

Proposal for Revision of the Communication Arts Curriculum: Theatre Option

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this revision is to improve the focus of the Theatre Option of the Communication Arts Curriculum and to increase options for students to study plays, perform, stage manage, assistant direct, and work on technical aspects of performance. To accomplish this, Communication Arts faculty propose the following changes.

1. Moving English 142: Rehearsal and Performance from the list of directed electives to the program requirements.
2. Revising the current pairing of literature courses so that all students take English 232: Introduction to Literature: Drama, along with one other literature course.
3. Adding Photography 104: Introduction to Video Production to the list of directed electives.
4. Removing restrictions with respect to which social science and humanities courses students can take.

## **Overview of the Existing Option**

The Option contains core courses that provide a broad foundation for the field of theatre arts, as well as a range of electives dedicated to aspects of theatre practice, including voice and articulation, dance, play production, and script writing. The Option serves students seeking to transfer to four year institutions as well as those who plan to immediately enter the work force as theatre professionals.

## **Rationale/Description of the Changes**

### *English 142: Rehearsal and Performance*

Currently, English 142 is a directed elective course; students choose one of five courses: 142- Rehearsal and Performance, 282- Scriptwriting, 205- Creative Writing, 120- Voice and Articulation, or 136- Movement and Dance II. Therefore, some students graduate from the program without the many benefits that come from participating in the production of a performance.

Under the new proposal, all students in the Theatre Option will be required to take English 142: Rehearsal and Performance. Prior to English 142, students will take the prerequisite courses

English 131: Acting I, and English 132: Acting II. Then students will take English 142: Rehearsal and Performance, a course which includes a fully realized stage performance with technical support and a brief run. The English 142 course document emphasizes that, while many students taking the course will perform in the play, others may serve as crew members, stage managers, or in other technical support roles. Making English 142 a required course will increase the overall number of students who benefit from a full theatrical experience, whether they are acting in the play or serving as technicians, stage managers or director's assistants.

*English 232: Introduction to Literature: Drama*

In the current curriculum, students take a pair of literature courses (e.g. two semesters of British Literature, or two semesters of African American Literature). This current arrangement is problematic. Waivers often need to be granted if the second course in the pair is not offered in a particular semester. Also, representatives of transfer institutions have stated that they do not require students take a two course sequence within the same genre of literature.

This revision will give students more opportunities to read plays by requiring that all students take English 232: Introduction to Literature-Drama, and one other 200 level literature course.

For the other required literature course, students will choose one of the following:

- English 208: Introduction to Literature: Prose
- English 209: Introduction to Literature: Poetry
- English 211: Survey of British Literature: From Beginnings to 1750
- English 212: Survey of British Literature: From 1750 to the Modern Era
- English 221: Survey of American Literature: From the Beginnings to the Civil War
- English 222: Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Present
- English 230: Asian Literature
- English 241: Shakespeare
- English 245: World Literature: From Antiquity to 1500
- English 246: World Literature: From 1500 to the Present
- English 250: African-American Literature I
- English 251: African-American Literature II
- English 256: African Literature
- English 260: Women in Literature

- English 265: Science Fiction

The above list includes all of the literature courses currently offered. If other literature courses are developed students in the Theater Option could use these as well to fulfill this requirement. Making English 232 a required course will require students to read more plays and enhance students' understanding of plays as literature; it will also provide them with the necessary foundation to continue this study at baccalaureate institutions. Students should choose their other literature course in consultation with an advisor based on their interests, goals and/or transfer considerations. They may choose a course such as English 241: Shakespeare, allowing students to deepen their knowledge of plays, or they may choose a course which extends their study to another type of literature such as novels or poetry.

#### *Photography 104: Introduction to Video Production*

Photography 104: Introduction to Video Production will be added to the list of directed electives. Some students within the Theatre Option have expressed an interest in video production and the faculty feel that a course in video production would be an asset to them in their careers as actors, directors, or producers.

#### *Humanities and Social Science Courses*

The current curriculum restricts students' choices of social science and humanities courses. Students must choose Introductory Psychology or Sociology. Then, under directed electives, students are instructed to choose one course from Geography, History, Political Science, or Sociology, and one from Anthropology, Philosophy, History, or English 271-Language of Film. Under this revision, these three guided electives are replaced with two social science electives without restrictions. Students may choose courses from any social science discipline. English 271: Language of Film remains in the program as a directed elective.

For humanities courses, the catalog currently states that an intermediate level foreign language is recommended. The only students who can follow this recommendation are students who enter the College ready for intermediate level foreign language courses but are not fluent in a foreign language--such as students who had some foreign language courses in high school.

The current recommendation is also somewhat confusing since it directs students to take two humanities electives or intermediate foreign language courses, when in fact both elementary and

intermediate foreign language courses qualify as humanities. The revised catalog page will direct students to take two humanities electives, and similar to other programs, will include a footnote advising students to choose their electives based on their transfer plans.

### **Effects of the Revision**

We expect that this revision will not significantly affect the budget for the Theatre Option. Historically, the Theatre Option has run one section of English 142 per semester and the Office of Student Life has provided \$5,000 per semester for production costs. We expect that with the new revision we will continue to run one section of English 142 per semester and thus the current budget will be adequate.

