

Program of Studies 2023-2024

CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Half-Day Program

The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) is an intentionally diverse social justice organization whose members work to acknowledge, respect, and empathize with people of all different identifiers, such as race, socioeconomic status, gender identity and expression, education, age, ability, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, language, nationality, and religion. We commit to affirm and honor the lived experiences of others, to willingly challenge inherited beliefs and ideologies, and consequently learn, grow and serve.

The CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts (GHAA) Half-day Program acknowledges that the land, now known as the Learning Corridor where our program is located, is the ancestral land of the Sicouag People and the Sequin Nation. We also acknowledge the Greater Frog Hollow Neighborhood that occupied this land immediately before the Learning Corridor was built. As a community committed to social justice and equity, it is vitally important that we not only acknowledge our history, but also name the groups that have been displaced in the process of creating the educational entities that comprise the Learning Corridor. Most importantly, it is fitting that we make this acknowledgement when our charge as Educators is not only to train our students in the development of their artistic abilities and skills, but also to challenge them to use their art and their artistic voices to become social activists in their communities, their state, and the world for the greater good of all people.

The mission of the Arts Academy Half-Day program, a magnet public high school program, is to bring people of diverse cultural heritage together, while also developing students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes to reach their fullest artistic potential, to live productive lives, and to contribute to society as creative, engaged citizens.

The Arts Academy Half-Day Program offers a pre-college, pre-professional, rigorous arts curriculum with more than 200 core and elective arts courses. The curriculum is designed to prepare students to pursue post-secondary studies and professional careers in dance, music, musical theater, technical theater, and visual arts.

Commitment to serious study of an art form is the expectation for all students who enroll in our program. Students spend 13 hours per week pursuing artistic excellence under the guidance of practicing arts professionals, who are the core faculty at the Half-day Arts program. To ensure that students reach their highest potential, they are placed in classes according to their skill and ability levels. To expand students' artistic experiences, all students are required to enroll in one non-major (out-of-department) elective course per year.

Additionally, guest artists offer our students master classes and presentations. These professional contacts enrich the curriculum as well as provide a realistic perspective on

artistic careers. Attendance at performances and area master classes supplement our students' learning experiences.

MUSIC

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL - CLASSICAL, JAZZ AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The goal of the Music Department is for each student to develop over four years to their highest potential as a musician, including:

- Performance skills on their chosen instrument or voice, including tone quality, intonation, technical mastery, and interpretation.
- Music literacy, including reading and writing music and understanding all common musical indications and symbols.
- Aural skills, including musical memory, concentration, sight-singing and transcription.
- Collaborating with teachers and peers in an ensemble setting, including interpersonal skills.
- Awareness and appreciation of music history, the music of other cultures, and music's connection to other arts and academic disciplines.
- Combining vocal and instrumental students in ensemble settings including pop, rock, indie rock and Motown. Two days a week, vocal and instrumental students will rehearse together during period 1 in a class called MMPP: Modern Music Production and Performance.
 - All Music students are strongly encouraged to take regular private lessons while attending the Academy. All students will attend department master classes, which will include faculty and student performances, lectures, and visits by guest artists.

Courses, by music discipline, are listed below. Each year, students will take music theory and a performance class in their instrument. Students will also choose among multiple elective courses.

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL

(This four year overview is on average. Individual students may differ.)

One Year: A student who attends one year will take: Level 1 Performance class, Theory, and an elective class either in music or another art form.

Two Years: A student who attends two years will take: Level 2 Performance class, Theory, and an elective class either in music or another art form.

Three Years: A student who attends three years will take: Level 3 Performance class, Theory and elective class either in music or another art form.

Four Years: A student who attends four years will take: performance class, Jazz Theory and an elective class either in music or another art form.

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

STUDIO WINDS AND STRINGS

Studio Winds and Strings is an intensive class open to all music major instrumentalists. In this course students will play as a small ensemble, working on repertoire from the classical canon to the modern day, and work as a soloist. Students will receive one-on-one coaching once a month and have ample time to practice on their own in one of the Academy's many practice rooms. Work in this class will highlight instrument facility (scales, sight-reading, etudes) and learn solo repertoire that will position them to join honor festival ensembles or prepare for college auditions.

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

The Academy Orchestra is one of GHAA's premier instrumental ensembles and is a required class for all music major string and wind players. Academy Orchestra is a performance driven ensemble and strives to play repertoire at the highest level. Students will be exposed to music from the classical canon (Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, etc.) to the modern day. In rehearsing pieces students will also be exposed to various music theory concepts, as well as learn about the importance the works' composers play in music history. The Academy Orchestra is an active part in the Hartford music scene and is currently in collaboration with the Hartt School of Music's Composition Program, in which the Academy Orchestra premieres works by Hartt composers written for the Academy Orchestra.

PIANO PERFORMANCE

This course is for students who are either just beginning their study of piano, or those who have previously studied or wish to advance their skills. Students will be reading standard

notation as well as chord symbols. The classes are structured to facilitate both group lessons and individual instruction. Students will be required to perform in various settings, including one-on-one with the teacher and in front of the class and public performances i.e. share days, chamber concerts and intermezzos.

MUSIC THEORY

There are four levels of this class, each getting progressively more involved with the subject. Theory One starts with Half Steps and Whole Steps, Rhythmic Training and Key Signatures.

Our theory curriculum focuses on Ear Training and Sight-Singing. Jazz students have the option of taking Theory Three or Jazz Theory. All four-year seniors take Jazz Theory to study advanced harmonic information and basic tonal improvisation.

JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL

(This four year overview is on average. Individual students may differ.)

One Year: A student who attends one year will take: Level 1 Jazz Ensemble, Music Theory 1, Jazz Improvisation and an elective in another art form.

Two Years: A student who attends two years will take: Jazz Ensemble, Music Theory 2, Jazz Improvisation and an elective in another art form.

Three Years: A student who attends three years will take: Jazz Ensemble Level 3, Jazz Theory, which includes: advanced ear training, transcription, improvisation, and jazz piano, and an elective class either in a music, another art form or Big Band.

Four Years: A student who attends four years will take: Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Theory, which includes: advanced ear training, transcription, improvisation, and jazz piano, an elective class either in music or another art form, or Big Band.

JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

JAZZ ENSEMBLE 1

Students will learn the essential elements of performance, such as style, performance tips, and genres required for the solid understanding of what is required of a successful member of this vital part of the jazz group. The seven genres covered for rhythm section are: swing, Bossa Nova, R&B, shuffle, samba, and ballad. Additional topics include: standard chord progressions, volume, timekeeping, and how to develop effective comping, (accompanying), techniques.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE 2-4

This class is focused on jazz performance in a socially distanced, small group setting. Students will be guided in the craft of improvisation and ensemble playing. Students will

gain an understanding of such skills as chord choice, improvising scales, rhythm section concepts and group cohesion. They will also play a variety of styles such as traditional, fusion, and free jazz.

MUSIC THEORY

There are four levels of this class, each getting progressively more involved with the subject. Theory One starts with Half Steps and Whole Steps, Rhythmic Training and Key Signatures.

Our theory curriculum focuses on Ear Training and Sight-Singing. Jazz students have the option of taking Theory Three or Jazz Theory. All four-year seniors take Jazz Theory to study advanced harmonic information and basic tonal improvisation.

VOCAL MUSIC

(This four year overview is on average. Individual students may differ.)

One Year: A student who attends one year will take: Intro to Great American Songbook; Musical Theater and Jazz & Pop, including working with an instrumental jazz or Rock combo, Music Theory and an elective class either in music, or another art form.

Two Years: A student who attends two years will take: Level 2 Great American Songbook (jazz and musical theater), including working with an instrumental jazz or rock combo, Music Theory, and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz

Three Years: A student who attends two years will take: Level 3 Great American Songbook (jazz and musical theater), Music Theory, and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz Choir.

Four Years: A student who attends two years will take: Level 4 Great American Songbook (jazz and musical theater) including working with an instrumental jazz combo, Jazz Theory, and an elective class either in music, another art form or Jazz Choir.

VOCAL MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

INTRO TO GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK: JAZZ & POP

This class is a beginner's introduction to popular music. In this class, students will gain a repertoire of swing, jazz standards, blues and pop. They will also start to learn how to improvise, changing the melody to better tell the story and even trying a bit of scat.

