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THTR 499.01: Senior Project

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Senior Project – THTR 499 – 01 – 1 Credit

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General Principles For Senior Projects

The Senior Project for BA and BFA theatre majors is the final demonstration of each student's achievements during his/her undergraduate study. It is a major project in terms of hours, effort, and quality of expected result. The Senior Project is a requirement for graduation. **It is a project that requires prior approval of the School of Theatre & Dance faculty.**

All Acting, Education Endorsement Preparation, and General Theatre students must register for the Fall Term Senior Project credit/no-credit course (THTR 499) prior to graduating. Because this course is only offered during Fall Term but completion of the course happens during Spring Term, students must register to take THTR 499 during the Fall Term *prior to* the semester in which they intend to graduate. December graduates should not wait to register for the course *during* the Fall Term in which they intend to graduate.

Process

A Senior Project Proposal Form must be submitted to a student's advisor or the THTR 499 course instructor for approval no later than the second week of the student's penultimate semester (antepenultimate for December graduates). Any subsequent changes or modifications to the Senior Project must be submitted to the student's assigned project advisor, who will bring the new or modified proposal to the Acting/Directing Division for approval.

The determination of a particular project as being part of the Senior Project does not prevent the student from earning academic credit for that activity. Normally, the Senior Project should not include work for which the student is paid.

All work in fulfillment of a Senior Project is usually done during the regular academic year and on the campus of The University of Montana. Students must remember that faculty supervision and observation are required at all stages of the Senior Project and the responsibility for accomplishing this lies with the initiative of the student. For the purpose of making a final evaluation, the advisor must observe:

1. Pre-planning
2. Rehearsal/Preparation
3. Performance/Execution.

The advisor must be given the opportunity to critique the student's work and see the results of the critique in subsequent rehearsal/performance situations. It is the student's responsibility to communicate process scheduling to his/her advisor.

During the first weeks of May, the Acting/Directing faculty will hold Senior Project Juries, at which each Senior Project will be discussed with the student, as well as related process and progress. Each Jury will be held by appointment and shall last five-ten minutes.

BA Theatre Senior Project

Consistent with the view of the BA as a more liberal, general degree, the BA Senior Project can be either:

1. An academically-oriented paper project
2. A production-related assignment requiring both:
 - a. a typed journal chronicling the execution of the project
 - b. a professional resume.

BA Education Endorsement Preparation Senior Project

Consistent with this degree requirements and aim, the student works with a faculty member in this area to develop an experience for young a person that seeks to use theatre as a pedagogical tool. This culminating experience seeks to harness the power of the theatrical in the service of education and is typically a service-learning project which gives both sides the opportunity to learn from the other.

BFA Acting Senior Project

BFA acting students must submit, in addition to a Senior Project Proposal, a letter to the Acting/Directing Division indicating their intention to graduate. This letter should contain a listing of all School performance experiences, including (but not limited to) roles in season productions, MRM productions, and Colony readings.

The BFA Senior Project is typically a thorough and specific 10-page self-assessment paper. This paper must be accompanied by a professional resume and current headshot (headshots may be emailed to the Acting/Directing faculty). The paper must deal critically with the actor's strengths and areas for growth and should include a discussion of faculty feedback over the years. The following questions should also be addressed in the paper:

Describe your work when you first came to the program.

- What were your goals?
- What was your philosophy and experience?
- What did you want/need to learn?
- Describe how you have addressed your goals and deficits.
- In what ways have you grown as a performer?
- How have your classes informed your stage work (Acting, Voice & Speech, Physical Performance,
- Dramatic Literature, Theatre History, Directing)?
- How do you approach creating a character now?

- What specific techniques do you use?
- What steps do you take in the process?
- How does this work help you?
- What has been your strongest acting work here?
- What made that performance strong?
- What performance or role here do you feel was weak?
- What would you do differently if you were to approach it again?
- Where are you with the craft now?
- What are your goals?
- What are your strengths?
- What do you need to work on?
- How will you address these issues in the future, outside of the institution?

Important Dates

September 6, 2013 – Live Meeting, MCG 125

- Graduation Applications and other information
- Discuss Outline of Senior Project Guidelines
- Look at Previous Examples of Successful Senior Projects
- Discuss Ideas and Goals of Senior Project
- Brainstorm Ideas for Senior Project

October 10, 2013 – Moodle Session, Due 5 PM

- Upload Senior Project Application
- Suggest Appropriate Faculty Advisor for Each Project

October 11, 2013 – Moodle Session, Due 5 PM

- You will be contacted by your assigned project advisor who will inform you of any changes to the proposal and to arrange an initial strategy meeting.

December 9, 2011 – Moodle Session, Due 5 PM

- Submit Changes requested by faculty if necessary
- Present a formal outline of the project for your advisor with a mutually agreed upon timeline for completion

March 28, 2013

- All rough draft of all senior projects must be submitted to the Faculty Advisor by this date for review.

April 30, 2013

- All senior projects and supporting documents must be uploaded to Moodle or placed in faculty mailboxes by 5 PM.

Grading

Attendance/Online Participation: 30%

Writing/Research: 70%

*Students will receive an “N” at the end of the Fall Semester, and will not receive a Final Grade until they submit the final draft of their Senior Project.

**Students graduating in December will be required to take the course beginning two semesters before they graduate. If a December Graduate does not enroll in the course as required, they will enroll during their final semester, and will receive individual assignments in as appropriate for their graduation timeline.

School of Theatre and Dance Handbook

All students in theatre courses must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at the link above.

Disability Services for Students (DSS):

If you have a disability for which accommodations are needed please contact me in the first week of the semester. Please visit the website linked above for more information.

Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code located at the link above.