

DIRECTING (TPP 3311)

18118

Directing

TPP 3311/3286

Section 3286

Fall 2023

Meeting Time and Location: MWF 10:40am - 12:35pm

Classroom G12

Credits: 3

Professor: Lauren Caldwell

She/Her

(352) 538-0599

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laurencaldwell@ufl.edu

Office hours – by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Directing: An introduction to all aspects of translating a play from script to stage. Building on skill and concepts learned in Play Analysis, students will delve more deeply into script analysis and interpretation from the point of view of the director. Students will work on director's concepts, visual composition, working with actors and will study theories of Directing.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

- The student acquires a clear understanding of director's role.
- The student analyzes tools of the director and how to implement these tools.
- The student acquires a clear understanding of composition for the stage.
- The student demonstrates the ability to work effectively with actors.
- The student develops the skills to communicate to designers and production teams.
- The student demonstrates the ability of think critically about concepts and how this relates to the play and the intention of the playwright.
- The student develops the skills and objectives of collaboration.
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- The student recognizes the contributions to the directing process of those whose contributions have been overlooked, appropriated, or marginalized.
- The student participates in a discussion regarding devised theatre.
- The student acquires a critical understanding of the professional world of theatre.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Catron & Shattuck, *The Director's Vision* (available through the bookstore or online)
- Additional handouts provided

Course Statement: This is an introductory class to directing. It is vital for the student to absorb the basics of directing. This safety net of knowledge will allow the student to move forward in acquiring a more in-depth knowledge and practices for the future.

Personal Statement: As a cis-gender, white female, professor and artist at the University of Florida, I am intensely aware of the role of our work in theatre as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am therefore committed to understanding my own beliefs and those of my students as we enter into community with one another. At the core of this is the idea that we demonstrate the deepest part of our humanity through interaction and caring.

DIRECTING SCENES:

Choose two plays. Three plays provided (handout). Choose two plays that you would like to direct. Direct a scene from each play (two actors) to be directed and presented in class. The second scene directed will be a second play and will incorporate the evolution of knowledge from your first presentation. Dates will be assigned to each director. (Scenes approximately 10 minutes.)

PLAYS:

Audrey Cefaly, *Alabaster*

Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, *Gloria*

Edward Albee, *The Zoo Story*

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Scene Analysis

The Art of Criticism

DIRECTOR PRESENTATIONS

The student will choose one play from the two directed from the class. A *verbal* directorial presentation will be presented to the class.

CRITICAL DATES:

Scene One Presentations: September 11, 13, 15, 18, 22

Scene Two Presentations: October 18, 20, 23, 25, 27

Director Presentations: November 13, 15, 17, 20, 22

Art of Criticism: September 29 & November 8

(All dates will be assigned.)

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Directing Scenes: 50%

Written work/Participation: 30%

Final Presentation: 20%

Grading Scale

| Letter Grade | % Equivalency | GPA Equivalency |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| A | 100 - 94 | 4.00 |
| A- | 93 - 90 | 3.67 |
| B+ | 89 - 87 | 3.33 |
| B | 86 - 84 | 3.00 |
| B- | 83 - 80 | 2.67 |
| C+ | 79 - 77 | 2.33 |
| C | 76 - 74 | 2.00 |
| C- | 73 - 70 | 1.67 |
| D+ | 69 - 67 | 1.33 |
| D | 66- 64 | 1.00 |
| D- | 63 - 60 | 0.67 |
| E, I, NG, S-U, WF | 59 - 0 | 0.00 |

UF grading policy website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculatinggpa>

COURSE OUTLINE (Working Outline

Subject to change.

August 23 - Introduction/Handouts

August 25 - Role of Director/Chapters 1 & 2

August 28 - Developing Director Vision/Chapter 1

August 30 - Script Analysis/Chapter 6

September 1 - Script Analysis *continued*/ Chapter 6

September 4 - Labor Day – Holiday

September 6 -..Working with Actors/Chapters 14, 15, & 20

September 8 - Working with Actors *continued*/Chapters 14, 15 & 20

September 11 - Scene 1/Two Directors (Analysis Due)

September 13 - Scene 1/Two Directors (Analysis Due)

September 15 - Scene 1/Two Directors (Analysis Due)

September 18 - Scene 1/Two Directors (Analysis Due)

September 22 - Scene 1/Two Directors (Analysis Due)

September 25 - Discussion of Scenes

September 27 - Dramaturgy

September 29 - Working Professionally (Art of Criticism Due)

October 2 - Communicating with Designers/Chapter 16

October 4 - Communicating with Designers *continued*/Chapter 16

October 6 - Homecoming

October 9 - Audition Process/Chapter 11

October 11 - Write a Play (in class project)

