

# A Letter to New Majors and Minors

Dear Student,

The members of the Theatre & Dance Department welcome you! This handbook will guide you through your major or minor, walk you through the declaration process, and outline the department's values.

First, our values. We strive to be a student-centered, inclusive, collaborative, and community-oriented department. We will advise and mentor you based on your individual artistic and scholarly goals, welcoming you into our lively department. We strive for our community to be creative, courageous and, in the words of poet Audre Lorde, "liberatory without shedding differences." Our requirements are intentionally flexible, allowing us to partner with you to create your path through your major or minor. We will nurture your passions and interests while providing you with a rigorous liberal arts education in the performing arts.

At your earliest convenience, familiarize yourself with all aspects of the Theatre & Dance Department. **After reading this handbook, sign below and return a copy to the department chair.** We encourage you to read our [mission statement](#) and explore the department's website. Please review the section appropriate to your chosen major or minor. Refer to this handbook when you have questions.

We urge you to explore all the possibilities our courses provide to develop your creativity, criticality, technical skills, and to increase your historical knowledge in the performing arts.

Our three inter-related disciplines - dance, design, and theatre - are inherently collaborative. Our productions serve as laboratories in creative and collaborative processes and as an invaluable opportunity to experience the latest artistic and production advancements in contemporary dance, design, and theatre. Review the [Theatre & Dance Mainstage Productions procedures and guidelines](#) to become acquainted with the department's production process.

Finally, the Theatre & Dance Department is committed to a creative and inclusive learning environment. Ours is a department where all are welcome, where creative process and critical inquiry go hand in hand, and where a diversity of contemporary artistic practices are explored to graduate visionary, resilient, creative changemakers for the future. The department's alumni have not only gone on to become recognized artists, but many have also drawn from their education with us to begin careers in social work, community organizing, dance therapy, stage management, film and television, teaching and arts administration.

We are thrilled that you have chosen to embark on this educational journey with us and we look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

## **Members of the Theatre & Dance Department**

Marie Davis, Associate Professor of Design

Patrizia Herminjard, Lecturer in Dance

Paul Martin, Technical Director

SB Parks, Costume Design and Shop Supervisor

Ryan Platt, Associate Professor of Performance Studies

Shaylan Quinn, Administrative Assistant

Mónica Sanchez, Assistant Professor of Playwriting

Pallavi Sriram, Associate Professor of Dance Studies

Holly Wenger, Assistant Technical Director

Shawn Womack, Professor of Dance, Department Chair

**I have read the Theatre/Dance Handbook, and I acknowledge, support and uphold the department's procedures, policies and values.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# The Theatre & Dance Student Handbook

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## SECTION A: Declaring a Major or Minor in the Theatre & Dance Department

1. Meet with a Theatre Dance professor to talk about your artistic interests and to learn more about the department. Before the meeting review the requirements for the major or minor you are interested in. The department has two majors (theatre and dance) and three minors (dance, performance design and theatre.)
  - o Dance areas: choreography, dance studies, dance techniques, somatic practice
  - o Design areas: costume, lighting, scenic, sound, technical theatre, multi-media design
  - o Performance Studies - interdisciplinary emphasis
  - o Theatre areas: Acting, Directing, Playwriting
2. Visit the following Registrar's Office pages:
  - o College Major and Minor Policies: <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/basics/welcome/leadership/policies/majors-minors-policy.html>
  - o Online Adobe Declaration forms: <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/registrar/>
3. Complete the Adobe form(s) to the best of your ability but do not sign or submit. Print the form.
4. Make an appointment with the Theatre & Dance department chair. Bring your printed draft declaration form with you. At this meeting, you will discuss areas of interest, career paths, appropriate advisors, and degree progress. Be prepared to discuss your long-term goals, ideas, and aspirations.
5. Once you have declared, visit the Theatre & Dance administrative assistant's office, Cornerstone Arts Center #320 (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, West side of the building), to arrange for your picture taken to be taken.
6. If you have any questions about this process, please ask any member in the department.