If enrollment in the Theatre Option increases and multiple sections of English 142 run within the same semester, faculty may request a larger amount for production costs. The decision as to whether to provide additional funds would be at the discretion of the Office of Student Life. If the Office of Student Life was unable to provide additional funds, then whatever funds were provided would be split among the multiple sections of English 142.

The minimum number of credits needed to graduate is increasing from 61 to 62 because a choice of three or four credit courses is being replaced with a required four credit course, English 142. The net result is that the *minimum* number of credits needed for graduation is increasing by one credit.

### **Conclusion**

The goal of this revision is to improve the Theatre Option and to increase the opportunities for student success. The proposed revisions are meant to enhance our students' academic experiences by creating increased opportunities for play reading, production support, and performance.

## NEW CATALOG PAGE

### **Communication Arts - Theatre Option**

The Communication Arts curriculum leads to the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree. The Theatre Option gives students a concentration in theatre arts with a liberal arts foundation. The program is primarily suited for students seeking transfer to a four-year institution, although some graduates may plan on immediately entering the work force as communications professionals.

For students seeking transfer, the curriculum closely parallels the foundation program of virtually any four-year college, most specifically those institutions in the Philadelphia area.

Studies within the Theatre Option will enhance a student's ability to work effectively in fields such as acting, directing, technical theatre or any related career in the theatre.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the Communication Arts Theatre Option the student will be able to:

1. Understand and write about performance and theatre with the vocabulary of the field.
2. Create characters, perform scenes and monologues, and improvise in performance.
3. Use the body as a performance instrument and understand and perform the basic principles, techniques and styles of body movement and dance.
4. Build, design, paint and light stage scenery.
5. Read and write about significant dramatic literature, with particular emphasis on an understanding and appreciation of both theatrical and literary techniques.
6. Participate in every aspect of the rehearsal process and the presentation of a play.

#### **Program Entry Requirements:**

The program is open to interested students. New students are normally required to take the College's placement tests at their time of entry. Students who are identified as needing developmental course work must complete satisfactorily the appropriate English and mathematics courses as a part of their degree program.

#### **Program of Study and Graduation Requirements:**

A minimum of 62 credits and a grade point average of 2.0 ("C" average) are required for graduation.

## Communication Arts-Theatre Option

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen Ed Req.
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>			
ENGL 137: Introduction to Theatre		3	Interpretive
ENGL 101: English Composition I		3	Composition
ENGL 115: Public Speaking		3	
ENGL 135: Movement and Dance I		3	
CIS 103: PC Applications		3	Tech Comp.
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>			
ENGL 131: Acting I		3	
ENGL 102: English Composition II	ENGL 101	3	Composition & Info Lit.
Social Science Elective		3	Soc Science
MATH 118: Intermediate Algebra or higher		3	Math
ENGL 107: Society and Mass Communications	ENGL 101 which may be taken concurrently	3	
<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>			
ENGL 132: Acting II	ENGL 131	3	
ENGL 232: Introduction to Literature: Drama	ENGL 101	3	
Social Science Elective		3	
ENGL 141: Introduction to Technical Theatre		4	
Humanities Elective <sup>1</sup>		3	Humanities
<b>FOURTH SEMESTER</b>			
Science Elective		3/4	Science
ENGL 142: Rehearsal and Performance	ENGL 132	4	
Literature Elective (choose one of the following) ENGL 208, 209, 211, 212, 221, 222, 230, 241, 245, 246, 250, 251, 256, 260, 265	ENGL 101	3	
Humanities Elective <sup>1</sup>		3	
Directed Elective (Choose one of the following) ENGL 205-Creative Writing ENGL 120-Voice and Articulation ENGL 136-Movement and Dance II ENGL 271-Language of Film ENGL282: Scriptwriting PHOT 104-Introduction to Video Production	ENGL 101 prereq. for ENGL 205 ENGL 120 no prereq. ENGL 135 prereq. for ENGL 136; ENGL 101 prerq. for ENGL 271; ENGL 205 prereq. for ENGL 282; PHOT 104 no prerequisite	3	
<b>MINIMUM CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE</b>		<b>62</b>	

### GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All General Education requirements are met through required courses (as indicated above) except for the **Writing Intensive** requirement and **American/Global Diversity** requirement. Therefore, in order to graduate, students in this program must choose one course that is designated Writing Intensive and one course that is designated American/Global Diversity. The same course may be used to fulfill both requirements. A list of courses that fulfill these requirements and a more detailed explanation of the College's general education requirements appears elsewhere in this catalog and on [www.ccp.edu](http://www.ccp.edu).

#### For More Information Contact:

The Division of Liberal Studies Room BR-21, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130, Telephone (215) 751-8431; or the College Information Center (215) 751 8010.

<sup>1</sup> Students who wish to study a foreign language or who plan to transfer to an institution that requires a foreign language are advised to take two semesters of a foreign language as their humanities electives. Students planning to take English 282 Scriptwriting as a directed elective should take English 205 as one of their humanities electives, since English 205 is a prerequisite for English 282.