INTRO TO GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK: MUSICAL THEATER

This class is a beginner's introduction to popular music. In this class, students will gain a repertoire from the musical theater canon. They will learn to incorporate acting elements into performance to

gain an understanding of the character they are portraying.

MUSIC THEORY

There are four levels of this class, each getting progressively more involved with the subject. Theory One starts with Half Steps and Whole Steps, Rhythmic Training and Key Signatures.

Our theory curriculum focuses on Ear Training and Sight-Singing. Jazz students have the option of taking Theory Three or Jazz Theory. All four-year seniors take Jazz Theory to study advanced harmonic information and basic tonal improvisation.

ELECTIVE MUSIC COURSES

ACTING FOR SINGERS

Students will learn to create characters, memorize dialogue, and use voice, body and emotions as acting tools. Students will participate in a variety of activities including theater games, improvisation, monologues and scene work.

JAZZ CHOIR-(Audition required)

This vocal jazz ensemble travels to competitions and performs high-level jazz repertoire with tight jazz harmonies, often with one person on each part. There are lots of opportunities for solos, including vocal improvisation known as “scatting.” This group is also open to instrumentalists who want to sing jazz.

THE BUSINESS SIDE OF MUSIC

This class will cover all aspects of the business of music including, how to get an agent, make money by streaming original music, auditioning for an ensemble, teaching music and income tax filing. All music students will take this class one time in their Academy career.

JAZZ IMPROVISATION

In This class will learn the tools and techniques to improvise in a jazz context with confidence. As a group, we will work on expression through a solid foundation of rhythm, melody and harmony by playing together. There will also be an emphasis on listening to the great musicians of the past and present see what we can glean and incorporate into our own music. We will also put time into learning the great repertoire of the jazz idiom from Tin Pan Alley tunes to Free Jazz learning both by ear and reading.

MUSIC PRODUCTION MODERN MUSIC PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE Modern Music Production and Performance (MMPP) is a core class open to all music department students on, regardless of ability or focus. In this class, you will learn how to write, create, and produce your own music on professional music production software. This class will cover topics regarding songwriting, composition, sound design, synthesizers, modern production techniques, and the history of popular American music. The MMPP course also focuses on live performance, and students will have the opportunity to learn a new instrument or hone their skills on one they already know.

This year, ensembles in pop and rock music will rehearse during period 1 two days a week. Third period MMPP students will also learn the fundamentals of live sound production and get hands-on experience with professional level gear. All MMPP students will have a finished production by the end of the semester and will share their work online or live on stage.

YOGA

In this beginning yoga course, students will learn the basics of yoga practice and meditation. Students will learn postures that will improve flexibility, balance, stamina, muscle strength and mind/body awareness. During each class students will move through a flow of movements that engages and energizes the body. Meditation is a proven stress reliever; students will learn different techniques to bring calmness to their minds and body through meditation practice.

PERCUSSION FOR NON-MAJORS

Open to all students who want to learn to play drum set, mallet instruments or hand percussion, (Congas, Bongos, Shakers etc.). This is an “out of department” class and students from any department may sign up. Learn how to play along with your favorite pop or rock tunes.

No previous background in drumming is necessary for this class.

THE SINGER IN YOU

There is a secret singer in us all. Using various genres of music, new and old, this class gives everyone the chance to discover the hidden singer inside

MODERN MUSIC PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE

Modern Music Production and Performance (MMPP), is a class open to all students, regardless of ability or focus. In this class, you will learn how to write, create, and produce your own music on professional music production software. This class will cover topics regarding songwriting, composition, sound design, synthesizers, modern production techniques, and the history of popular American music. The MMPP course also focuses on live performance, and students will have the opportunity to learn a new instrument or hone their skills on one they already know. MMPP students will also learn the fundamentals of live sound production and get hands-on experience with professional level gear. All MMPP students will have a finished production by the end of the semester and will share their work online or live on stage.

MUSICAL THEATER

The mission of the Musical Theater Department is to provide students with a comprehensive training in the three art disciplines needed to be a performer in the field: acting, voice and dance. Strong emphasis will be placed on discipline and work ethic as well as course content. This curriculum will allow students to grow within their given area of artistic interest while also expanding their appreciation and understanding of community and ensemble dynamics.

Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Musical Theater Department. Class assignments are made by the faculty and department chair and are based on the student's age, experience and stage of social, physical and technical development. Students may be required to take a department specific elective course.

The goals of the Musical Theater Department are:

- To equip students with the skills needed to present successfully in the highly competitive university and/or professional world after their high school years.
- To provide a safe and positive arena for the exploration of all work in order to allow young, creative talents the space for honest growth.
- To incorporate the unique American history of Musical Theater and to explore the multi-cultural aspects of its creators and performers.
- To engender an atmosphere of ensemble and a highly disciplined work ethic focusing on detail oriented, artistic process.
- To foster a positive and respectful group experience in order to take full advantage of the opportunity for personal growth offered by the Academy's diverse student body.

All components will be taught with full awareness of the curriculum of the other two art disciplines within Musical Theater. Group numbers taught in voice and dance classes will be presented and augmented with respect to acting values, just as historical content from acting class will be explored in voice class through exposure to work of actual composers and lyricists. In dance class historical content will be explored in regard to dance styles. At each level there will be group work that encompasses all three areas.

(This four year overview is on average. Individual students may differ.) **One**

Year: Voice I, Ballet, Acting I, Chorale, Musical Theater in Living Color

Two Years: Voice II, Luigi Jazz, Acting II, Dancer's Workshop, Voice and Diction, Chorale

Three Years: Voice III, Jazz I, Acting III, Triple Threat, Audition Prep, Tap, Shakespeare

Four Years: Voice IV, Jazz II, Acting IV, Musical Theater Scene Study, Musical Theater Practicum

MUSICAL THEATER COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACTING COURSES

ACTING I

The development of ensemble is the basis for this course. The basics of acting will be explored through physical and vocal exercises, improvisation, text analysis, and the beginnings of scene and monologue study. Concentration and focus exercises will be part of the daily class work. Students will learn how to approach the text in preparation for character and performance.

ACTING II

Second level students will be introduced to script/textual analysis and its application to dramatic material. Dramatic structure, including given circumstances, objective and superobjective will be explored within the context of scene study.

ACTING III

Students will be guided in researching and finding plays to explore on their own. They will engage in personal exploration to identify their own strengths and weaknesses, and with the assistance of the instructor, develop a plan for growth. Students will study mid-century and contemporary plays and work on longer form scenes.

ACTING IV

This course will comprehensively balance prior training to provide the senior with a wealth of tools and resources to successfully audition for colleges, roles and shows. In addition to continuing their scene study, students will explore their own interests and develop a devised piece of theater.

VOICE AND DICTION

This is a one semester class that will focus on vocal work while focusing on the development of Radio Drama and Voice Overs. Students will reinforce the work they do in voice classes, and focus on how speech is produced for various moods and characters.

SHAKESPEARE

This course is typically introduced in the junior year, and has students explore the texts of Shakespeare through a personal lens. Students are guided to identify their own point of view as artists, and to discover new meaning in Shakespeare's work.

MUSICAL THEATER SCENE STUDY

Introduction to Scene Study is a course for seniors in the musical theater department. The course focuses on the study of musical theater literature from the early 1950's through present day. Students will explore different styles of musical theater through performance, with a special emphasis on the complicated history of the genre, and new material that looks to bring about social change.

DANCE COURSES

BALLET 1

This class incorporates basic elements of classical ballet. The class work will focus on alignment, basic body positions, foot articulation, general strength and simple coordination of all parts of the body. Each student is expected to learn the French name for each basic movement, the translation of that name, and be able to explain how to execute the movement. The class begins with exercises holding onto the barre, continues with center work, and progresses to exercises that travel across the floor. All exercises are done on both right and left sides. The exercises are repeated each day during the week, with minor changes to increase the difficulty of the exercise, or the stamina required.

MT DANCER'S WORKSHOP

In this class, we identify the skills needed within each group of sophomore dancers to help bridge the transition from Ballet to Luigi. Skills explored in this class may include: ballet technique, focusing on center and across the floor work, conditioning, musicality, and applying techniques to short combinations and choreography.

BROADWAY TAP

The class will incorporate elements of Broadway Tap where dancers make frequent use of syncopation. Students will also learn an important element of tap dancing, which is improvisation. This can either be done with music and follow the beats provided or without musical accompaniment, otherwise known as a cappella dancing.