## Section B: Dance Major & Minor



# THE DANCE MAJOR

## 11 UNITS

### FOUNDATIONS 3 UNITS

One unit of dance adjunct courses  
(4 DS adjuncts at .25 units each)

One unit from the following:

- DS105-106 Dance Fundamentals (extended format over 2 semesters)
- DA/TH103: Stage 1: The Performer Prepares
- DA125: Body in Motion

One unit of

- DA212: Dance Mainstage Production OR
- .5 units DA212: Dance Mainstage production with a .5 unit extended format such as Hip-Hop Performance, Choreo Lab, or Ballet Ensemble.

### CREATIVE CORE 4 UNITS

DA221: Choreography

One unit of a creative process course such as DA 230: Video Dance, DA 232: India Away, DA237: The Art of Insurgency, or DA200: Topics in Dance with CP designation.

One unit of Design: TH110: Fundamentals of Performance Design, TH207: Lighting Design or TH218: Costume design.

One unit of a 300-level creative process course for example DA304: Advanced Performance, DA311: Global Encounters in Dance, or DA300: Topics in Dance with a creative process focus.

### CRITICAL CORE 2 UNITS

Pick two:

- DA211: Historical Perspectives in Dance
- DA/TH200: Philosophies of the Body: Bodies and Power
- DA/TH224: Contemporary Performance
- DA/TH204: Feminist and Queer Performance

### CAPSTONE 2 UNITS

DA303: Creative Research Seminar

DA404: Senior Thesis

Other interdisciplinary creative process and critical studies courses may be approved in consultation with your major advisor and the department chair.





# THE DANCE MINOR

5 UNITS

## FOUNDATIONS 1 UNIT

One unit from the following:

- DS adjuncts (.25 unit each)
- DS extended format (.5 units each)
- DA103: Stage 1: The Performer Prepares
- DA125: Body in Motion
- DA 212: Mainstage Dance Production

## CREATIVE CORE 2 UNITS

Two units of creative process such as:

- DA221: Choreography
- DA230: Video Dance
- DA 232: India Away
- DA311: Global Encounters in Dance
- DA200: Topics in Dance with CP designation

## CRITICAL CORE 1 UNIT

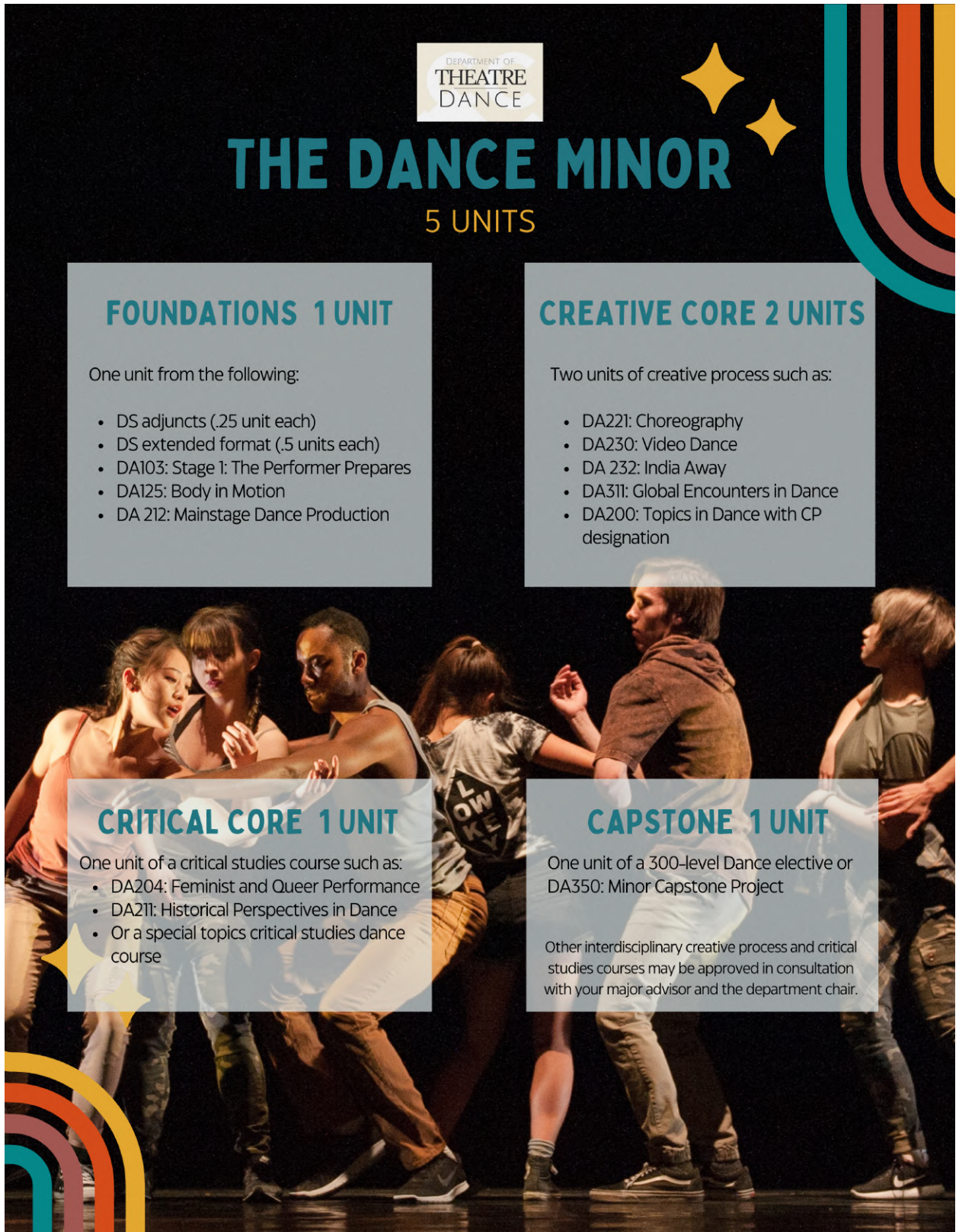
One unit of a critical studies course such as:

