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### THTR 499.01: Senior Project

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College of Visual and Performing Arts  
School of Theatre & Dance

**Senior Project – THTR 499 – 01 – 1 Credit**  
**F 2-3 MQT Theatre**

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**Aim**

The purpose of the senior project is to demonstrate through application and reflection the skills the student has mastered near the end of their studies at UM's School of Theatre & Dance. Students might also consider the direction they see themselves headed after graduation and offer plans and approaches to future work that is in some way connected to their college Theatre experience.

**Outcomes**

By the end of the semester the student will have:

- Created a plan for a senior project;
- Sought out a faculty advisor willing to offer feedback on the project and paper;
- Connected their classroom and production experiences to the skills they find valuable
- Reflected upon courses and experiences in performance;
- Engaged their personal interests, research skills, and performance based work on a new and deeper level commensurate with a college graduate; and,
- Written a clear and concise description of the project and work undertaken.

**Content**

**General Principles for Senior Projects**

The Senior Project 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 BA Theatre students must register for, and complete, the course (THTR 499) prior to graduating.

**Process**

A Senior Project Proposal Form must be submitted to the THTR 499 course instructor for approval by the date indicated in the Timeline below. Any subsequent changes or modifications to the Senior Project must be submitted to the student's assigned project advisor and 499 instructor, 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 a connection with the faculty advisor lies in 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 December or May, the Acting/Directing BA and BFA students will attend Senior Project Juries with faculty. The project will be discussed with the student, as well as related reflection on their process and progress. Each Jury will be held by appointment and shall last five-ten minutes.

### **Time Line: Due Dates**

- \*List of potential senior project advisors are due via email by Monday, February 8.
- \*Advisors assigned February 9.
- \*Applications reviewed and signed by senior project advisor are due by Monday, February 22 at 5 P.M.
- \*Outlines, shared with advisor and uploaded to Moodle, due Monday, March 14 by 5 P.M.
- \*Rough Drafts, shared with advisor and uploaded to Moodle, due Monday, April 8 by 5 P.M.
- \*Final Drafts, shared with advisor and uploaded to Moodle, due Monday, May 2 by 5 P.M.
- \*Exit Interviews/Juries with faculty during finals week.

### **BA Theatre Senior Project**

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

- An academic paper in a focused area of study (for example: a specific area of theatre history, a theory of performance, or a dramaturgical analysis of a professional production) of approximately ten pages.
- A production-related assignment requiring both, an eight-ten page paper chronicling the execution of the project and a professional resume.

All projects will be overseen by an assigned advisor from the appropriate division. No senior project shall be an undo burden on school and faculty resources. The faculty and advisor reserve the right to deem that a project is of appropriate rigor, breadth, and scope.

### **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. A paper, approximately ten pages, is part of the BA Education Senior Project.

### **BFA Acting Senior Project**

The BFA Senior Project is a thorough and specific ten-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:

(See attached School of Theatre & Dance Handbook, pp. 37-38)

BFA students may choose to create a specific performance-oriented project they wish to pursue as a Senior Project (directing, acting in a significant role, devising theatre, a senior showcase, etc.). The details for such a project must be devised in consultation with the student's assigned project advisor and approved by the Performance & Practice Program. The written component should follow the same rubric as listed above, but be oriented towards the specifics of the project within the scope of the student's whole education.

### **Grading**

Attendance/Online Participation:	30%
Writing/Research:	70%

\*Students must complete the work by the end of the semester they have enrolled in the course. There are no continuing grades (N) or incompletes (I) offered.

### **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.