

AMDA

AMDA College of
the Performing Arts
LOS ANGELES

The American Musical
and Dramatic Academy
NEW YORK CITY

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre Arts



The liberal arts Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts is designed for students interested in pursuing a full range of academic study alongside a vibrant exploration of theatre. This eight-semester degree program begins with foundational theatre training that focuses on the study of theatre history, performance, directing, theatre design, playwriting, and script analysis. Students are provided with a breadth of opportunities to examine live theatre performances through which the personal, social, and aesthetic impact of theatre arts may be experienced.

As a liberal arts degree program, students will also focus on acquiring knowledge in the areas of arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences. Each semester provides opportunities for gaining a greater understanding of communications, theatre analysis, and critical thinking. AMDA's liberal arts theatre program provides a diverse educational experience helping students emerge as informed and thoughtful citizens prepared to contribute to the global communities in which they live. With specific knowledge, skills, and competencies that can be applied to existing and emerging theatre environments, students are prepared to work effectively in a variety of careers in theatre and related industries.

Theatre arts related jobs* include, but are not limited to: Art Directors (27-1011); (Arts) Manager (11-9190); Producers and Directors (27-2012); Writers and Authors (Advertising Copy Writer, Playwright, Television Writer) (27-3043); Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary (25-1121); Self-Enrichment Teachers (25-3021).

*The 6-digit codes following each job represent the Standard Occupational Classification determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov).

SUMMARY OF REQUIRED COURSES

Degree Requirements	Credits	Program Category Key	Credits
Theatre Arts Foundation	61.0	Theatre Arts Foundation	61.0
General Education	60.0	General Education	60.0
Foundations	12.0	Elective (options may vary)	3.0
Arts and Humanities	12.0		
Social and Behavioral Sciences	15.0		
Physical and Biological Sciences	8.0		
Creative Expression	6.0		
Lifelong Learning and Self Development	3.0		
Writing Intensive	4.0		
Elective (options may vary)	3.0		
Minimum Credits Required	124.0	Total Credits Prescribed	124.0

Sample Curriculum

First Semester

THR100	Introduction to Theatre and Performance	3.0
THR105	Acting I: Foundations and Techniques	3.0
THR134	History of the American Musical	3.0
ENG101	English Composition	3.0
FIN101	Personal Finance	3.0
Total Credits		15.0

Second Semester

THR110	Acting II: Scene Study	3.0
THR112	The Speaking Voice: Vocal Production and Performance	2.0
THP100	Theatre Practicum: Theatre Viewing	1.0
SPC205	Introduction to Oral Communication	3.0
HUM110	Exploring World Literature	3.0
CRE208	A History of Science Fiction	3.0
Total Credits		15.0

Third Semester

THR210	History of the Theatre I	3.0
THR220	Principles of Dramatic Analysis	3.0
CRT200	Applied Logic and Critical Thinking	3.0
SCI219	Biology Concepts	4.0
Select one of the following elective courses:		
THR107	Introduction to Musical Theatre Technique	3.0
THR109	Introduction to Improvisation	
THR111	Introduction to Movement	
Total Credits		16.0

Fourth Semester

THR230	Introduction to Design, Technology and Production (with lab)	4.0
THR235	Analyzing the Classics	3.0
THR240	Introduction to Playwriting	3.0
MAT202	Applied Statistics	3.0
ANT200	Introduction to Anthropology	3.0
Total Credits		16.0

Fifth Semester

THR310	History of the Theatre II	3.0
THR305	Essentials of Stage Management	3.0
HUM226	Introduction to Philosophy	3.0
SOC304	Introduction to Sociology	3.0
SCI222	Astronomy Foundations	4.0
Total Credits		16.0

Sixth Semester

THR330	Directing for the Theatre	3.0
SOC203	Introduction to Psychology	3.0
CRE303	Cultures of Fear and the Horror Film	3.0
ENG300	Academic Research and Writing	4.0
HUM310	Classic American Literature	3.0
Total Credits		16.0

Seventh Semester

THR411	Theories of Theatre	3.0
THR321	Classic Repertoire	3.0
THR417	Applied Theatrical Design	3.0
POL307	Introduction to Political Science	3.0
ART306	Visual Art and the Human Experience	3.0
Total Credits		15.0

