The Department of Theatre provides a breadth and depth of experience so students gain skills to understand the various facets of theatre, while at the same time learning the vital and transferable attributes of critical analysis, problem solving, and belief in one’s own contributions, creativity, and ideas.

The Department of Theatre provides students with a combination of theory and practice in understanding theatre as an art form that reflects the human condition. Students who major or minor in theatre are required to take core courses that provide an historical and critical foundation as well as fundamentals courses in areas of acting and design. A wide offering of additional courses are available that reflect theatre as social practice, personal expression, and creative collaboration.

The faculty in the department is comprised of working professionals as well as scholars who contribute to the field of theatre in the areas of acting, directing, playwriting, theatre design, and criticism. Students who study theatre have access to faculty through small workshop classes, independent study projects, honor’s thesis, coaching for performance assignments, and production work.

The Department of Theatre at UVM also offers a Speech and Debate minor and houses the Lawrence Debate Union, UVM’s Debate Team, which completes in national and international tournaments.

MAJORS
THEATRE MAJOR
Theatre B.A.

MINORS
THEATRE MINORS
Musical Theatre
Speech and Debate
Theatre

Speech Courses

SPCH 011. Effective Speaking. 3 Credits.
Fundamentals course in effective, informative, and persuasive public speaking and critical listening. Includes theory and practice.

SPCH 031. Argument & Advocacy. 3 Credits.
Introduces argumentation theory and develops advocacy and critical reasoning skills through writing and oral argument. Students will recognize and craft organized, well-supported, and ethical arguments in the context of controversial social issues.

SPCH 051. Persuasion. 3 Credits.
Surveys classical and contemporary models of rhetoric as frameworks for analyzing, critiquing, and utilizing persuasive communication; teaches student to become better producers and consumers of persuasive appeals.

SPCH 071. Fundamentals of Debate. 3 Credits.
An introduction to intercollegiate debate, students learn basics of argumentation, refutation, interpreting and evaluating arguments, and debating formats. Prepares students with skills in reasoning, critical thinking, and advocacy.

SPCH 072. Citizen Advocacy & Debate. 3 Credits.
This course explores citizen advocacy through the vehicle of debating. Students will engage in: preparatory research, in-class debating and discussion, debate adjudication, and public debate.

SPCH 082. African American Rhetoric. 3 Credits.
Through “Great Speakers” approach, this course utilizes rhetoric criticism to examine, attempt to understand & analyze the advocacy & discourse of African Americans throughout history.

SPCH 083. Rhetoric of Reggae Music. 3 Credits.
Course examines origins, characteristics, social phenomena, and messages found in African-Caribbean musical form: Reggae. Reggae music is examined as rhetorical and social movement.

SPCH 090. Internship. 1-3 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 095. Introductory Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

SPCH 096. Introductory Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Spring only.

SPCH 171. Advanced Debate. 3 Credits.
For students interested in competitive academic debate in the WUDC format. Course offers opportunities to advance debating skills by competing against other college debaters. Prerequisites: SPCH 071 or SPCH 072.

SPCH 181. Presidential Campaign Rhetoric. 3 Credits.
Students learn about theories, style, construction, strategies, and the criticism and evaluation of rhetoric as applied to the presidential campaign. Prerequisites: SPCH 011, SPCH 031, SPCH 051, SPCH 082, or SPCH 083.

SPCH 185. Rhetoric of Terrorism. 3 Credits.
Examines terrorism through the lens of rhetorical criticism. Students survey approaches to rhetorical criticism, using acquired skills to investigate the rhetoric of terrorism. Prerequisites: SPCH 011, SPCH 031, or SPCH 051.
SPCH 190. Internship. 1-18 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 191. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.
Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 195. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

SPCH 196. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

SPCH 197. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.
A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 198. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.
Undergraduate student work on individual or small research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 283. Seminar. 3 Credits.
Seminar topics include: Nonverbal Communication, Rhetorical Criticism, Advanced Argumentation, Advanced Persuasion, Debate, Interpersonal Communication in Group Interaction, Communication in Conflict Management. Prerequisites: Six hours of Speech, of which at least three hours must be at the 100 level. Fall only.

SPCH 284. Seminar. 3 Credits.
Seminar topics include: Nonverbal Communication, Rhetorical Criticism, Advanced Argumentation, Advanced Persuasion, Debate, Interpersonal Communication in Group Interaction, Communication in Conflict Management. Prerequisites: Six hours of speech, of which at least three hours must be at the 100 level. Spring only.

SPCH 290. Internship. 1-18 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 291. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.
Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 295. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

SPCH 296. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

SPCH 297. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.
A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

SPCH 298. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.
Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

Theatre Courses
THE 001. Introduction to Theatre. 3 Credits.
Overview of general theatre practices and theories, emphasizing history, script analysis, character development, and communicative skills directed toward a modern audience.

THE 010. Acting I: Intro to Acting. 3 Credits.
Exercises to increase self-awareness and heighten perceptions of human behavior. Basics of script analysis and development of vocal and physical skills through practice and performance.