- DA204: Feminist and Queer Performance
- DA211: Historical Perspectives in Dance
- Or a special topics critical studies dance course

## CAPSTONE 1 UNIT

One unit of a 300-level Dance elective or DA350: Minor Capstone Project

Other interdisciplinary creative process and critical studies courses may be approved in consultation with your major advisor and the department chair.



## **DANCE ADJUNCT (TECHNIQUE) CLASSES**

There are many ways to dance at CC, and our dance technique classes offer dancers as well as those new to dance, an entry point into the academic dance program. In any given year, a wide array of dance genres is scheduled and may include Balinese, Contact Improvisation, Ballet and Contemporary dance, Latin, South Asian Contemporary, Samba, Salsa, West African Dance and Drumming. In addition, somatic classes such as yoga and Pilates are offered as complimentary training for dancers. Adjunct performance and choreographic opportunities are intended for experienced dancers (Hiphop Performance, Ballet Ensemble and Choreo Lab) while Dance Fundamentals, a comparative approach to dance training across genres, introduces beginning students to our dance adjuncts.

### **Grading Policy for Adjunct Dance Classes**

Grading is based on participation. Absences will lower the final grade accordingly. Please see individual faculty for class make-up guidelines.

**Grade Track:** Students may miss 2 classes due to illness or academic conflict over the two-block period; any additional absences must be made-up to receive a passing grade.