Eighth Semester

THR323	Contemporary Black Theatre: 1960 to Present	3.0
THR327	Writing: Experiments With Characters and Form	3.0
THR427	Adaptation and the Theatre	3.0
THR450	BA Capstone Project	3.0
SOC301	Mass Communication and Societal Impacts	3.0
Total Credits		15.0
Total Program Credits		124.0

Theatre Arts

THP100 Theatre Practicum: Theatre Viewing

A mixture of attending live performances of AMDA productions with viewing recorded outside theatrical performances provides the basis for building skill sets in theatre analysis. After each viewing, students submit written observations and analysis as related to a variety of production components. This is designed to illuminate the collaborative nature of theatre as an event and create a more informed and enlightened audience viewing experience. This course is largely independent and reflective in nature. (1.0 credits)

THR100 Introduction to Theatre and Performance

The foundations of the study of theatre and performance are explored in this introductory class. Through a historical survey of seminal works, students develop their theatre appreciation and knowledge base. With a greater understanding of theatre and its impact on culture, students then go on to develop their own set of analytical skills related to performance through observing, writing about and actively participating in theatre exercises. (3.0 credits)

THR105 Acting I: Foundations and Techniques

Students bring to life characters and stories within a given text. Through life-study observation and various acting techniques, students actualize natural human behavior within rehearsed scenes. Techniques for demonstrating the "who, where, when and what" in role preparation are developed. The goal is to develop performances that are infused with passion, commitment and craft. (3.0 credits)

THR107 Introduction to Musical Theatre Technique

Students are introduced to the foundational skills needed for effective musical theatre performance. The use of AMDA's "Approach to a Song," a method for developing skills in acting and singing, is introduced to students as a method for overcoming challenges related to musical theatre performance. (3.0 credits)

THR109 Introduction to Improvisation

Designed to enhance range, imagination, and physical choices, students master basic improvisational skills that focus on facing performance anxiety, developing creativity, listening on stage, learning to trust oneself and one's partner and supporting other performers on stage. (3.0 credits)

THR111 Introduction to Movement

Students are introduced to elements of movement for the theatre as related

to professional attitudes, physical awareness, flexibility, and precision. There is a foundational emphasis placed on spatial relationships, posture, rhythmic accuracy, energy and the ability to respond to direction. (3.0 credits)

THR110 Acting II: Scene Study

As students continue to apply acting techniques and expand performance skill sets, they begin to explore physically incorporating honesty, economy, specificity and spontaneity into performances from 20th-century American dramas. Students grow as performers and learn to take risks while maintaining simplicity and suitability in acting choices. **Prerequisite:** THR105 Acting I: Foundations and Techniques (3.0 credits)

THR112 The Speaking Voice: Vocal Production and Performance

Students are trained in a series of practical exercises, including relaxation, breath, production of tone, range of voice, elongation of breath and tone, and clarity of speech. These exercises assist in developing healthy, natural and career-sustaining vocal technique and help students fully realize the potential and variety in their own voices. (2.0 credits)

THR134 History of the American Musical

This select yet comprehensive study explores American musical theatre from 1875 to 1943, the dawn of the form's golden age. (3.0 credits)

THR210 History of the Theatre I

History of the Theatre I explores the artistic, intellectual, historical, sociopolitical and overall cultural context of major playwrights and theatrical traditions. Significant dramatists are studied and numerous works spanning Egyptian ritual of 2500 BCE to the Spanish Golden Age of 1640 CE are read, discussed and analyzed. The cultural framework of each period is examined. (3.0 credits)

THR220 Principles of Dramatic Analysis

Students learn to break down a play into its parts, from plot components like inciting incident, crisis, climax, etc., to style and genre. The course begins by examining Aristotelian methods and then further investigates dramatic structure, adaptation and deconstruction. Analytical and critical skills are developed for identifying essential dramatic components used for creating performable characters. (3.0 credits)

THR230 Introduction to Design, Technology and Production (with lab)

The look and feel of a show's design can greatly impact the theatre experience for performers and audiences alike. The set, lights, direction and other design

components can enhance the mood, energy and ultimate reality in which a story will unfold. This course delves into why and how design elements come to fruition. Discussions include how the type of performance space, such as proscenium, thrust, amphitheater, etc., might affect a production. Additionally, the need for communication and collaboration among design teams is emphasized. Practical considerations such as costs, materials and methods are intersected with artistic creativity. This course includes a hands-on lab component to expose students to the realities of theatrical design. (4.0 credits)

