

# Theatre and Film Studies

## Department Faculty

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## Department Goals

The Department of Theatre and Film Studies seeks to help students to understand the dramatic arts from the perspectives of both informed audience members and godly-wise arts practitioners, by developing both critical and production skills, and developing Christian ethical problem-solving skills as students contemplate the professional theatre and film worlds as a “mission field” in need of Christian intervention.

### Film Studies

Students interested in film will find a number of opportunities at Covenant. Because we believe in the importance of a liberal arts education, Covenant offers film studies within the department of Theatre and Film Studies, as well as within the English department. Introductory courses in film and in screen writing are available. In addition, students can choose to study film independently, write their Senior Integration Papers about film, and participate in the student-run Film Club. Covenant has a good track record of placing students in the CCCU’s Los Angeles Film Studies Center, which includes, among other things, an internship in Hollywood and a class in film production. Most Covenant College students who have attended the Los Angeles Film Studies Center have gone on to careers in television or film.

To learn more about film studies at Covenant, you may contact Professor Foreman.

## Requirements for Major in Theatre

The core and distribution requirements for a major in Theatre are those listed for baccalaureate degrees on page 24, with the exception that a course in art, English or music is required to fulfill the core fine arts, and the core humanities will be fulfilled with ENG 201. Introduction to Literary Studies.

Core requirements .....55  
Electives .....21-25

ENG = English course at Covenant.  
THF = Theatre and Film Studies course at Covenant.  
UTC = University of Tennessee at Chattanooga theatre course.\*

ENG 201. Introduction to Literary Studies ‘W’ .....	3
ENG 418. Shakespeare.....	3
THF 101. Company Muster (4 times plus every semester enrolled at UTC*) .....	0
THF 202. Introduction to Theatre .....	3
THF 220. Modern and Contemporary Drama ‘S’ .....	3
THF 235. Acting I .....	4
THF 250. Theatre History to the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century.....	3
THF 260. Basic Design .....	3
THF 290/390. Production Practicum (2 times one hour).....	2
THF 302. Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought .....	3
THF 310. Playwriting, or	
THF 315. Screenwriting.....	3
THF 492. Senior Integration Paper.....	2-3
THF Electives: Three courses taken from THF offerings (may include THF 390 more than once), UTC theatre courses, ENG 266. Reading Film, ENG 401. Special Topics in English (if having a dramatic literature focus), MUS 245. Introduction to Musical Theatre, MUS 313. Stage Movement I, or MUS 413. Stage Movement II .....	7-10
UTC 100r. Performance and Production* .....	1
UTC 141. Theatre Practice and Theory (Stagecrafts)*.....	3
UTC 457. Conceptual Foundations of the Modern Theatre* .....	3
Total hours for the major .....	46-50
Total degree hours.....	126

\* **NOTE: Prerequisite for all UTC coursework.** Students must have completed THF 302 and have the THF Department's approval before beginning course work at UTC. All work at UTC will have: 1) a prerequisite of having established a prayer support team for the student’s work at UTC and 2) a co-requirement enrollment in THF 101. Company Muster.

## Requirements for Minor in Theatre

ENG 418. Shakespeare.....	3
THF 101. Company Muster (4 times plus every semester enrolled at UTC*) .....	0
THF 202. Introduction to Theatre .....	3
THF 220. Modern and Contemporary Drama .....	3
THF 235. Acting I .....	4
THF 290. Production Practicum (2 times one hour) (UTC 100r Performance and Production may be substituted for one of these*).....	2
THF 302. Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought .....	3

THF Electives: Two courses taken from THF offerings (may include THF 390 more than once), UTC theatre courses\*, ENG 266. Reading Film, ENG 401. Special Topics in English (if having a dramatic literature focus), MUS 245. Introduction to Musical Theatre, MUS 313. Stage Movement I, or MUS 413. Stage Movement II .....2-7  
 Total hours for the minor ..... 20-25

\* **NOTE: Prerequisite for all UTC coursework.** Students must have completed THF 302 and have the THF Department's approval before beginning course work at UTC. All work at UTC will have: 1) a *prerequisite* of having established a prayer support team for the student's work at UTC and 2) a *co-requirement* enrollment in THF 101. Company Muster.

## Theatre and Film Studies Courses

### 101. Company Muster

This course is a pass/fail requirement for theatre majors and minors to develop a greater sense of collaboration, community and ensemble as well as provide additional opportunities for continued development as a Christian artist. Most events also open to interested students outside of the department. Every semester. Zero hours.