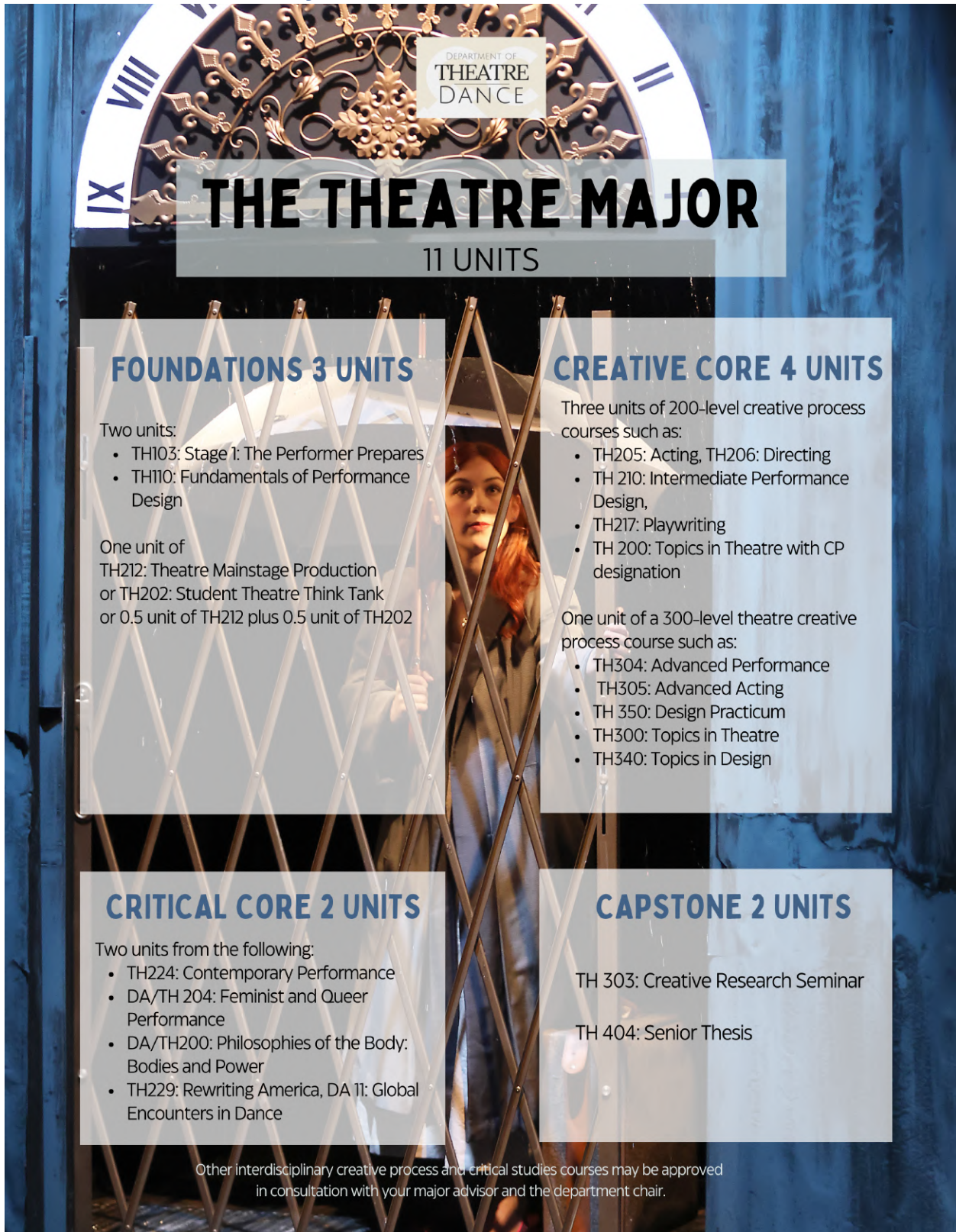
**Pass/Fail:** Students may miss 3 classes due to illness or academic conflict over the two-block period; any additional absences must be made-up to pass.

**Audit:** Students must complete half of the total class sessions over the two-block period; students attending less than half of the dance classes will be dropped from the audit.

*All students taking dance classes must sign up for a grade track (G), Pass/Fail, or Audit.*



## Section C: Theatre Major & Minor



DEPARTMENT OF  
**THEATRE  
DANCE**

# THE THEATRE MAJOR

11 UNITS

### FOUNDATIONS 3 UNITS

Two units:

- TH103: Stage 1: The Performer Prepares
- TH110: Fundamentals of Performance Design

One unit of TH212: Theatre Mainstage Production or TH202: Student Theatre Think Tank or 0.5 unit of TH212 plus 0.5 unit of TH202

### CREATIVE CORE 4 UNITS

Three units of 200-level creative process courses such as:

- TH205: Acting, TH206: Directing
- TH 210: Intermediate Performance Design,
- TH217: Playwriting
- TH 200: Topics in Theatre with CP designation

One unit of a 300-level theatre creative process course such as:

- TH304: Advanced Performance
- TH305: Advanced Acting
- TH 350: Design Practicum
- TH300: Topics in Theatre
- TH340: Topics in Design

### CRITICAL CORE 2 UNITS

Two units from the following:

- TH224: Contemporary Performance
- DA/TH 204: Feminist and Queer Performance
- DA/TH200: Philosophies of the Body: Bodies and Power
- TH229: Rewriting America, DA II: Global Encounters in Dance

### CAPSTONE 2 UNITS

TH 303: Creative Research Seminar

TH 404: Senior Thesis

Other interdisciplinary creative process and critical studies courses may be approved in consultation with your major advisor and the department chair.