THR235 Analyzing the Classics

Students learn to identify and develop the critical skills needed to effectively analyze dramatic text, identifying the essential information theatre artists use to create successful productions. The perspective of the actor, director and designer are considered. The elements of dramatic structure, character creation, story arc, psychological and physical environments, vocal score, mood, theme, and dramatic style are explored. Research, readings and analytical discussions are essential components of the class. Several different plays from the American canon illustrating different dramatic approaches are examined. Works by Treadwell, O'Neill, Williams, Hellman, Hansberry, Wilson, Miller, Albee, Mamet, Nottage and Kushner may be explored. (3.0 credits)

THR240 Introduction to Playwriting

Students explore the fundamentals of playwriting while developing skills in creating compelling characters, dialogue and plot. The basic elements of dramatic structure and the parallels and differences of the art forms are examined. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

THR305 Essentials of Stage Management

Essentials of Stage Management serves as an introduction to the theories, techniques and practices of stage managing a production, from the initial stages to the conclusion of the run. Plays, musicals, opera, dance and touring productions are examined from the perspective of the stage manager. Working with directors, choreographers and other members of the production team is discussed as well as calling shows. Students acquire practical experience through assignments on AMDA productions. **Prerequisite:** THR230 Introduction to Design, Technology and Production/With Lab (3.0 credits)

THR310 History of the Theatre II

Students trace the development of contemporary Western theatre by examining dramatic texts from 19th-

century realism to the present. Emphasis is placed on the influence of Ibsen, Chekhov and Strindberg. The conventions and acting styles of each period are compared, and the role of politics, economics and philosophy in developing theatre is analyzed. **Prerequisite:** THR210 **History of the Theatre I** (3.0 credits)

THR321 Classic Repertoire

Students are familiarized with a vast classical repertoire, including the Greek dramatists, Shakespeare, Calderon, Molière and Racine. Students research and perform works from a classic repertoire, specifically focusing on influential theatrical movements and the acting styles they fostered. (3.0 credits)

THR323 Contemporary Black Theatre: 1960 to Present

Through the study of African American theatre from 1960 to the present, students gain perspective on the impact of social movements and how they influenced playwriting. Style, form, and content are explored through the cultural environments that existed during the Civil Rights and Black Arts movements. Students read and analyze work by Childress, Wolfe, Baldwin, Baraka and others. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 **English Composition** (3.0 credits)

THR327 Writing: Experiments With Characters and Form

Students are provided opportunities to creatively express themselves by writing for film, television and theatre. Through detailed exploration of the principles surrounding character and story construction, students are encouraged to create, on the page, three-dimensional characters with wants, needs and an emotional arc. The writing workshop process has students brainstorm, structure, edit, review and revise and ultimately prepares them to draft an outline for a new, full-length script. **Prerequisite:** THR240 **Introduction to Playwriting** (3.0 credits)

THR330 Directing for the Theatre

This course is an introduction to the art of Theatre Direction and the contributions made by collaborative team members involved in creating a theatrical production. Exploration includes history of stage directing, house, and stage management. **Prerequisite:** THR230 **Introduction to Design, Technology and Production (with lab)** (3.0 credits)

THR411 Theories of Theatre

Why and how did theatre develop as it did? What ideas and events influenced and determined the direction of theatre exploration and creation? Theories of Theatre explores the relationship between theatre performance and literature and the cultural and political ideas at the heart

of intellectual debate and creative artistic development, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary realism and modern experimental theatre. **Prerequisite:** THR310 **History of the Theatre II** (3.0 credits)

THR417 Applied Theatrical Design

In a continuation of Introduction to Design, Technology and Production, Applied Theatrical Design offers students a chance to create their own aesthetic design for theatre. Students are guided to create and/or articulate basic designs for sets, lights and costumes. Each student then chooses one of their basic designs to develop in greater detail. The course culminates with each student presenting their final, fully developed design. **Prerequisite:** THR310 **History of the Theatre II** (3.0 credits)

