre production. Enrollment in THE 104 Practicum in Costuming is required for theatre majors and recommended for all costuming students, but need not be concurrent. Prerequisite: sophomore status or THE 101G. Cr 3.

**THE 335 Stage Lighting**

Introduction to stage lighting design, elements of electricity, color, light sources, instrumentation, and control systems. Students will participate in lighting projects in practicum. Prerequisites: THE 150H and THE 230. Cr 3.

**THE 337 Sound Design**

An introduction to the art and techniques of sound design. The class examines the creation of audio for a production environment, with emphasis on industry-standard recording techniques and communication tools, script and environmental analysis, and equipment and delivery systems. Prerequisites: THE 150H and THE 230, or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

**THE 350 Advanced Playwriting**

A course for those who have taken THE 250 or have already written several plays. Emphasis will be placed on writing a full length play for possible production by the University. A better-than-average competence in writing dialogue is imperative. Prerequisite: THE 250. Cr 3.

**THE 351 Dramatic Literature and Theatre History I: Origins to 15th Century**

A study of the development of theatre and drama from its origins through the medieval period, covering ancient Greek, Roman, and Oriental theatre and drama. Representative authors include Sophocles, Euripedes, Plautus, Seneca, the Wakefield Master, and Chikamatsu. Critics include Aristotle and Horace. Prerequisites: THE 101G, and THE 150H or ENG 100C. Cr 3.

**THE 352 Dramatic Literature and Theatre History II: Renaissance to 1800**

A study of theatre and drama from the Renaissance, Neo-classical and Restoration periods to 1800. Representative authors include Machiavelli, de Vega, Shakespeare, Jonson, Racine, Moliere, and

Goldoni. Critics include Castevetro, Chapelain, Dryden, Johnson, and Diderot. Prerequisites: THE 101G, and THE 150H or ENG 100C. Cr 3.

**THE 353G Dramatic Literature and Theatre History III: Romantic to World War II**

A study of theatre and drama from Romantic period to World War II, covering early realist and anti-realist theatre. Representative authors include Goethe, Hugo, Ibsen, Chekhov, Pirandello, Shaw and O'Neill. Critics include Wagner, Zola, Bergson, Brunetiere, and Nietzsche. Prerequisite: THE 101G, and THE 150H or ENG 100C. Cr 3.

**THE 354 Dramatic Literature and Theatre History IV: Absurdist to Post-Modernism**

A study of theatre and drama from the post-war Absurdist and Brechtian Epic theatres to the present day. Representative authors include Brecht, Beckett, Genet, Williams, Miller, Shepard, Stoppard, and Shaffer. Critics include Artaud, Brecht, Esslin, Schechner, and Eco. Prerequisites: THE 101G, and THE 150H or ENG 100C. Cr 3.

**THE 355 Journalistic Drama Criticism**

This course will provide the student with a comprehensive analysis of the role of the writing critic in professional, community, educational, and amateur theatre. Stress will be placed upon development of a workable writing style. A minimum of five plays will be seen from which reviews will be generated. Prerequisite: THE 150H. Cr 3.

**THE 372 Speaking to the Camera**

This is an advanced public speaking and performance course introducing the student to the most common types of video presentations. Student performances of scripted speeches will be videotaped and evaluated based on content, delivery, and style. Prerequisite: THE 170F. Cr 3.

**THE 373 Effective Public and Workplace Presentations**

This course expands upon the performance skills taught in THE 170F. It will emphasize the development of greater expertise and performance ease in a variety of presentation styles, as well as explore the use of visual aids consistent with workplace and public presentations. Students will be required to attend and critique community-based public speeches, as well as to analyze the work of their peers. Prerequisite: THE 170F. Cr 3.

**THE 375 Performance Arts**

This theory and practice course allows students to experiment with the aesthetic interpretation of texts, focusing on extra-textual elements of presentation (such as sound, visual symbols/ images, spatial relations, hand-held light) in the staging of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and drama. Theoretical and practical readings accompany in-class exercises and blackbox performances that strengthen skills in acting, directing, oral interpretation, forensics, play

analysis, and design. Students elect a directing or a performance emphasis. Cr 3.

#### **THE 420 Acting: Styles**

This course will examine the styles of acting found in the Classical (Greek and Roman), Elizabethan, and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century dramas. Prerequisite: THE 220. Cr 3.

#### **THE 421 Topics in Acting and Performance**

An intensive study of a particular acting or performance technique chosen at the discretion of the instructor in accordance with his or her expertise and interests. May be repeated as topics vary, for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: THE 220. Cr 3.

#### **THE 430 Topics in Design**

A seminar in advanced design practices and a continuation of THE 330 and/or 332. The course will stress improving design and presentation skills by developing and presenting design projects. The design project will involve theatrical drafting, perspective sketching, rendering and model making techniques as required in the areas of specialty. Students will be required to work in two of the three areas of theatrical design: costume design, lighting design, or scenery design. In addition, historical styles will be surveyed in a lecture/discussion format. This discussion will include the impact of social and political attitudes as well as physical style and how these aspects may be applied to contemporary design. Prerequisite: instructor permission only. Cr 3.

#### **THE 434 Advanced Costuming**

This course will continue the study of costume design begun in THE 231. The focus of class work and projects will be on specific problems encountered in costuming for the theatre. Lecture material and design assignments will be drawn principally from the twentieth century, though other time periods may occasionally be used. Students will work to improve rendering techniques as well as analytical skills. Concurrent enrollment in Theatre Workshop will provide a laboratory component to classroom study. Prerequisite: THE 334G. Cr 3.

#### **THE 451 Topics in Dramatic Literature and Theatre History**

An intensive study of a particular playwright, group, movement, or historical period chosen at the discretion of the instructor in accordance with his/her expertise and interests. May be repeated as topics vary for a maximum of nine credits. Prerequisites: THE 101G, and THE 150H or ENG 100C. Cr 3.

#### **THE 490 Independent Study**

Students should contact the Department regarding information for independent study. Prerequisite: permission of the Theatre Department. May be repeated for credit.

#### **THE 491 Project I**

Investigation of special topics, or execution of special projects that fall within the purview of theatre. Students may select an interior intra-departmental committee of three professors to approve, assist, and oversee the project. Prerequisites: junior and senior standing; precise definition of project and unanimous permission of committee. Students must obtain rules for this course from the department chairman. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: permission of the Theatre Department.. Credit hours arranged.

#### **THE 492 Theatre Internship**

Students will assume a full one-semester internship with a professional theatre or Readers Theatre Company. Students will be involved in management, acting, directing, or technical theatre as a member of the company. Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor who will make a biweekly evaluation of ongoing work. Participants will be required to keep a diary and/or portfolio to be reviewed by the faculty of the Theatre Department at the conclusion of the internship. All creative work done by the student will be evaluated by the advisor and at least one other, or if possible, all members of the department. Prerequisite: permission of the Theatre Department. May be repeated for credit. To be arranged. Cr 3-15.

#### **THE 493 International Tour**

Students in this course will rehearse an original or scripted production which will be performed at USM and then transported for presentation to an international venue determined by the instructor. Prerequisite: instructor permission only. Cr 3.

#### **THE 494 Theatre Institute: Techniques of Michael Chekhov**

This course provides an intensive overview of the acting techniques created by Michael Chekhov. Areas of focus will include characterization, scene study, stage movement and voice, and teaching methods. The course will conclude with a works-in-progress performance. Typically offered during the summers only. May be repeated for a maximum of nine credits. Prerequisite: THE 220. Cr 3.