# THE THEATRE MINOR

## 5 UNITS

### FOUNDATIONS 1 UNIT

One unit from a TH 100-level Theatre course such as:

- TH103: Stage I: The Performer Prepares
- TH110: Fundamentals of Performance Design

### CREATIVE CORE 2 UNITS

Two units of creative process such as:

- TH205: Acting, TH206: Directing
- TH210: Intermediate Performance Design
- TH217: Playwriting
- TH200: Topics in Theatre with CP designation

### CRITICAL CORE 1 UNIT

One unit from the following:

- TH200: Philosophies of the Body: Bodies and Power
- TH204: Feminist and Queer Performance
- TH224: Contemporary Performance
- TH229: Rewriting America

### CAPSTONE 1 UNIT

One unit of the following:

- A 300-level theatre course
- An independent project: TH325: Project in Theatre
- TH350: Design Practicum

Other interdisciplinary creative process and critical studies courses may be approved in consultation with your major advisor and the department chair.



## Section D: Major with a Design or Other Emphases & Performance Design Thematic Minor

### EXAMPLES OF THEATRE MAJOR PATHWAYS

*Eleven courses required of all Theatre majors regardless of emphasis:*

**Foundations** 3 units

**Creative Core** 4 units with one course at the 300-level

**Critical Core** 2 units

**Capstone** 2 units

#### Acting or Directing Emphasis

**Creative Core** TH205: Acting, TH206: Directing, TH217: Playwriting plus a 300-level theatre course

**Critical Core** TH 229: Rewriting America plus one more

#### Design Emphasis

**Creative Core**

3 units in design with one at the 300 level plus 1 unit in either TH206: Directing or TH217: Playwriting

**Critical Core** TH229: Rewriting America plus one more

#### Playwriting Emphasis

**Creative Core**

- TH217: Playwriting and an additional a creative writing course - 2 units
- TH206: directing, TH205: Acting or a design course - 1 unit
- One creative writing course at the 300-level

**Critical Core** TH229: Rewriting America

### EXAMPLE OF A DANCE MAJOR WITH AN EMPHASIS IN DESIGN

**Foundations**

- TH110: Fundamentals of Performance Design
- DA/TH103: Stage 1: The Performer Prepares, or DA125: Body in Motion.
- One unit of DA212: Dance Mainstage Production

**Creative Process**

- DA221: Choreography
- Three units of creative process courses in design - TH207: Lighting Design, TH110: Intermediate Performance Design, TH218: Costume design, TH340: Topics in Design, TH350: Advanced Design Practicum
- One unit of the above a 300-level design course

### THEMATIC PERFORMANCE DESIGN MINOR



# THEMATIC PERFORMANCE DESIGN MINOR

5.5 UNITS

## **Foundations in Design and Art History: 3 units**

2 units of design courses:

- [TH110](#) Fundamentals of Performance Design
- One of the following: [TH207](#) Lighting Design, [TH210](#) Intermediate Performance Design, [TH218](#) Costume Design

One unit in Art History:

- Any 100 or 200 level Art History course

## **Interdisciplinary Electives: 1 unit, select one**

- [FM102](#) Basic Filmmaking
- [TH240](#) Special Topics in Design
- Art Studio courses: [AS103](#) or [AS114](#)

## **Practical applications: .5 units in technical theatre**

[TH212](#) Mainstage Theatre Production:  
(name of production)- backstage design or crew

## **The Integrative Experience: 1 unit**

Final creative project appended to a 300-level design course ([TH307](#), [TH240](#) or [TH350](#)) or as an independent study ([TH325](#))

## Section D: Department Policies and Procedures

### Theatre & Dance Department's Expectations and Opportunities

**Participation.** As an essential part of your educational experience, we *expect* you to fully support and attend all department events including:

- o beginning of the year Open House
- o major and minor meetings
- o Theatre & Dance Mainstage productions
- o Seniors' thesis performances
- o Workshops, performances, and artist/scholar talks given by our distinguished guests and alums.

**Diverse Educational Experiences.** You are encouraged to explore different aspects of Theatre & Dance beyond your major and artistic passions. For example, if your emphasis is in the performance areas (acting, directing, dancing or choreography), we encourage you to work in the scene shop or participate in technical theatre within our mainstage productions. If you are a theatre or design major, try an acting or playwriting course, a dance adjunct or a choreography course. Join an interdisciplinary arts course such as *Queer Performance* or *Spectacle Art and Society* or *The Nakedness of Being* with our distinguished guest artist, Eiko Otake. If you are pursuing an emphasis in playwriting, branch out and attend the English Department's Visiting Writers Series or a creative writing course.