THR427 Adaptation and the Theatre

A detailed look at the structures of storytelling and the challenges faced when adapting a story for the medium of live theatre. With any adaptation, the goal is to maintain the integrity of the original story. Films are written in three acts consisting of numerous quick scenes and multiple locations providing extensive visuals. Novels are constructed of multiple dense chapters designed to slowly unfurl exposition with modulated character and story development to inspire the imagination. Conversely, plays and musicals usually adhere to a strict two-act structure, using longer and fewer scenes to communicate the story with minimal locales. This course examines works successfully adapted to the theatre. Original source material for these adaptations includes literature and film. **THR310 History of the Theatre II** (3.0 credits)

THR450 BA Capstone Project

The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre capstone project provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their intellectual, practical and personal growth. With project approval and guidance from an AMDA faculty member, students exercise and apply the skill sets they have developed throughout the program. Project objectives include a summative demonstration of critical thinking skills related to performance, an understanding of playwriting and production processes, an awareness of the theatre repertoire, and the ability to develop and communicate informed judgements about theatre. (3.0 credits)

General Education

ANT200 Introduction to Anthropology

The field of anthropology seeks to describe elements of humanity through a social scientific approach to the study of culture, biology, evolution, language and history. Students explore these fields in terms of theory, methodology and information analysis. Through a survey of the five major subfields, students gain an understanding of the holistic and comparative methods by which anthropologists probe human and cultural development. (3.0 credits)

ART306 Visual Art and the Human Experience

Employing a diverse array of artists and artworks to help students distinguish artistic form, content and their importance in society, this course serves as an exploration of visual art forms and their cultural connections. A brief study of the origins/historical development and the impact of art from ancient times to the 21st century guides this exploration. Students learn how to examine, analyze, interpret and discuss works of visual art within various contexts and themes. Examined works encompass artistic styles from western and other major world cultures. Course topics may include developing a personal set of standards for judging art, understanding the language of art, and the exploration of the technical and formal aspects of various art media (painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, architecture, etc.). (3.0 credits)

CRE208 A History of Science Fiction

Through close analysis of visual style, themes and the subtexts of seminal science fiction films, students have the opportunity to discover the Wellsian "fantasias of possibility" through the eyes of visionary filmmakers. This course's survey-style exploration not only provides students a sense of the history and functions of the cinematic sci-fi genre, but also provides a forum for writing lucid and perceptive film criticism. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 **English Composition** (3.0 credits)

CRE303 Cultures of Fear and the Horror Film

Cultures of Fear and the Horror Film examines the construction and application of central themes in the scope of international horror cinema and how they reveal salient aspects of cultural similarities and differences. Gender, sexuality, violence and socio-political climates are part of this exploration. The genre of horror provides students with an opportunity to approach such contemporary issues through an unconventional lens. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 **English Composition** (3.0 credits)

CRT200 Applied Logic and Critical Thinking

At a time when the sheer volume of information that we receive each day can seem overwhelming, it has become increasingly important that we think deeply about exactly how we think, the sources on which we rely and the beliefs that underpin our worldviews. With a focus on developing methods in thinking critically, logically and objectively, this course offers the opportunity for students to strengthen skills in formulating arguments and communicating them effectively. Students participate in evaluating contemporary issues through the lenses of multiple perspectives. Then, by way of collaborative discussions and interactive class activities, students are challenged to analyze beliefs, investigate their own thought processes and support their informed conclusions. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

ENG101 English Composition

Students are challenged to think critically about complex ideas and express responses through well-structured, logically reasoned, effective and grammatically accurate prose. Writing assignments are situated in the contemporary world, so students have the opportunity to focus their writing on issues that are current, relevant and compelling. This course is designed to develop and enhance the student's writing ability through cultivating skills in planning, drafting, revising and editing. (3.0 credits)

ENG300 Academic Research and Writing

This upper-level course aims to prepare students for professional and graduate level research and writing. Topics covered include selecting a topic and developing a research plan, using library and digital resources to identify reliable sources that point to relevant research questions, building an argument, creating a coherent draft, and proofing and editing. Students develop a primary research paper throughout the term that includes a number of peer-reviewed milestones and workshop opportunities. **Prerequisites:** ENG101 English Composition; CRT200 Applied Logic and Critical Thinking (4.0 credits)

FIN101 Personal Finance

The purpose of this course is to prepare students with essential personal finance management skills. Topics include how to build strong credit, preparing for tax season, creating secondary revenue streams, and technology that can help promote sound budgeting practices. Students participate in activities that help to reinforce these skills, including creating mock investment portfolios and developing personal budgets. (3.0 credits)