### 202. Introduction to Theatre

A survey of historical theatre practice in the West (with some attention given to Eastern styles); introduction to the elements of theatre production together with an examination of the various crafts comprising this collaborative art form: acting, directing, playwriting, design, and criticism. Offered every semester. Three hours. FA

### 220. Modern and Contemporary Drama

A study of European, English and American masterpieces of drama from Ibsen to the present and the movements they represent. Every other spring. Three hours. HUM

### 235. Acting I

This course is the first in a two-course sequence which aims to give students an introduction to and training of the stage actor's tools: voice, body, imagination, concentration, etc., while also helping students to think Christianly about various ethical and aesthetic issues pertaining to acting and the production of plays for public consumption. Meets for three class sessions plus one lab session each week. Every fall. Four hours. FA

### 250. Theatre History to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

This is a survey course examining Western theatre history from the Ancient Greeks, through the Middle Ages,

Renaissance, and Restoration up to the beginnings of Realism, as well as theatre traditions from Africa and Asia. Attention will be placed on the dramatic literature of various periods, conventions of production, subsequent interpretations of the literature, the larger historical context for each period and the changing relationship between religion and theatre. Every other spring. Three hours. FA

### 260. Basic Design

This course introduces students to the design process for the theatre in the areas of sets, costumes, lighting and sound. Emphasis will be placed on distilling a play into a design concept, developing a design from that concept and working with other designers to achieve a unified design. Every other fall. Three hours.

### 290. Production Practicum

Lower division laboratory course in a variety of aspects of theatre performance and production. Project assignments in departmental productions. Every semester. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit two times. One to three hours.

### 297. Voice and Diction

A course designed to introduce the student to the physical elements of vocal production and the technical elements of vocal variety, in order to strengthen and broaden the speaker's technical precision, variety and vocal creativity in production of American Standard Speech. Course work will include study of the International Phonetic Alphabet, transcription work, oral drill and performance. This class serves as the prerequisite to THF 397. Accents and Dialects. Every other fall. Three hours.

### 299. Special Topics in Theatre

This course offers opportunities for study in various topics of interest within the field of theatre and film studies. These may be short-term courses offered during the semester or during the summer term. Topics will be decided upon by the faculty as need and interest arise. Credit hours to be determined, one to three hours.

### 302. The Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought

A study of Christian thought on the arts, with specific reference to dramatic forms. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing; THF 202. or permission of instructor. Offered every two years. Three hours.

### 310. Playwriting

A workshop on the art and craft of playwriting with the goal of creating a professionally competitive one act or ten minute play for possible production. Plays should not only be creative, effective, and marketable, but will also be morally responsible in terms of a Christian aesthetic.

Lectures on craft issues include voice, structure, format, and the play development process. Class members are expected to produce a one act or ten minute play, to evaluate their own work and that of others in the class, and to complete various exercises and assignments given throughout the semester. Prerequisites: ENG 111. with a grade of "B" or higher and THF 202, or permission of instructor. Every other spring. Three hours.

### **315. Screenwriting**

This course emphasizes the analysis and writing of film screenplays. It acts as a workshop for understanding story structure and development, and enables the scripting of scenes and short films through several informative lectures and workshops. The goal is to help the student identify and write a short script that is creative, marketable, and effective by Hollywood's standards, while also reflecting a biblical Christian worldview. Prerequisite: ENG 111. English Composition with a grade of "B" or higher, or permission of instructor. Every other spring. Three hours.

### **335. Acting II**

A continued study of principles/practices introduced in Acting I; emphasis laid on scene study, with attention being given to various historic dramatic styles. Meets for three class sessions plus one lab session each week. Every other fall. Prerequisite: THF 235. Four hours.

### **350. Costume History**

A study of the history of clothing from Egyptian to present day. This class will bring into focus the silhouette and construction of the period, the natural progression from one fashion to the next and the historical context that affected the fashion of the period. Offered on demand. Three hours.

### **390. Production Practicum**

Upper division laboratory course in a variety of aspects of theatre performance and production. Project assignments in departmental productions. Every semester. Prerequisite: two semesters of THF 290. or equivalent, plus permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit two times. One to three hours.

### **397. Accents and Dialects**

Study in the elements of and practice in the production of various English dialects and foreign accents for stage and camera use, taken from the following list: American Southern, New York City, New England, Standard British, Cockney, Irish, Scottish, Italian, French, German, or others specially requested. Prerequisite: THF 235. Every other fall. Three hours.

### **399. Independent Study**

Designed for the student who has demonstrated potential ability for independent study, this course allows him or her to choose and to explore, under the guidance of an instructor, an area of the discipline not fully covered in available courses. Credit to be determined in each case; maximum credit, three hours per semester.

### **402 The Dramatic Arts and Christian Thought II**

A continued study of Christian thought on the arts, with specific reference to theatre and film. Prerequisites: THF 302, and Sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. Offered every two years. Three hours.

### **492. Senior Integration Paper**

The student will explore and analyze a topic related to the discipline of theatre and film studies in the light of Christian philosophy. The study may result in a written thesis, though often projects such as directing a play, performing a major role, designing a show, etc. are permitted if the student's first reader deems that the student has successfully completed sufficient preparatory course work. Upon completion of the paper or project, there is a final oral exam. Two or three hours.

**THF Courses in development:** Directing, Stage Management, Advanced Design, Voice and Movement.

**UTC Theatre course descriptions** for both required and elective courses may be seen at <http://www.utc.edu/Academic/TheatreAndSpeech/curriculum.php>