#### ACADEMIC

**Senior Thesis Proposals.** In the first week of Block 7 of your junior year, you will be asked to formally present your thesis proposal for your senior year. See below for senior proposal guidelines.

**Distinction.** Students who successfully complete their major, retain a GPA of at least 3.5 within the major, participate in all aspects of our department and complete an outstanding Senior thesis will be considered for Distinction in Theatre or Dance upon graduation.

**Academic Standing.** College policy states that you must earn a C- or better to receive credit for any major core requirement.

**Independent Studies.** If you are interested in an independent project or studying something performance related not covered in the department's course offerings, meet and talk to a faculty member about why and what you would like to do. If they agree to mentor you as the professor of record, then review the Registrar's [Independent Study Form](#). Sign up for either DA325 or TH325. Next, you need to write a contract with your faculty mentor, stating your intentions and goals. This proposal must then be approved by the Chair, since they must sign off on the Adobe form. Please Note: department faculty mentor Independent Studies as overloads and are not obliged to take them on.

#### SENIOR THESIS PROJECT



The Senior Thesis Project is a rigorous, self-generated project, which serves as the creative and intellectual culmination of your major. Your senior thesis project can take a range of forms:

- o a staged performance: directing a play or devised work, choreographing with dancers
- o a solo acting or dance performance
- o an installation or site-specific or place-based event
- o writing a play
- o a costume, scenic, or lighting design
- o a community-based project
- o somatic or process-focused work via workshops, video and writing documentation
- o a research paper

Collaboration and creative research practices developed during the Creative Research Seminar support the student's process in creating a senior thesis project.

All senior majors in the department must complete DA404: Senior Thesis.

1. For a **performative thesis project**, a supporting reflection paper of approximately 5-7 pages accompanies your thesis. Here are some prompts to get you started:
  - o the planning, structure, and execution of your work,
  - o insights into your creative process,
  - o challenges? rewards?
  - o What new questions did your project raise for you?
  - o How might this process impact your future experience with performance?
  - o What aspects of the performance might you revise? Why? How?
  - o What in your CC education supported your thesis? How? Were there gaps in your learning at CC?

*Note: these bullets are not a checklist. Write reflectively and critically in a way that matters to you.*

2. **Research Project** culminates in public presentation. Examples of academic papers:
  - o *Dramaturgical Analysis*: Involves a deep dive into the play, choreography or devised work, finding themes and implications within its structure, history, aesthetics, and/or socio-political circumstances.
  - o *Historical Approach*: Specific historical research into the form, subject, and/or artist. A key set of research questions and a thesis are expected.
  - o *Interdisciplinary Critical Analysis*: Examining how a performative event, group or artists' work operates using an analytic frame such as race or gender.

### **Senior Project Proposal**

In Block 7 of the junior year, all majors present a senior project proposal to the faculty and staff at the department meeting in the first week of the block. This proposal should include the following:

1. A title and a description of the thesis project.
2. An explanation of how this senior thesis is a culmination of your education, with specific references to classes that have prepared you for the thesis.
3. Explain *why* this project matters to you.
4. Your creative process: *how* will you go about realizing your thesis
5. A proposed timeline for the thesis project or written thesis, including start dates, meeting frequency with advisors, and performance/supporting paper completion dates.
6. Thesis budget: the department will reimburse you up to \$400.

7. A request for performance venue, if applicable.
8. Will there be other performers participating in your thesis? If so, have you secured their commitment to your thesis?
9. Outline your technical needs. Note that the department technical staff is not your technical crew and will not serve in that capacity. Required courses such as *DA/TH Fundamentals Performance Design* and/or elective classes such as *TH 207 Lighting Design* or *TH217 Costume Design* will inform your production process. Should you require student crew members and collaborators such as a stage manager, lighting designer, etc., contact them before your presentation to confirm their commitment to your thesis.

The proposal should be professional and polished. Aim for a 7-minute presentation and be prepared to take questions/comments for an additional ten minutes. The department members will then discuss the proposal and contact you within a few days to offer suggestions, recommendations, etc. In some cases, students are asked to present again - either in Block 8 or in the first week of the fall semester - to re-consider, revise, or further develop the proposal.