LUIGI DANCE

Luigi is considered the master innovator of jazz dance technique, which he developed while recuperating from a devastating car accident that left him paralyzed. His spirit of determination led him to develop exercises that resulted in his return to dance class within a year, and to performing in musicals a year after that. He then continued to expand his warm up for balance and flexibility and his fellow dancers followed along. Eventually, Luigi began to formally teach his "classical jazz" technique. He established Luigi's Jazz Centre NYC. For more than sixty years, dancers and teachers from around the globe have come to study his "gold standard" of jazz technique and his style continues to be taught in schools and colleges worldwide.

The beauty of the Luigi technique is that the basic warm up is accessible to a beginner, while more experienced students can still find challenge. The Luigi technique seamlessly weaves ballet and tap techniques into a classic "Broadway" jazz style, all of which are vital to musical theater dance.

JAZZ DANCE (Levels 1 and 2)

The class incorporates basic elements of classical Jazz Dance. Concentrated work focuses on strength, alignment, coordination of all parts of the body and demonstrating different styles of choreography.

The class work begins with standing warm up exercises, stretches, and conditioning work sitting/lying on the floor, and advances to technical exercises done standing and/or traveling across the floor. A combination of movement/choreography is practiced.

VOCAL COURSES

Students will learn beginning to advanced techniques; proper posture, breathing, placement and resonance. They will be introduced to the varying elements of style inherent in each genre and taught how to utilize them effectively in their repertoire. In addition, they will learn about and practice basic stage deportment, focus, audition techniques, working with a pianist, and translating foreign-language text.

AUDITION PREP & PRODUCTION

AUDITION PREP & PRODUCTION Audition Prep & PRODUCTION is designed for students to identify and develop their artistic identity, source appropriate audition material, and prepare audition materials for pre-screens, self-tapes and in-person auditions. Students will use cameras and microphones to film audition reels and editing software to create clean and dynamic submissions as they learn to create submissions for college applications. The class outlines best practices for choosing and editing material for auditions, creating, formatting and editing resumes, and identifying what makes a “good” headshot. The class covers sourcing material and making digital cuts to both monologues and songs using pdf editing software. Students are given the opportunity to practice the process of auditioning for a live panel of adjudicators.

VOICE 1

Students will learn a repertoire based upon the standard composers, Gershwin, Porter, Kern, Rodgers, etc. In addition, basic stage deportment, focus and developing an interpretation will be taught. Vocal technique will include basic breath support, proper use and care of the vocal mechanism, smoothing out the break areas and the use of “passaggio” or mixed voice, expanding the range and projection and learning how to produce a variety of sounds and styles from classical to Broadway. Sight singing and music theory will begin at the basic level using Solfeggio, the ability to sing small intervals, major, minor and chromatic scales and triad arpeggios. Students will work on solo works, improving audition techniques, dealing with an accompanist and developing an audition repertoire.

VOICE 2

The music explored at this level will be chosen from the 1950’s, 60’s and 70’s and be more complex and demanding. Students will be expected to perform in a manner already learned from level 1. The emphasis will be on acting the song with emotion, character, body and facial expression. Students will do a detailed lyric analysis of each song. Pieces will be coordinated with the acting and dance classes. Vocal technique will continue the process of expanding the range, projection, endurance and diction using classic bel canto techniques. Sight singing and music theory will be of intermediate difficulty with exercises in solo, two and three part harmony. The intervals will be larger and the rhythmic content more complex. Students will work on solo works, improving audition techniques, dealing with an accompanist and developing an audition repertoire.

VOICE 3

Students will prepare a series of selections from the 1980’s to the present. Pieces will be longer, more complex and demanding. There will be continued emphasis on acting the song

and analyzing lyrics. Songs will be coordinated with the acting and dance classes. The class will continue to work to improve and strengthen vocal technique. Sight singing and music theory will include advance material for solo and four, or more, vocal part choral works. The intervals will be more chromatic and the rhythms more complex. Students will work on solo works, improving audition techniques, dealing with an accompanist and developing an audition repertoire.

VOICE 4

This course will comprehensively balance prior training to provide the senior with a wealth of tools and resources to successfully audition for colleges, roles and shows including presentation, first impressions, etiquette, placement of your audience and material. Students will learn how to connect a musical piece with clear dramatic choices. Students will be pushed to explore the creative process with each piece of music, and find a deep emotional connection. Students will be asked to make strong physical choices to help create the story of the song. Emphasis will be placed on how to approach the collaborative process, taking direction, and the process of making clear choices.

ENSEMBLE COURSES FOR MUSICAL THEATER MAJORS

MUSICAL THEATER IN LIVING COLOR

In Living Color is a course that explores the genre of Musical Theater through a racial and social justice lens. The course asks students to look critically at the roots of Musical Theater and its development through time as it relates to race, class, gender, religion and politics. Specific emphasis is given to new works and how the art form can be used for social change.

MUSICAL THEATER PRACTICUM

Students will demonstrate steps and variations used in musical theater choreography. Students will learn various choreographic styles used in Musical Theater. Original Broadway choreography may be used. Singing may also be incorporated, depending upon chosen material.

TRIPLE THREAT

The course is designed to introduce both new and experienced students to the concept of working as an ensemble using all three disciplines of musical theater-acting, singing and dance. Each class will consist of a vocal and physical warm-up, followed by music and lyric memorization and then staging and rehearsing the piece in preparation of an informal performance.

DISCOVERING YOUR VOICE

This is an ensemble class for freshmen and sophomores in the Musical Theater Department. While creating large chorale pieces, the class focuses on the basics of music

theory, sight singing, blending and harmonizing. Students will receive opportunities to perform for school events and for community events.

ELECTIVE MUSICAL THEATER COURSE

YOGA

In this beginning yoga course, students will learn the basics of yoga practice and meditation. Students will learn postures that will improve flexibility, balance, stamina, muscle strength and mind/body awareness. During each class students will move through a flow of movements that engages and energizes the body. Meditation is a proven stress reliever; students will learn different techniques to bring calmness to their minds and body through meditation practice.

THEATER

The mission of the Theater Department is to provide students with an understanding of theater as an art form, and to foster respect for its requirements and disciplines. The curriculum will educate students in artistic ways of thinking and viewing the world, and enable them to use theater as their voice.

The goals of the Theater Department are:

- To prepare students for their next step, whether that is further education, professional work, or further training in theater.
- To take students, in their theatrical training, as far as they are able to go regardless of background or area of special interest.
- To give students the means to approach and develop dramatic material independently.

- To foster in students a greater understanding of the world and their peers, and to make them better citizens through cooperative and collaborative endeavors.

Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Theater Department. Class assignments are made by the department chairperson and are based on the student's academic grade level and technical development. Incoming students will enter the curriculum as First Year Students. In exceptional cases, students transferring from other Arts Magnet curricula may be placed at a more advanced level. Spending one year in any level does not guarantee advancement in the following year. Advancement decisions will be made by the Theater Faculty based on a student's Year-End Jury Performance and an evaluation of their Performance in classes throughout the year.

(This four year overview is on average. Individual students may differ.)

One Year: Students will take: Acting Technique, Movement for Actors, Voice & Diction, Introduction to Technical Theater, Textual Analysis, Fools & Clowns and their choice of 2 electives per semester.

Two Years: Students will take: Acting 2, Physical Theatre, Shakespeare, Suzuki Technique, Textual Analysis 2, Personal Theater, Vocal Production and 2 Elective Courses per semester.

Three Years: Students will take: Acting 3, Theater History, Commedia dell' Arte, Audition Technique, Classical Scene Study, and 2 Elective Courses per semester.

Four Years: Students will take: Acting 4, Theater and Social Justice, Audition Technique, Contemporary Trends in Theater, Solo Performance, and 2 Elective Courses per semester.

THEATER COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACTING TECHNIQUE

Students will be introduced to the fundamental elements of the actor's craft through a combination of exercises, improvisation, and approaches to scripted material. Classes will emphasize the techniques developed by Uta Hagen, Stella Adler and Viola Spolin to develop a strong sense of given & imagined circumstances, believable focus within the context of work on stage, and collaboration among an Ensemble of peers. Students will learn to create plausible situations, make choices, justify those choices, and begin to identify a character's intention.