THE 013. Improvisation Workshop. 3 Credits.
Instruction on methods and theories of improvisation as a means of developing character and authenticity for the stage as well as for social and professional contexts that require creative problem solving and collaboration.

THE 017. Audience and the Critical Eye. 3 Credits.
Study of the many facets of live performance. Application of critical theory and social frameworks to determine relevance and meaning in our historical moment. Investigation into how production translated from page to live performance and the complexities of artistic choices.

THE 020. Fundamentals of Lighting. 4 Credits.
Primary course in the area of stage lighting design and execution. Includes Lab.

THE 030. Fundamentals of Scenery. 4 Credits.
A hands-on introduction to the theory and practical application of the scenic elements involved in play production (drawing, building, and painting techniques). Includes Lab.

THE 040. Fundamentals of Costuming. 0 or 4 Credits.
Primary course in area of costume design and construction. Includes Lab. Fall.

THE 041. History of Costume. 3 Credits.
Overview of period costume and its adaptation for the stage. Cross-listed with: GSWS 035. Alternating Falls with THE 042.

THE 042. Fund Theatrical Make-up. 3 Credits.
Focus on the development of drawing, painting, and sculpture skills as they relate to the creation of a dramatic character for the stage. Alternating Falls w/ THE 041.

THE 050. Dramatic Analysis. 3 Credits.
Examination of structural characteristics of the basic forms and styles of drama and the manner in which they affect theatrical representation. Fall. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing and Instructor permission.
THE 075. D1: Diversity: Cont US Theatre. 3 Credits.
An exploration of plays and playwrights in contemporary theatre focusing on themes pertaining to race, sexuality, gender, and the physically challenged. Prerequisite: Minimum Sophomore standing. Cross-listed with: CRES 075.

THE 076. D1: Contemp US Latina/o Theatre. 3 Credits.
Analysis of contemporary Latina/Latino-American plays and playwrights. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

THE 077. D2: Intro Asian Theatre & Dance. 3 Credits.
Survey of traditional dance/theatre forms in Asia, including performance traditions from China, Korea, Japan, India, Indonesia and other locations, focusing on the religious, historical, and cultural backgrounds and their influences on contemporary performance. Cross-listed with: DNCE 006.

THE 091. Internship. 1-3 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

THE 095. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

THE 096. Introductory Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific topics.

THE 110. Acting II: Cntmp Scene Study. 3 Credits.
Continuation of Acting I. Development of acting techniques through intensive scene work: refining script analysis and performance skills using contemporary scenes. Prerequisites: THE 010; Sophomore standing.

THE 111. Acting III: Voice & Speech. 3 Credits.
Study of the basics of voice production and Standard American Speech; exercises and practice focusing on freeing the voice and developing good vocal habits. Spring. Prerequisite: THE 010 and Instructor permission.

THE 112. Acting IV: Movement. 3 Credits.
Development of physical freedom and articulate physical expression through techniques promoting relaxation, flexibility, strength, creative spontaneity, and purposeful movement. Techniques applied to short movement performances. Fall. Prerequisite: THE 010 and Instructor permission.

THE 119. Performing Musical Theatre. 3 Credits.
Provides students with a sound foundation in the craft of musical theatre performance. Instruction guides students to connect vocally, emotionally, and physically to musical materials that reflect various historical periods and styles of musical theatre. Prerequisite: THE 010.

THE 120. Lighting Design. 3 Credits.
Explores, through classroom instruction and projects, the development of lighting designs for a variety of live performance situations. Prerequisite: THE 020. Fall only.

THE 130. Scene Design. 3 Credits.
A practical application of the elements, principles, and styles of theatrical stage design through research, sketching, and rendering techniques. Prerequisite: THE 030. Spring only.

THE 131. Scene Painting Concepts & Appl. 3 Credits.
Lab course to study practical application of painting techniques used in theatre, trompe l’oeil. Develops skills introduced in THE 030. Alternating Falls with THE 230. Prerequisite: THE 030 or Instructor permission.

THE 140. Costume Design. 3 Credits.
Elements, principles, and styles of design applied to the visual creation of a dramatic character. Prerequisites: THE 040, with THE 041 highly recommended. Spring only.

THE 141. Adv Costume: Draping & Flat Patttn. 3 Credits.
Explores the methods of creating period shapes. Students develop a sloper, fit it to a human body, create a researched and completed period costume. Prerequisite: THE 040. Alternating Springs w/ THE 142, THE 143, & THE 144.

THE 142. Adv Cost Const: Per Undrgarmts. 3 Credits.
Focuses on techniques for creating artificial understructures that support period silhouettes. Corsets, hoop skirts, petticoats, etc., are researched, fit on the human body, and constructed. Prerequisite: THE 040. Alternating Springs w/ THE 141, THE 143, THE 144.

THE 143. Adv Costume Constr: Millinery. 3 Credits.
Explores methods of hat construction, including work in various media. Methods of shaping, covering, and trimming are researched, leading to the completion of hats. Prerequisite: THE 040. Alternating Springs with THE 141, THE 142, THE 144.