### **Thesis Performance Preparations**

All majors are responsible for the following to produce a performance for their final project:

1. Select and reserve the venue for the performance. (see *Production and Rehearsal Space Procedures* below) Reserve the venue *no later* than the semester prior to the performance. The earlier the reservation is made the more likely the space will be available.
2. Print and distribute all publicity materials. Posters, announcements, flyers, programs.
3. Arrange for the use of costumes, sets, and lights with the department's technical staff in the semester prior to the scheduled performance. Deposits are required for costumes, lights and props.
4. Video document the performance.
5. Provide a copy of the performance video + reflection paper to your advisor before graduating.
6. In consultation with the major's advisor, arrange for a formal feedback session with the department's faculty and staff following the performance.

## **DEPARTMENT LENDING POLICIES**

### **Props, Furniture, Scenic Elements:**

The department props collection is available for department productions, classes, and senior theses - these items are not for personal use. Contact the technical staff for information and access.

### **Costumes:**

The Colorado College Costume Collection is primarily for department mainstage productions and senior theses. On a case-by-case basis, pieces may be made available for Theatre Workshop, Dance Workshop, department faculty members' professional projects, and other academic departments' educational projects. Costumes are not available for personal use or classroom scenes. To inquire about using collection items, make an appointment with the costume shop supervisor. Certain items within the collection are not available for checkout. A refundable damage deposit will be required for any costume checked out from the collection. The deposit is refunded when the costumes are returned in the same condition as when they were first borrowed. If dry cleaning is involved, the cost is the responsibility of the borrower.

### **Lights:**

Lighting equipment is available to use *on site* with the permission of the Lighting Supervisor and with prior training from our production program. Celeste Theater, Norberg Studio Theater and the Cornerstone Mainspace are equipped with theatrical lighting capabilities. The Cornerstone Flex and Experimental studio classrooms are equipped with dimming overhead lights (non-theatrical), which can be programmed and used in performance. Designed to be used creatively, many areas of the Cornerstone Arts Center have been utilized for performance in addition to the studios and theaters.

Cossitt Gym is a Theatre & Dance performance space that can also be booked to use with available lights and sound. The Lighting Supervisor will direct the use of these spaces and equipment with prior notice.

### **Sound and Video Equipment:**

Check out sound and video equipment from Audio/Visual Services in Armstrong Hall. Any AV equipment belonging to the Theatre & Dance Department will be checked out through our technical director.

### **Protocols for requesting Cossitt Spaces: Gym, North Studio, South Studio, Amphitheater**

Contact Theatre & Dance Administrative Assistant: 719-389-6637, CAC 320

Cossitt dance studio reservation sheets are shared online documents and are updated at the beginning of each semester. Links to the Google docs for reserving the dance studios:

[Cossitt North Studio](#)

[Cossitt South Studio](#)

[Cossitt Gym](#)

### **Protocols for reserving Cornerstone Spaces\***



## Theatre

1. See the Theatre & Dance administrative assistant with specific dates, time, and technical needs. Make sure to leave enough set-up and breakdown time.
2. Here is the breakdown on the appropriate contacts for booking each space:

**Celeste Theatre:** Theatre & Dance (Admin Assistant and Tech Director)

**Main Space:** Theatre & Dance (Admin Assistant and Tech Director)

**Norberg Studio A:** Theatre & Dance (Admin Assistant and Tech Director)

**Shops:** Theatre & Dance (Tech Director)

**Design Lab:** Theatre & Dance (Professor Marie Davis)

**Cornerstone Class / Seminar Rooms (3):** Theatre/Dance (Admin Assistant)

**Studio B:** Film & Media (FM Admin Assistant)

**Studio C:** Film & Media (FM Admin Assistant)

**Screening Room:** Film & Media (FM Admin Assistant)

**Experimental Space (308):** Art Dept. (Theatre & Dance Admin Assistant)

**Flex Room:** Music Dept. (Theatre & Dance Admin Assistant)

NOTE: Booking a space and arranging for technical support are separate procedures. Reach out to the Technical Director well the semester prior to your thesis to discuss your thesis.

\*ALL SPACES MUST BE RETURNED TO *NEUTRAL* (the way you found it) AFTER USE.