October 13 - Write a Play *continued* (in class project)

October 16 - Present Original Plays in Class
October 18 - Scene 2, 2 Directors (Analysis Due)
October 20 - Scene 2, 2 Directors (Analysis Due)
October 23 - Scene 2, 2 Directors (Analysis Due)
October 25 - Scene 2, 2 Directors (Analysis Due)
October 27 - Scene 2, 2 Directors (Analysis Due)
October 30 - Discussion of Scenes
November 1 - Director Presentation Format
November 3 - Sound as Character (Sample Plot)
November 6 - Present Sample Plot in class
November 8 - Character Descriptions (Art of Criticism Due)
November 10 - Intimacy & Violence Dossier
November 13 - Final Presentation/2 Directors
November 15 - Final Presentation/2 Directors
November 17 - Final Presentation/2 Directors
November 20 - Final Presentation/2 Directors
November 22 - Final Presentation/2 Directors
November 24 - Casting/Chapter 12
November 27 - Planning Rehearsal Schedule/Chapter 13
November 29 - Discuss 1st & 2nd Plays in Fall Semester
December 1 - The Business of Theatre
December 4. - How to View Your Own Work
December 6 - Last Day of Class/Review Semester

Expectations Regarding Behavior/Demeanor

A work ethic is required of you in this class, as an advanced level college student and future professional. Assignments will be completed in a timely, thorough fashion. They will meet a level of sophistication fitting for advanced students of the theatre.

Criteria by which *performance* work will be assessed:

- Energy and commitment
- Authority
- Devotion to course concepts
- Openness to exploration

Criteria by which *written* work will be assessed:

- Content (presentation, detail, development, and evidence of course concept knowledge)
- Quality of writing (grammar, spelling, syntax, and punctuation)

Criteria by which *participation* will be assessed:

- Frequency of participation
- Quality of comments
- Listening skills
- Behavior

Intimacy Protocol

For scenes with intimacy that requires vulnerability, intimacy, or violence, please consider these when possible:

1. Rehearse in a public location (acting studio, hallway or common room)
2. Note your boundaries; if you are uncomfortable with the scene or the manner in which the scene is being rehearsed, discuss it with your scene partner and instructor.
3. You are not required to kiss or be in close bodily contact. Discuss with your instructor and scene partner other options.

ADDITIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION

Attendance Policy:

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

Your learning comes in the shared experience. Your participation has as much to do with others' growth as your own. Your absence is costly to everyone. Students are expected to be in attendance and to be on time. Students are allowed 1 "unexcused" absence that does not require documentation and does not conform to the UF "acceptable reasons for absence." Any other "unexcused" absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade per "unexcused" absence. To be considered "excused" an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official, acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness -doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions (e.g., hurricane-related events)
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed, legal obligations (jury duty or subpoena)

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course's instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student's continued participation in the course.

Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 2 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student's final grade.

In the same way, tardiness will also be penalized.

Each additional late arrival will result in a 5% deduction from your final score.

Policies Regarding Make-Up Work and Late Work:

Excused absences do not make one exempt from class obligations. Work must be made up in a timely fashion, at the discretion of the instructor, typically in the week following the student's return to class. Unexcused late work will be penalized with penalties increasing relative to lateness; anything past deadline is at least 1 day late.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

UF MASK POLICY: Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to follow the mask wearing guidance of the Center for Disease Control. As of this writing, masks are recommended indoors but there is no requirement via UF

UF HONESTY POLICY: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold both ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.

UNAUTHORIZED RECORDINGS: A student shall not without express authorization from the faculty member and, if required by law, from other participants, make or receive any recording, including but not limited to audio and video recordings, of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting, or meeting with a faculty member.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:

UF Counseling Center
3190 Radio Rd.
Gainesville, FL 32611-2662
352-392-1575
www.counsel.ufl.edu

Alachua County Crisis Center:
call 352-264-6789 | TDD/TTY 352-955-2449

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call or Text 988 or Chat 988lifeline.org
National Suicide Hotline: call 1-800-784-2434 (1-800-SUICIDE)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (USA):
call 1-800-273-8255 (ayuda en español: 1-888-628-9454)
Nacional de Prevencion del Suicidio: 1-888-628-9454

Crisis Text Line: text "HOME" to 741741 (USA/Can),
686868 (Canada), 85258 (UK), 50808 (Ireland), call 13 11 14 (Australia)

The Trevor Project (for LGBTQ youth):
call 1-866-488-7386 (or text "START" to 678678)