

Honors Thesis in the Drama and Theatre Studies Interdisciplinary Degree Program

Faculty Mentors:

Students seeking a Drama and Theatre Studies mentor should consult with the Drama and Theatre Studies Program Coordinator to discuss the nature of their project. The coordinator and student will then consult with the interdisciplinary program faculty to determine appropriate match of mentor with student.

Various Forms of Research Projects:

NOTE: Any option requiring actual theatrical production will be dependent on scheduling of available spaces and dates within the Department of Performing Arts production season.

A. Traditional Research Paper on a Topic Related to the Discipline.

This option would require the development of a thesis topic relevant to the field of Drama and Theatre Studies. The student would complete extensive research appropriate to the topic, resulting in a formal research paper, approximately 50 pages in length, including complete documentation/notation and bibliography. This effort must extend beyond a mere report of facts, but should instead follow a clear research methodology, engage in a scholarly or artistic conversation in the field, offer an original thesis, and strive to create new observations, arguments, or points of view.

B. Production/Interpretation of an Established Piece

Students would present a public performance of an established play, musical, performance piece, or choreographic work. The student might serve in the capacity of Director, Choreographer, Designer, Dramaturg, or performer. It would be expected that the student would collaborate with other students in the creation of the piece. The public performance would be accompanied by: written documentation of the entire process (journal); research on the original piece, its creators, and critical responses to the original work; analysis of the piece itself (suitable for the student's role of function in the production and framed within a scholarly or artistic conversation in the field); specific preparation materials (suitable for the student's role/function in the production); and written reflection on the outcome of the entire project. The performance should also be documented in some appropriate manner, observing established copyright law (which prohibits unauthorized video or audio taping). The grade would be determined by evaluation of the paperwork, the process, and the product itself.

C. Creation of a New Work

In this option, the student would create a new play, musical, performance piece, or choreographic work and present the completed work in a public performance. Students would be expected to document the process of creation. This might include: research on topics related to the piece situating the work within a scholarly or artistic conversation in the field; drafts of the work in progress; a journal of the creative process; a final draft of the script, score, libretto, or choreography, and written reflection on the outcome of the entire project. At least one performance should be recorded, and a copy of the recording included with the final paperwork. The grade would be determined by evaluation of the paperwork, the process, and the product itself.

D. Theoretical Production

For this option, the student would execute careful analysis of an established play, musical, opera, ballet, performance piece, etc., followed by research of related topics (such as location, time period, methodology, scholarly or artistic conversation in the field, and other relevant topics as appropriate for the piece). The student then creates a series of sketches, renderings, models, budgets, timelines, ground plans and/or other documentation to represent the design or logistical components of a production without actually creating the final product. Along with the analysis and research material, the student should also create a thorough paper in which they carefully explain and defend their decisions for each aspect of the design or logistics, framed within a scholarly or artistic conversation in the field. The analysis and theoretic design should be presented in a public setting along with an oral presentation explaining the work. The grade would be determined by evaluation of the paperwork, presentation, and the paper.

E. Applied Theatre Project

For this option, the student would develop and complete a significant applied theatre project in partnership with a specific community of need on or off the Elon campus. Students would be expected to collaborate with community members during this project. The student would complete extensive research appropriate to the topic, community, and applied theatre methodologies used. From this research and analysis, the student would develop protocols for interaction with the community, plan and facilitate applied theatre workshops with the community, create assessment and follow-up protocols, and assess the experience for the community. The student would submit written documentation of the entire process (journal), along with a thorough paper in which they carefully explain and defend their application of applied theatre methodologies appropriate to their chosen community of need and assess the results of their project, framed within a scholarly or artistic conversation in the field. The project should be presented as an oral presentation in a public setting. The grade would be determined by evaluation of the paperwork (protocols, assessment, and process journal), the oral presentation, and the paper.

For the Drama and Theatre Studies Interdisciplinary BA, any of the five above options can be used to fulfill:

- *either* the research project component of the DTS4970 Senior Seminar, but not replace the course requirement;
- *or*, for students who have taken 8 credit hours of HNR4998 and who have met all the requirements of the Honors thesis, 4 credit hours may count as 3000-4000 elective credit in Performing Arts (DAN, THE, MTE) or in ENG or World Languages with a focus on Dramatic Literature.