ACTING II

Students will be introduced to the technique developed by Sanford Meisner and its application to scripted scene and monologue work. Students will participate in a series of exercises designed to develop Meisner's conception of acting, and then will apply those precepts to a series of monologues and scripted scenes from the contemporary American

repertoire. Students will learn to make strong and specific choices of action, objective and obstacle and apply those choices to their performance work.

ACTING III

This course is designed broaden students' understanding of acting technique. Students will explore the physical performance principles developed by such practitioners as Jerzy Grotowski, Michael Chekhov and Jacques LeCoq in order to integrate their physical, vocal and analytical work. Students will analyze, rehearse and perform a variety of material from both American and international repertoires. They will learn to justify their interpretive choices through textual clues and historical, social and aesthetic research.

ACTING IV

This course is designed as a laboratory for students to experiment with their current understandings of Theater and expand their conceptual limits. Students will work with a variety of contemporary and traditional approaches to Theater around the world. They will explore Modern Non-realist acting techniques and experiment with the use of technology in performance in order to create a series of original works for the stage.

AUDITION TECHNIQUE

This class is designed to prepare students for their next steps in the education and/or professional theater. Students will develop a standard, contrasting two monologue audition performance, as well as learning cold reading and self-taping techniques. Students will be introduced to the basic tools of the actor's business: headshots and resumes, websites, and reels. They will be introduced to the roles of agents and casting directors in the theatrical workplace.

CLASSICAL SCENE STUDY

This class focuses on exploring texts of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Students will rehearse and present a variety of sonnets, soliloquies and scenes from the Elizabethan/Jacobean repertoire. Using abstract vocal and physical techniques, students will learn to bring elevated text to life, while incorporating character, beats and intention. In the final portion of the course, students may have the opportunity to explore other aspects of the Classical Repertoire from Renaissance Europe, Classical Greece and Rome, or other areas of the world.

COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

Commedia dell' Arte is a form of Italian street theatre and improvisational comedy, which dates back to the sixteenth century. As a living theatre form Commedia dell' Arte no longer exists, however - - it is the *arte* that is the essential part of the work, the spirit discovered through the style. Students will study mime, physical comedy, and the development of a clown character, slapstick and circus skills such as juggling, balancing, and acrobatics on the road to becoming complete Commedia performers. The study of masks, improvisational technique, lazzi, and scenario provide the performer with a challenging container to explore the art of comedy and the craft of acting. Students will develop their own stock characters, complete with masks, and use them to create original Commedia pieces.

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN THEATER

This course will give students an opportunity to evaluate and discuss the socio-political dynamics that impact the practice of Theater in today's world. Through discussion, debate, critical writing and creative projects – students will learn how considerations of gender/cultural equity, representative diversity, and conscious vs. blind casting practices are shaping the professional theater landscape.

FOOLS AND CLOWNS

In this physical, high energy acting class students will take a journey into the world of physical comedic acting and clowning. They will learn the rules of clowning and various clowning techniques to create scenes featuring original clown characters. Students will learn to communicate stories and ideas using movement, gesture, facial expressions and other clowning skills. They will demonstrate acting skills by developing, communicating and sustaining characters individually and within a group. They will apply research from silent film sources to script writing and acting choices. They will develop inter and intrapersonal skills through use of ensemble based activities, and learn to connect importance of physical warmups to the work actors create.

IMPROVISATION

This semester-long course supports and adds to the curriculum for all Second Year students in the theater department. Students focus on two primary areas: working cooperatively with their classmates in small groups; and creating believable characters in a variety of given circumstances with increasing complexity. Students use the same tools as with simple scripts—only in this class they create the scripts as well.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL THEATER

This survey course, taught by the Theater Design & Production faculty, is designed to introduce students to the basic areas of theater production such as scenery, costumes, and lighting. Instruction will emphasize terminology, basic concepts and safety. Students will obtain the knowledge of the behind the scenes collaboration that takes a production from an initial script selection through design and implementation to the final curtain.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

This course will emphasize that reading a play script is an act of imagination that requires effort and active engagement. Students will explore the ways in which various theater artists interpret the text of a play depending upon their roles as Actors, Directors, Designers or Technicians. Through reading, discussion and projects, students will learn to analyze the plot structures of plays and discover how levels of characterization can be developed through close reading of the text.

JAZZ DANCE

This class incorporates basic elements of classical Jazz Dance. Concentrated work focuses on strength, alignment, coordination of all parts of the body and demonstrating different styles of choreography. The course asks students to approach their movement work in a disciplined and technical manner.

MOVEMENT FOR ACTORS

Students will develop the tools to prepare for a character and change characters. This class

will train students to identify and adapt the physical qualities of a character through dance styles, improvisation, and the study of basic movement qualities drawn from the work of Laban Movement Analysis.

PERSONAL THEATER

This course will introduce students to a variety of techniques and activities (including improvisation and theatre games) for writing and generating performance through the lenses of personal and public material. Students will memorize and perform self-generated works. This class will focus on the ensemble of a community as well as individual artistic expression.

PHYSICAL THEATER

In this semester-long class, students explore ways of creating original theatre using physical form and gesture. In the first quarter, students explore Viewpoints and Laban Movement Analysis, two physical acting methods used to train actors, build ensembles and create movement for the stage. In the second quarter, students use the movement vocabulary developed in the first quarter to develop short etudes, group improvisations and scene work.

PUPPETRY

Students will discover acting from the perspective of performing by speaking and acting through another with at least two styles of puppets. Styles of puppet performance covered in the class may include but not be limited to: Object Theatre, Hand Puppetry, Rod Puppetry, and Marionettes. Students will construct their own simple puppets in order to perform a final scene.

SHAKESPEARE FOR ACTORS

This course concentrates on bringing Shakespeare's plays to life through scene work and monologues. Students will choose and cut material from a cross section of Shakespeare's works. They will dissect the language, distinguish differences for performing prose and verse, and build characters for performance.

SUZUKI TECHNIQUE

This course is based on the physical training and creative energy of renowned Japanese theater artist, Tadashi Suzuki. The students participate in rigorous physical exercises geared towards heightening their strength, focus, intensity and stamina. They all perform as an ensemble in an actor-generated piece of theater of which they write, create, and direct.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

In this class, the students will learn how to read a play as a performance piece rather than as a literary work. Texts are analyzed for dramatic structure and character clues. Contemporary and classical texts are read aloud. In addition, the students are introduced to various "isms" in theater – those styles that we most commonly recognize in Western theater. We look at plays from the vantage point of actors, directors, and designers. Multimedia projects explore the material in each quarter.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS 2

In this course students read contemporary plays by and/or about minority culture to hear the stories less heard and the stories of the oppressed. Throughout this class students will be building an understanding of the context and how/why oppression works, through play reading and historical research. This course is intended to cultivate further empathy and compassion towards others and understanding of how storytelling can change the world.

THEATER & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Using techniques developed by such practitioners as Augusto Boal, Dario Fo and Bertolt Brecht, this course will investigate the ways in which applied theater can impact the society as a whole. Students will develop and perform a series of projects designed to address, analyze and inspire the audience to change systemic problems at the school, regional, national and/or global level.

THEATER HISTORY

This course will provide an overview of the history of theater from the present day back to the Greeks. A non-Eurocentric approach will be taken to include Asian and African theater in the curriculum. Students are required to do research and make presentations in class and to pool their knowledge and resources. Cultural eras will be brought to life in the classroom as students explore text, performance styles, and costume/scenic design.

VOICE & DICTION

This course will introduce students to the means of developing articulation, breath control and projection skills by learning how the voice works and how to use it efficiently. Through daily technical exercises and projects, students will begin to develop the skills to be easily heard and understood whenever they on stage.

VOCAL PRODUCTION 2

This course will develop and specify the skills introduced in Voice & Diction. Through a series of technical exercises and projects, students will pay specific attention to developing resonance and increasing their vocal range and expressiveness. Students will develop personal, pre-performance regimens to warm-up their voices and to continue to improve their diction and projection.

ELECTIVE THEATER COURSES

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA

Students will acquire a broad overview of the many faces of on-camera work, including the vocabulary, skills, and techniques for working on a set. The sessions are divided into a didactic lesson and a practical on-camera lab. Students will be taped every week in order to achieve a degree of comfort, familiarity, and self-awareness with the medium. Each week, students will also discuss up-to-date practical information about working in the entertainment industry (e.g.; pictures, resumes, demo tapes, classes, auditions, agents, trade publications, and unions).

ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS

This course gives students a basic first experience in acting. They learn how to interact creatively and collaboratively with each other; to do simple solo and partner mimes and exercises; to create context, given circumstances, relationships and objectives in simple one page scripts; to do realistic and believable improvisations; and to act a character in a full short play. Acting experience is not necessary.

DIRECTING

A hands-on, fast-paced introduction to the basics of directing for the stage. Using a series of progressive exercises, students will practice and perfect the techniques of visual storytelling. By creating an artistic laboratory setting, the curriculum challenges the students to make strong, clear choices and effectively communicate to actors and designers on a daily basis, developing practical applications of the theories behind directing. This class is for advanced Theater and Musical Theater majors only.

DOCUDRAMA

In this elective course, students will create original theater pieces from real-life stories and interviews. Students will work together to examine contemporary issues and develop their own plays by sharing and performing the stories of the interviewees.

Students will also examine the works and work processes of noted docudrama makers.

IMPROV: DON'T BE PREPARED

In this class, students will learn the basics behind improvisational performance, a theater style where the only motto is, "Don't Be Prepared." A serious approach to comedy will be practiced and something brand new will be created at every class meeting. By using short, long and competitive forms, we will develop an active approach to improvisation and hone our skills to become comedy confident.

MOVEMENT REP

This is a product-oriented elective class in which the ensemble works together to create and workshop a long, non-verbal movement piece. Students are expected to create and embody choreography, to take risks to discover the most exciting physical work, and to research and analyze music, text and other materials. There will be a one-night-only final presentation of the work for an invited audience at the end of the school year. The course is open to students in all departments by audition.

MULTICULTURAL DANCE STYLES

Throughout the year, students will be exposed to music and dance from around the world. Classes will include instruction in African, Latin, Asian, and/or American dance forms. Sessions will include breathing exercises and a physical warm-up to condition students to the rigorous full-body nature of the work. Students will be encouraged to use their own creativity and cultural dance knowledge to create solos or small group dances. The class is designed to show students how dance from around the world is expressed individually and where it intersects across cultures.

PLAYWRITING

This course is designed to introduce students to the craft of dramatic writing. Students engage in short writing exercises which focus upon specific elements of play writing and

which develop their own ideas for dramatic material. They also read and discuss selections from the contemporary repertoire. In the final portion of the course, students are responsible for developing and drafting a ten-minute play.

STAGE COMBAT

The aim of the course is to have students learn the basics of stage combat, both hand to hand, and using weapons. To create the illusion of fighting, the course will cover trust falls, Tibetan and Maori exercises regarding physical and spatial awareness, hand to hand combat skills, tumbling and stunt work. It culminates in weapons work, including rapier and dagger techniques, fencing, Broadsword and shield techniques.

SPOKEN WORD

This course will introduce students to the world of performance poetry. Students will be introduced to a variety of poetic styles, formats and devices. They will cover poetic movements from the Harlem Renaissance to the Nuyorican Poets to the world of Hip-Hop. They will be encouraged to respond with the original writing and performances that reflect upon their personal experiences and the world around them.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Students enrolled in Design and Production explore, study and develop a variety of artistic, design, and maker skills. These skills can open doors to pursue further education or work in the production areas of theater, dance, music and musical theater, and film. This training can also expand an artist's knowledge of materials and techniques not taught in a traditional visual arts curriculum.

- Our curriculum is focused on scenic, costume, lighting and sound design, and film production, as well as the learning the techniques and materials used to construct costumes, sets, props lighting, sound, and special effects for theater and film.
- Every student is enrolled each year in a full year class focused on a design discipline. Freshmen participate in an introductory color and design course while sophomores, juniors and seniors enroll in Costume, Scenery, Lighting Design or Film Production class.
- This program includes classes in the Theater and Visual Arts Departments in addition to Design and Production. Students rotate through a variety of classes designed to introduce topics specific to design and production work for all forms of performance and visual entertainment.

- Students are required to work on a show freshman and sophomore year. This will require being present for some evening rehearsals and performances.

(This four year overview is on average. Individual students may differ.) **One Year:**

Introduction to Technical Theater, Materials and Methods (Visual Arts), Sound Design or Introduction to Film, Computer Design- Content Creating, an elective course, allowing you to study a class offered in another department.

Design Survey- A chance to take a design course in the areas of costumes or sets. This year long class will teach you all about how design serves the script and director's concepts for a show or film.

Theater Crafts- This hands on class introduces you to the materials and methods used to build sets, costumes, and props.

Practicum: This is a required part of our curriculum but does entail work outside classroom hours. Students-work on one of our school production in the areas of wardrobe, deck crew, light board operator, sound board operator, spot light operator, or assistant stage manager.

Two Years: Design Class in scenic, costumes or fashion, sound, or properties design, An advanced class in scenic or properties construction, film production, costume construction, Drafting and Drawing,

Theater Crafts- This hands on class introduces you to the materials and methods used to build sets, costumes, and props,

Sound Design or Introduction to Film, Intro to Graphic Design (Visual Arts), Lighting for Film and Stage, Textual Analysis, A painting course or a specialty course (hat making, mask making, puppet making, stage make up, An elective class from another department will be chosen each semester,

Practicum: this is required and may include hours outside of scheduled classroom time. Students-work on one of our school production in the areas of wardrobe, deck crew, light board operator, sound board operator, spot light operator, or assistant stage manager.

Three Years: Advanced Design course in your area of interest, A painting course or a specialty course (hat making, mask making, puppet making, stage make up, An Art History course in either film, fashion, or material culture, Career and College Prep for D&P, Drafting and Drawing- Pencil and Computer, Lighting for film and stage, Computer Design- Content Creation, Advanced Theater Crafts in the area of costumes crafts, props crafts, or painting & building techniques, Practicum-working on one of our school production in the areas of assistant designer, assistant shop manager, props manager, Stage manager, or assistant stage manager., An elective class from another department will be chosen each semester

Four Years: Practicum-working on one of our school production in design, shop management, props management, Stage management, Master Electrician or Technical Direction, Advanced Theater Crafts in the area of costumes crafts, props crafts, or painting & building techniques, Theater History, A painting course or a specialty course (hat making, mask making, puppet making, stage make up, 3D design and drawing, Advanced Design course in your area of interest, Advanced Theater Crafts in Scenic Painting, Properties, Hair and Makeup, costume design or construction, or scenic construction, An elective class from

another department will be chosen each semester.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FIRST YEAR COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN AND PRODUCTION - Full year

Introduction to Design and Production is broad overview of what the areas of design and production for performance are and how they function. All of our creative work comes from a script, and you will learn how to break down a script to extract the important details we use in our design work. We will cover the areas of design and what purpose each serves. What are the technical positions that create the work of each design area and what do they do? We will also cover the areas of production that are management positions, from Stage Manager to Master Electrician to the different shop managers. Don't worry, there will be lots of hands on projects as you get a taste of each and every department, learning everything from how to use power tools, to scenic painting techniques to design drawings and how to use a sewing machine. This class will help you decide what areas of interests you want to pursue going forward. You will leave this class with samples of work from every department.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

SOUND DESIGN-Full year

This year long class covers all aspects of sound design and engineering. How do we find out what sound cues are needed for a show? Learn how to source and make elaborate sound cues, from mythical beasts to soundtracks for short films. You'll get to know how to use different sound editing and creation software, learn how to run a sound board, create sound for multimedia projects and live performance and you will work with wireless microphones and wired microphones. You will work in different spaces and find out how to create the perfect placement of speakers to enhance the audiences' enjoyment of the sound of a show. This class will get to do some hands on work for our school productions as well as doing sound design and sound tracks for our film classes.

THEATER CRAFTS - Full year

This class is an introduction on how and why we make costumes, props, and sets. This full year class will give you loads of hand on experience in the art of making for performance! Each course will start with why and how we work, from reading technical drawings/costume patterns, understanding the tools and equipment we work with, how to identify fabrics, lumber, and all the materials used in the construction of items for a show or film. Safety in use of materials will be required in these courses.

You will work on the actual props, sets or costumes of our productions, as well as working on your own projects.