THE 144. Adv Costume Constr: Tailoring. 3 Credits.
Explores traditional methods of tailoring as well as practical adaptations for the stage. Research, discussion, and demonstration lead to completion of a period suit. Prerequisite: THE 040. Alternating Springs with THE 141, THE 142, THE 143.

THE 150. Hist I: Class/Med/Ren Thtr. 3 Credits.

THE 160. Stage Management. 3 Credits.

THE 170. Playwriting and Dramatic Forms. 3 Credits.
Students study models of dramatic structure and contemporary concepts of writing for the stage and apply principles to the creation of original works. Prerequisite: THE 050 or ENGS 053.

THE 180. Eurotheatre. 1-6 Credits.
Spring research and preparation for 2-week intensive study of theatre in Europe. Trip: May/June culminating in submission of journal and research paper. Prerequisite: Interview with the professor required. Alternating Spring.

and paint elevations, all as forms of communication. Prerequisite: combination of script analysis, sketching, model making, rendering, and physical gesture, creation of original works, and storytelling.

THE 131. Mask: Transformational Acting. 3 Credits.
Mask is used to provoke actor’s imagination through improvisation, finding new femininities challenging gender, race and sexual preferences. Prerequisite: THE 150.

THE 255. Playing with Femininity. 3 Credits.
Finding new femininities. Investigating how contemporary American artists use femininity to question and invert cultures and explore new femininities challenging gender, race and sexual preferences. Prerequisite: THE 150 or Instructor permission.

THE 252. History II: 17th - 21st Century. 3 Credits.
A study of historical context, theatrical conventions, and dramas representative of the restoration, sentimental neo classicism, romanticism, realism, and anti-realism to the contemporary. Prerequisite: THE 150.

THE 251. Directing II. 3 Credits.
Development of skills and aesthetic values through the direction of a complete one act play. Not offered as performance opportunity. Enrolled students may not act in their own projects. Prerequisites: THE 250; Instructor permission; Senior standing.

THE 250. Directing I. 3 Credits.

THE 249. Senior Theatre Projects. 0-9 Credits.
Senior Theatre projects for students in areas of acting, directing, playwriting, and stage management. Prerequisites: Senior standing; THE 010, THE 020, THE 030, THE 040, THE 050, THE 150, either THE 120 or THE 130; and by Instructor permission only.

THE 248. Seminar: Act, Dir, SM, Write. 3 Credits.

THE 225. Fundamentals of Acting. 3 Credits.
An introduction to stage techniques and forms of communication. Prerequisite: THE 010 and THE 020 or Instructor permission.

THE 224. Introduction to Directing. 3 Credits.
A study of historical context, theatrical conventions, and dramas representative of the restoration, sentimental neo classicism, romanticism, realism, and anti-realism to the contemporary. Prerequisite: THE 150.

THE 223. Introduction to Playwriting. 3 Credits.
A how-to workshop on playwriting, including the writing process, analytical and creative exercises. Prerequisites: THE 150 or Instructor permission.

THE 222. Introduction to Acting. 3 Credits.
An introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

THE 221. Behind the Scenes Writing. 3 Credits.
A study of the writing process from the first concept to its completed production. Prerequisites: THE 150 or Instructor permission.

THE 220. Professional Preparation. 1-3 Credits.
Topics include preparing for auditions, portfolio reviews, interviews, and research papers for entrance into graduate schools or professional theatre venues. Prerequisite: Junior/Senior standing and by Instructor permission only.

THE 219. Advanced Scene Design. 3 Credits.
An in-depth study of the realization process for a stage design. A combination of script analysis, sketching, model making, rendering, and paint elevations, all as forms of communication. Prerequisite: THE 030. Alternating Falls with THE 131.

THE 190. Theatre Practicum. 0.5-3 Credits.
Students are required to earn credit through production activities. Project proposals must be approved by department faculty. Students may not complete more than 2 credits in any one area of production (acting, production crew, front of house, marketing, and design). Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

THE 191. Internship. 1-18 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

THE 192. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.
Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

THE 195. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Fall. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

THE 196. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Spring. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

THE 197. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.
A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisite: Instructor Permission.

THE 198. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.
Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisite: Instructor Permission.

THE 200. Professional Preparation. 1-3 Credits.
Topics include preparing for auditions, portfolio reviews, interviews, and research papers for entrance into graduate schools or professional theatre venues. Prerequisite: Junior/Senior standing and by Instructor permission only.

THE 210. Acting V: Shakespeare Scene Stdy. 3 Credits.
Refining and developing script analysis and performance skills using Shakespeare, ancient Greek, Moliere, or other stylized texts. Prerequisites: THE 010 and THE 110 or Instructor permission.

THE 212. Mask: Transformational Acting. 3 Credits.
Mask is used to provoke actor’s imagination through improvisation, physical gesture, creation of original works, and storytelling. Prerequisites: THE 010, THE 110, or Instructor permission.

THE 230. Advanced Scene Design. 3 Credits.
An in-depth study of the realization process for a stage design. A combination of script analysis, sketching, model making, rendering, and paint elevations, all as forms of communication. Prerequisite: THE 030. Alternating Falls with THE 131.
THE 297. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.
A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.

THE 298. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.
Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion.