Humanities and Arts Requirement

For the humanities and arts requirement, students take 5 courses in 2-3 of the following groups, followed by an Inquiry Seminar or Practicum:

- Art & Art History (AR), Drama & Theatre (EN/TH), Music (MU)
- Literature (EN), Writing & Rhetoric (RH/WR)
- Spanish (SP), German (GN), Arabic (AB), Chinese (CN)
- History (HI), International Studies (HU)
- Philosophy (PY), Religion (RE)

To ensure Depth, 3 of the courses must be completed in a thematically related area followed by an additional Inquiry Seminar or Practicum in the same area of focus; 4 courses total.

To complete Breadth, the additional 2 courses must be taken from either 1 or 2 of the groups not used in fulfilling the Depth.

Drama/Theatre Focus

Drama/Theatre students study dramatic literature, theatre performance and production, or a combination of literature and performance. The department sponsors at least four major productions a year (including a new play festival) that provides the laboratory environment for a concluding project as a practicum in production and performance. The Little Theatre offers a state-of-the-art performance space for many productions at WPI.

Advisors: S. Vick, E. Stone

Contacts

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Practicum/Seminar in HuA: Drama/Theatre

B-Term Projects:

INQUIRY SEMINAR: PLAYWRIGHTS’ WORKSHOP: HU 3900-B14
Zinn, Jeff (contact info: jz@jeffzinn.com)
CRN #: 10708
Students will learn about the essential building blocks of play structure: plot, story (not the same thing!), character, action, motivation. We’ll study some examples from the masters and then plunge in, writing our own 10 minute (or longer) plays. Goal is writing next year’s New Voices pick!

PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY: HU 3910-B01
Stone, Erika A. (contact info: erikastone@wpi.edu office SL 018)
CRN #: 10642
This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the annual Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque collaborative production. This practicum is part of the academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage a play chosen for its high regard from world dramatic literature. The production opens in the fourth week of the term, with the following three weeks devoted to assembling a project portfolio which documents the results of the study. Students may enroll in this practicum for design, technology, stage management, management, or other production areas with the approval of the professor.

D-Term Projects:

PRACTICUM: ACTING, DIRECTING & DRAMATURGY FOR NEW VOICES: HU 3910-D02
VICK, S. (contact info: svick@wpi.edu office SL017)
CRN #: 20809
Practicum in Acting, Directing, Dramaturgy This practicum offers qualified undergraduates the opportunity to act, direct, work in dramaturgy, or otherwise artistically participate in the annual New Voices production of original plays by WPI community members, in its 31st year.

PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY: HU 3910-D04
Stone, Erika A. (contact info: erikastone@wpi.edu office SL018)
CRN #: 20427
This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the annual New Voices festival of original works, a collaboration of Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque. In 2012, New Voices celebrated its 30th year as part of the WPI academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage the festival. New Voices opens in the fourth week of the term, with the following three weeks devoted to assembling a project portfolio which documents the results of the study. Students may enroll in this practicum for design, technology, stage management, management, or other production areas with the approval of the professor.