Each project will be guided by a scene from a play, include a research component, and will introduce you to new materials and ways to construct.

You will begin with simple projects and finish with one major, final project. You should create 6-10 projects in this class in addition to the items you work on for our own productions.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

The area of study will rotate each year

FILM PRODUCTION - Semester

This class is a great introduction for students who want to find out more about what it takes to be a film maker. You'll learn how to use your own phone as a camera, as well as learn how to film with professional equipment. Basic terms and language, how to read a film script, frame a shot, utilize color, make a basic story board, and create your own story ideas and film them are all part of this year long class. This semester long class will do multiple small projects and have a larger, collaborative final project.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

TECH SURVEY – Full year

This class is another option for hands on work within the areas of lighting, costumes or fashion, set design, set construction, scenic painting, or prop making. This semester or yearlong class will offer information of how we begin to design, how to do research to support a director's concept, and how to plan materials, techniques, and timelines for your projects. We'll look at best materials and how to choose a safe, affordable option for your projects. You can design your own project or you will work off a preexisting design. Your work may support the school's film productions. You should end the class with material and safety information, several designs, and 4-6 well-crafted, complete projects as well as one larger project.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

COMPUTER DESIGN-Full year

Content Creating is a design course that helps you get comfortable using digital media and design for your work, for branding yourself, to create small films, and to learn how to edit and manipulate photos. You will also learn how to use Photoshop and other Adobe Suite programs and well as film and photo editing software. This year long class will give you all the tools to go and create your own digital content and art! What you learn in this class will give you the ability to be a better designer. You will leave this class with small edited film projects, artistically manipulated photos and other digital media, and examples of artwork and prop mockups done in Adobe Suite.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

METHODS AND MATERIALS- Semester (offered in the Visual Arts Department) This semester long course will introduce students to a wide variety of mediums and the

techniques to successfully use them. This foundational course will set up any artist securely on a path to be freer to try out new and different ways to create.

ELECTIVE CLASS-Semester

Each semester you get to choose an out of department elective class. If you need a gym requirement we have a variety of movement classes, but you can choose from classes in Music, dance, Musical Theater, Theater, or Visual Arts.

PRACTICUM-Semester or full year

Every incoming student must sign up to work a technical position on a show. This would entail learning to use and running a sound or light board, be a spotlight operator, an assistant stage manager, work on deck backstage, run wardrobe, run projections, or do front of house work. This is a fun way to see all that goes into mounting a production. This will require attending some evening rehearsals and performances

SECOND YEAR COURSES

TECH SURVEY-Full year

This class is another option for hands on work within the areas of lighting, costumes or fashion, set design, set construction, scenic painting, or prop making. This semester or yearlong class will offer information of how we begin to design, how to do research to support a director's concept, and how to plan materials, techniques, and timelines for your projects. We'll look at best materials and how to choose a safe affordable option for your projects. You may even design a project or you may work off a preexisting design. Your work may support the school's film productions. You should end the class with material and safety information, several designs, and 4-6 well-crafted and finished projects as well as one larger project that may be tied to a production.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

THEATER CRAFTS-Full year

This class is an introduction on how and why we make costumes, props, and sets. This full year class will give you loads of hand on experience in the art of making for performance! Each course will start with why and how we work, from reading technical drawings/costume patterns, understanding the tools and equipment we work with, how to identify fabrics, lumber, and all the materials used in the construction of items for a show or film. Safety in use of materials will be required in these courses.

You will work on the actual props, sets or costumes of our productions, as well as working on your own projects.

Each project will be guided by a scene from a play, include a research component, and will introduce you to new materials and ways to construct.

You will begin with simple projects and finish with one major final project. You should create 6-10 projects in this class in addition to the items you work on for our school productions.

The area of study will rotate each year

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

SET OR COSTUME OR FASHION DESIGN -Full year

You will either be in a set or costume design class. This class will teach you how to gather the necessary information from a script, create characters, do research, learn to draw, draft, and design sets, props, furniture, clothes and all costume elements. This hands on class will teach you the basic skills necessary in costumes or sets-include using the equipment and materials in the scenic or costume shop, and you will have opportunities to work of GHAAHD school productions. At the end of the year you should have design sketches for at least 2 shows, research for those designs, and 2-3 small projects with one final, large, designed and built project.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

DRAWING AND DRAFTING-Full year

This year long class will have you learning how to draft by hand and using by using AutoCad. It also includes lots of hands on drawing to build your skills in rendering. Drafting is an essential part of set, prop, and lighting design. Drafting can also be applied to creating sewing patterns. You will learn drawing skills to add perspective, highlight and shadow to sketches. By the end of this class you should be able to hand draft, read technical drawings, and have 5-6 advanced drawings, 3-4 hand drafted and 1-3 digital examples of drafting.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

LIGHTING FOR STAGE AND FILM- Full year

This class will teach you everything you need to know about lighting. Lighting effects how objects and people look, and can create mood and feeling when used correctly. This year long course will show you how to read a script and begin to gather information on how lighting should look for live or filmed performance. What are lighting instruments and how do they work? How does color in lighting effect objects and people? Does color in light differ from lighting in pigment? How does a light board control and alter light? How do you draft and create a light plot. How do you hang and focus lights on stage? You will have lots of opportunity to work on lights for our stage productions and be involved in creating lighting for our film projects.-

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

PRACTICUM-Semester or full year

Every sophomore must sign up to work a technical position on a show. This would learning to use and running a sound or light board, be a spotlight operator, an assistant stage manager, work on deck backstage, run wardrobe, run projections, or do front of house work. This is a fun way to see all that goes into mounting a production. This will require

attending some evening rehearsals and performances

SPECIALTY COURSE-Full year

Each year we will offer a course in a specialty area of production including mask making, puppet making, fashion design and construction, Color and Design, makeup design and application and more. These classes are meant to allow you to build and refine your skills, give you a chance to use nontraditional materials, and explore ways in which to use the skills we develop in production for performance in other specialty fields. This class should provide you with 3-5 projects including designs, research and final projects, a great portfolio addition!

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS-Semester (Theater Department)

Design and production for performance is always grounded in a script or other texts. How do we learn to read a script to understand character, time period, the playwright's intentions, and what design details are necessary for performance? This course, which is offered by the Theater Department, is a must have for future designers.

ELECTIVE CLASS-Semester

Each semester you get to choose an out of department elective class. If you need a gym requirement we have a variety of movement classes, but you can choose from classes in Music, dance, Musical Theater, Theater, or Visual Arts.

THIRD YEAR COURSES

ADVANCED DESIGN OR FILM CLASS-Full year

Students will be able to narrow down their areas of interest, and in junior year may take an advanced class in the areas of costume design, set or prop design, or film production.

These classes will give you the opportunity to work on a higher level, increase your design skills, and have you designing a full production as a paper project as your final project.

You'll do a lot of drawing, drafting, painting, and will build model boxes for set design, do research, and explore how dramaturgy informs design decisions.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from project work.

SPECIALTY COURSE-Full year

Each year we will offer a course in a specialty area of production including mask making, puppet making, fashion design and construction, Color and Design, makeup design and application and more. These classes are meant to allow you to build and refine your skills, give you a chance to use nontraditional materials, and explore ways in which to use the skills we develop in production for performance in other specialty fields. This class should provide you with 3-5 projects including designs, research and final projects, a great portfolio addition!

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your

grade will come from your project work.

DRAWING AND DRAFTING-Full year

This year long class will have you learning how to draft by hand and using Auto-Cad. It also includes lots of hands on drawing to build your skills in rendering. Drafting is an essential part of set, prop, and lighting design. Drafting can also be applied to creating sewing patterns. You will learn drawing skills to add perspective, highlight and shadow to sketches. By the end of this class you should be able to hand draft, read technical drawings, and have 5-6 advanced drawings, 3-4 hand drafted and 1-3 digital examples of drafting. This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work.

LIGHTING FOR STAGE AND FILM-Full year

This class will teach you everything you need to know about lighting. Lighting effects how objects and people look, and can create mood and feeling when used correctly. This year long course will show you how to read a script and begin to gather information on how lighting should look for live or filmed performance. What are lighting instruments and how do they work? How does color in lighting effect objects and people? Does color in light differ from lighting in pigment? How does a light board control and alter light? How do you draft and create a light plot. How do you hang and focus lights on stage? You will have lots of opportunity to work on lights for our stage productions and be involved in creating lighting for our film projects.-

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

ADVANCED THEATER CRAFTS-Full year

This full year class will give you a more advanced approach to the hands on experience in the art of making for performance!

You will work from larger sections of text to research, design or work from designs, choose materials and construct sets, props, costumes, costume crafts or do advanced film production work. Safety in use of materials will be required in these courses. You will work on the actual props, sets or costumes of our productions, as well as working on your own projects.

Each project will be guided by a short play or film script, include a research component, and will introduce you to new materials and ways to construct.

You will further your skills in creating, learn and expand materials that can be used, and do higher level projects. You should create 6-10 projects in this class in addition to the items you work on for our own productions. This area of study will rotate each year This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

ART OR FILM HISTORY-Full year

Research is one of the cornerstones of designs, and knowing how to identify different periods by silhouette and construction of clothing, and objects by their color and form is

necessary to become a good designer. How does understanding the social changes that bring on shifts in fashion and objects inform us? Research, and understanding the evolution of objects and fashion is essential to good design and film making.

This may include drawing from historical objects and clothing, reproducing iconic film looks, and how to research using primary sources.

Film History will cover the changes and innovations in film that create iconic and memorable scenes.

In both sections, you will expand your knowledge of the language and vocabulary of period, design, techniques, and detail.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

TECH SURVEY-Full year

This class is an option for hands on work within the areas of lighting, costumes or fashion, set design, set construction, scenic painting, or prop making. This semester or yearlong class will offer information of how we begin to design, how to do research to support a director's concept, and how to plan materials, techniques, and timelines for your projects. We'll look at best materials and how to choose a safe affordable option for your projects. You may even design a project or you may work off a preexisting design. Your work may support the school's film productions. You should end the class with material and safety information, several designs, and 4-6 well-crafted and finished projects as well as one larger project that may be tied to a production

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

PRACTICUM-Semester or full year

You will work on one of our school production in the areas of assistant designer, assistant shop manager, assistant master Electrician props manager, stage manager, or assistant stage manager.

ELECTIVE CLASS-Semester

Each semester you get to choose an out of department elective class. If you need a gym requirement we have a variety of movement classes, but you can choose from classes in Music, dance, Musical Theater, Theater, or Visual Arts.

FOURTH YEAR COURSES

ADVANCED THEATER CRAFTS A-Full year

Choose an intensive, advanced class in the areas of scenic painting, properties, hair and makeup, costume design or construction, or scenic construction. This is an opportunity to up your skill level in making while exploring new materials and techniques. This course should leave you with 2-5, high level quality projects. Each project will be driven by the demands of a script and include the concept of, research, and construction of projects. This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade

will come from your project work

TECH SURVEY-Full year

This class is an option for hands on work within the areas of lighting, costumes or fashion, set design, set construction, scenic painting, or prop making. This semester or yearlong class will offer information of how we begin to design, how to do research to support a director's concept, and how to plan materials, techniques, and timelines for your projects. We'll look at best materials and how to choose a safe affordable option for your projects. You may even design a project or you may work off a preexisting design. Your work may support the school's film productions. You should end the class with material and safety information, several designs, and 4-6 well-crafted and finished projects as well as one larger project that may be ties to a production

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

ADVANCED THEATER CRAFTS-B-Full year

This full year class will give you a more advanced approach to the hands on experience in the art of making for performance!

You will work from larger sections of text to research, design or work from designs, choose materials and construct sets, props, costumes, costume crafts or do advanced film production work. Safety in use of materials will be required in these courses.

You will work on the actual props, sets or costumes of our productions, as well as working on your own projects.

Each project will be guided by a short play or film script, include a research component, and will introduce you to new materials and ways to construct.

You will further your skills in creating, learn and expand materials that can be used, and increase your skills as a maker. You should create 6-10 projects in this class in addition to the items you work on for our own productions.

This area of study will rotate each year

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

ADVANCED DESIGN OR FILM CLASS-Full year

In your senior year students may take an advanced class in the areas of costume design, set or prop design, or film production. These classes will give you the opportunity to work on a higher level, increase your design skills, and have you designing a full production as a paper project as your final project. You'll do a lot of drawing, drafting, painting, and will build model boxes for set design, do research, and explore the how dramaturgy informs design decisions.

Advanced film class will work on several projects, including a short film that will be supported by all department of Design and Production. You will finish this class with several short works and one larger completed, collaborative film project. This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

3D DESIGN AND DRAWING-Semester

Take your digital skills next level! Did you know you can create 3 d models on a computer? This class will teach computer drawing, drafting, model making and more! This year long class will allow you to go next level with your design or artwork. You'll begin with an overview of programs and move onto creating show specific projects for GHAHD shows, or by reading scripts and creating your own designs and drawings. This will allow you to create work that can be the capstone to your portfolio.

This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

SPECIALTY COURSE-Full year

Each year we will offer a course in a specialty area of production including mask making, puppet making, fashion design and construction, Color and Design, makeup design and application and more. These classes are meant to allow you to build and refine your skills, give you a chance to use nontraditional materials. You will explore ways in which to use the skills you develop in our own school productions. This class should provide you with 3-5 projects including designs, research and final projects, a great portfolio addition! This class may include quizzes, research, and writing small essays, but the bulk of your grade will come from your project work

THEATER HISTORY-semester (Theater Department)

This class will increase your knowledge of plays and the evolution of performance in theater. As a production professional, knowledge of history and theater terminology will be essential. This collaborative class will be open to Production and Design students

ART OR FILM HISTORY-Full year

Research is one of the cornerstones of designs, and knowing how to identify different periods by silhouette and construction of clothing, and objects by their color and form is necessary to become a good designer. How does understanding the social changes that bring on shifts in fashion and objects inform us? Research, and understanding the evolution of objects and fashion is essential to good design and film making.

This may include drawing from historical objects and clothing, reproducing iconic film looks, and how to research using primary sources.

Film History will cover the changes and innovations in film that create iconic and memorable scenes.

In both sections, you will expand your knowledge of the language and vocabulary of period, design, techniques, and detail.

PRACTICUM-Semester or full year

You will work on one of our school production in the areas of Designer, Assistant Shop Manager, Master Electrician, Props Manager, Assistant Technical Director or Master Carpenter, Stage Manager, or Assistant Stage Manager.

ELECTIVE CLASS-Semester

Each semester you get to choose an out of department elective class. If you need a gym

requirement we have a variety of movement classes, but you can choose from classes in Music, dance, Musical Theater, Theater, or Visual Arts.

ELECTIVE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION COURSES

RECYCLED FASHION

Learn how to transform clothing and textiles you already own into completely upcycled fashion and accessories.

This class offers someone who wants to learn some basic sewing and fashion design skills the chance to do larger and more ambitious projects by re-imagining existing pieces. You will learn some basic hand sewing skills, how to use a sewing machine, how to make alterations, and how to cut and decorate clothing in a transformative way. No experience in sewing needed. You may need to supply some of your own clothing items for this class.

INTRO TO FILMMAKING

This course will give you the tools and skills to go out and learn to create your own small films. If you are a novice, or want to learn more about capturing and creating content through the lens, this is a perfect class for you.

You will work using your own phone, work on small collaborative projects with professional equipment, as well as learn how to use editing software. This class will push you to view the world from your own unique perspective, and give you the beginner basics of filmmaking.

INTOR TO TD&P-SETS AND PROPS

This intensive elective introduces you to the world of set and prop design, and construction.

You will learn all the ways in which a set designer, props master, and technical director work together to create a concept, design, and build of a show. You'll see how productions views text, extracts important information, researches, creates idea boards, and designs a set. How does one find, build, buy and alter props? Step into the scene shop and explore the materials and tools used to make for theater. This class is part desk and design work, and part hands on building. A perfect class for anyone wanting to know more about design for performing arts, or for those who want to explore alternative building materials and learn to use power tools.

VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts department teaches the fundamentals of art in a variety of disciplines including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, analog and digital photography, art history and digital illustration, filmmaking, and marketing design. Students follow the curriculum prescribed by the Visual Arts Department Head based on work presented in an audition for evaluation, in addition to student interests. Additionally, course selections are based on grade level and technical proficiency.