HUM110 Exploring World Literature

Across space and time, the human experience is unified through the expressions of social, cultural and emotional phenomena such as love, strife, hope and faith. The exploration of world literature provides windows into how these most universally lived realities have been experienced and articulated by some of the greatest storytellers the world has known. In this discussion-based course, students are guided on a thematic tour through the multicultural literary landscape from the 11th century until today. Students develop skills in close reading, critical analysis and thesis development. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

HUM226 Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy systematically explores texts and thinkers from the history of philosophy (East and West, ancient, and modern) through in-class presentation, readings, discussions, and student writings. Students delve into concepts such as knowledge, reality, the mind, free will, personal identity, the nature of God, and the meaning of life. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking techniques and creating philosophical awareness. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

HUM310 Classic American Literature

Based on a chronological study of classic American literature from the Civil War to the present, this course presents a broad overview of notable literary works with an emphasis on understanding the relationship between form and content and on formulating criteria for artistic judgment. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

MAT202 Applied Statistics

We frequently use our own observations to make predictions about what will happen in the future. With a collective approach to making these kinds of projections, applied statistics offers us the tools to more dependably hypothesize about probability. This course guides students in their development of research, data collection and analysis skills, all of which are activated to explore correlations between variables that we observe in the world around us. Much of this course is project-based, providing significant opportunities for students to use their statistical abilities to investigate and present findings on issues that are important to them and relevant in their lives as performers, artists and humans. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

POL307 Introduction to Political Science

Contemporary politics impact our daily lives and shape the trajectory of our futures. The concepts of power, legitimacy and political ideology are put into conversation

with theory that ranges from classical to modern. Discussions and coursework also include ethics, forms of government and comparative politics. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

SCI219 Biology Concepts

This introduction to biological concepts provides students with an overview of the fundamental principles that help to explain the wonders of life on earth. Students explore a history of biological discovery, evolution and the origin of species, basic physiology and human development. A variety of hands-on learning opportunities contribute to developing an understanding of the scientific method and how humans have used this tool to dramatically expand our comprehension of the living world. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (4.0 credits)

SCI222 Astronomy Foundations

Astronomy Foundations takes students on a journey to the stars, exploring the wonders of the universe through an overview of astronomical concepts and the methods we have developed to better understand the cosmos. Topics include a history of human cosmological understanding and space exploration; the solar system; stars and stellar development; galaxies near and far; the universe and its origin via the Big Bang; basic forces, matter and energy; and black holes, dark matter and remaining mysteries of the cosmos. This course also includes a variety of hands-on learning opportunities, which contribute to developing an understanding of the scientific method and how humans have used this tool to dramatically expand our comprehension of the universe. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (4.0 credits)

SOC203 Introduction to Psychology

This introduction to the scientific field of psychology provides students with an overview of contemporary perspectives on the human mind. In an exploration of the interactions between our thoughts and behaviors, students gain insights into modern psychology's theoretical frameworks, methodological approaches and applications. Topics covered include historical and modern psychology, research approaches, developmental psychology, sex/gender/sexuality, learning and memory, thinking/intelligence, human emotions, social psychology, and personality. **Prerequisite:** ENG101 English Composition (3.0 credits)

SOC301 Mass Communication and Societal Impacts

In this highly interactive course, students investigate, collaborate and present their ideas related to mass communication in the 21st century. The quickly shifting dynamics of social media and the entertainment and news industries are discussed in terms

of their historical development and their impact on modern societies. Students also explore the relationship between the media and the government, advertising and consumer trends and propaganda and social unrest. **Prerequisite: ENG101 English Composition** (3.0 credits)

SOC304 Introduction to Sociology

Introduction to Sociology provides an overview of the organizing concepts, methods and application of sociology. It surveys classical and contemporary perspectives on society, community, organization, inequality and social change. Each perspective is considered in relation to social forces, including race, gender, class and sexuality. **Prerequisite: ENG101 English Composition** (3.0 credits)

SPC205 Introduction to Oral Communication

Introduction to Oral Communications surveys the principles and application of speaking effectively to diverse audiences in a variety of settings. Topics focus on the verbal and nonverbal elements of communication and the development of communication skills – including topic selection, organization, analysis of research, critical listening, audience analysis, language use, reasoning, persuading, informing, ethics, and effective delivery – through formal and informal oral presentations. **Prerequisite: ENG101 English Composition** (3.0 credits)

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