- We teach the importance of visual thinking and creative problem solving.
- We emphasize observational drawing techniques for college portfolio preparation.
- We encourage collaborative work both within the Visual Arts Department, throughout CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Half-day Program and the Greater Hartford community.
- We encourage and support students' risk-taking as they progress through the rigorous curriculum.
- Art history courses, gallery and museum tours, guest artist lectures and hands-on workshops provide a context for students' work of artists past and present.
- We exhibit student artwork in the school throughout the community, nationally and internationally.
- Students are encouraged to participate in local, national and international visual art competitions.

Supplies – Students are encouraged to bring supplies they prefer to create with, however all supplies for in-class studio work will be provided.

- **Year 1**: Foundation Drawing and Painting in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Foundation Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, or Digital Media
- **Year 2**: Drawing and Painting Level 1 in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Digital Media or Photography
- **Year 3**: Drawing and Painting Level 2 in addition to 2-3 of the following courses: Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Printmaking, Digital Media, Photography or AP 2D Drawing

- **Year 4:** Senior Seminar in addition to any of the following courses: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Art History, Ceramics, Printmaking, Digital Media, Photography or AP 2D Drawing. If the student has excelled through the curriculum from the previous year they would have the opportunity to develop an Independent Study in technique(s) and medium(a) of choice.

Required Courses for all Visual Arts Majors

Visual Arts Major Course

Descriptions

Art History: Stones Ages to Renaissance, Postmodern to present, 3D Anthropology, and Expressive Arts & Cultures: Each of these courses provides an introduction to the creative history visual arts has enhanced and influenced societies around the world. These courses will focus on how art is used to communicate ideas, translate traditions through research, and discover how to analyze and interpret techniques practiced in art making.

Foundations Drawing: This course encourages students to develop basic drawing skills, including the ability to perceive and express visual relationships by understanding and implementing the Elements & Principles of Design. Courses will focus specifically on observational drawing, architectural landscape and abstraction.

Drawing 1, 2, and Figure (2nd, 3rd, 4th year): These courses encourage students to draw from observation to create compositions beyond representation. An exploration of conceptual and pictorial issues, visual problem solving and researching contemporary artists styles and themes are also part of the curriculum for this course. Additionally, human anatomy will be explored by studying skeletal structures along with posed figure model studies and live models to observe and create compositions from.

Methods and Materials of Visual Art Making: This course encourages students to develop basic color theory through watercolor, ink and acrylic painting techniques, in addition to practicing drawing techniques in a multitude of dry media. The ability to practice critical thinking by implementing the Elements & Principles of Design is the foundation in the curriculum for this course.

Watercolor Fundamentals: This course explores the medium of watercolor through several different techniques and materials. The class will focus on using a variety of watercolor types and techniques. Students will also use a variety of other materials to interact and enhance their watercolor paintings.

Painting (2nd, 3rd, 4th year): Further exploration of color theory, knowledge and application with the wet media such as watercolor, ink, acrylic and an introduction to water soluble oil

paint. The significance of color will be explored as an Art Element and relationships between color through the Elements and Principles of Design will be examined.

3D Design: Clay Fundamentals: This course provides an introductory exposure to the history of ceramics and a beginning level experience in the use of clay as a fine art medium. Forming techniques, surface development and glazing, and kiln firing practices will be introduced. Both the functional and sculptural ceramic traditions will be explored.

3D Design: Sculpture: This course introduces conceptualizing three-dimensional structures from two-dimensional design drawings. Traditional and non-traditional materials for sculpture building will be explored in addition to a variety of surface engineering techniques practiced to create functional and aesthetic compositions.

Senior Seminar Portfolio: This course will further explore more unique, personal and conceptual approaches. Students will have the opportunity to experiment within each project. A responsible student will become familiar with traditional and digital media, the means of creating and delivering art, promoting and networking as an aspiring artist, and the expectations of working as an artist in the field.

Advanced Courses
Course Catalog

2022-2023 Visual Arts Major

AP 2D Drawing (3rd, 4th year): This course provides opportunities for students to practice and develop skills in inquiry and investigation through portfolio development. Students will practice and develop in experimentation and revision within their portfolio while gaining skills in communication and response to works of art created. Understanding integrity in art making, what constitutes plagiarism, and how to develop beyond duplication from referenced images and ideas will be integral to student progression in this course.

Advanced Watercolor: This course is an extension of watercolor fundamentals and will expose students to explore different ways of practicing techniques, and get inspired with the media, as well as incorporate ways to work in mixed media with watercolor. This class will be an exploration of both personal style and classic techniques.

3D Design: Advanced Clay Design and Introduction to Wheel Throwing: This course is designed to allow advanced ceramic students to work on developing a personal expression in clay. Each student has the option to direct their own projects with guidance by the

instructor, if needed an assignment can be designated by the instructor with focus on hand-building, throwing on the wheel or experimental glazing techniques.

3D Design: Advanced Sculpture: This course will continue to enhance student development of three-dimensional structures from two-dimensional design drawings. Advanced traditional and non-traditional materials for sculpture building will be explored including stone, wood and metals. Projects created during this studio will be longer in length and more extensive in process.

Advanced Digital Photography: This course will provide opportunities for students to work independently and collaboratively with focus on specific Arts Academy community projects, product and staged photography. Students will continue to develop an understanding of how to manipulate imagery through the Adobe Creative Suite.

Advanced Digital Illustration: This course will allow students to continue development in Adobe Illustrator along with the Adobe suite of illustration tools. Students will create more in-depth thematic work by using drafting tablets for creation, manipulation, effects, and typographic techniques.

Visual Arts Independent Studio (3rd, 4th year): Participating students will have the opportunity to further explore techniques and media of personal interest in which they have technical proficiency in. By creating a proposal which outlines expectations for artistic exploration, a thematic series of work will be developed by each student who successfully submit a specific project proposal.

Elective Courses for Visual Arts Majors

2022-2023 Visual Arts Major

Course Catalog

Analog Darkroom Photography: This course covers an extensive foundation of darkroom photography practices, techniques and history. Operating a pinhole & SLR camera, processing 35mm and 120mm film in addition to developing prints in the darkroom studio will be included in the base fundamentals for this course.

Conceptualism in Street Art: This course identifies the importance, style, and imagery used in Street Art. Students will research and create a series of art using traditional and non-traditional media reminiscent of street art graffiti. For decades, street art has been used as an outlet to illustrate uplifting, political, humorous, and informative illustrations in a public forum.

Digital Illustration: This course introduces students to Computer Graphics, and explores Adobe Illustrator by using a drafting tablet for creation and manipulation, effects, graphic illustration techniques, and typographic functions in applying the computer graphics medium to problem solving in graphic design.

Digital Photography: This course introduces fundamentals of digital photography and the technical aspects involved with using a digital camera. Students will learn how to upload images, proper use of storage and manipulation of imagery through Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

Mixed Media: This course will introduce students to a variety of traditional and non-traditional multi-media techniques in response to visual art making challenges. Media explored will include watercolor, ink, gouache, collage, acrylic, mono-printing practices and Xerox transfer.

Elective Courses for Non-Majors
Course Catalog

2023-2024 Visual Arts Major

Academy Yearbook & Marketing: Want to make Academy history by taking photos, attending program events and promoting yourself as an aspiring artist? Would you like to have your witty banter, artistic designs featured in this year's publication of the GHAA Half-Day Program Yearbook? If so, then this is the multimedia marketing and yearbook design elective for you! This FULL YEAR elective encourages students from ALL majors to participate and represent their passion for the arts and to promote creativity in our community!

3D Design: Clay Fundamentals: This course provides an introductory exposure to the history of ceramics and a beginning level experience in the use of clay as a fine art medium. Forming techniques, surface development and glazing, and kiln firing practices will be introduced. Both the functional and sculptural ceramic traditions will be explored.

Conceptualism in Street Art: This course identifies the importance, style, and imagery used in Street Art. Students will research and create a series of art using traditional and non-traditional media reminiscent of street art graffiti. For decades, street art has been used as an outlet to illustrate uplifting, political, humorous, and informative illustrations in a public forum.

Exploratorium: A creative writing workshop for students who *like to write* and want to improve their craft in narrative, poetry, creative nonfiction, graphic novels/story, picture books, and more. Think of it as a place where we spelunk – a cave filled with dazzling writing waiting to be discovered by us. Or think of it as a revered place in our minds, a place where we can create, experiment, play, and take risks with our writing, freely and openly.