

TPP 3311/Section 3286: DIRECTING I

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Fall, 2019 T/TH 10:40-12:35

Office Hours: T/TH 1:30-3:00

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to all aspects of translating a play from script to stage. Building on skills 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 the history and theories of directing.

Learning Outcomes:

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze text for live performance on stage
- Synthesize ideas and concepts to create strong visual compositions for the stage
- Articulate their vision for a production to collaborators and to an audience
- Explore creative solutions to rehearsal challenges
- Offer intellectual insight, constructive criticism, and effective direction to actors and designers.

Required Texts:

Catron & Shattuck, *The Director's Vision*

Anne Bogart, *A Director Prepares*

Chekhov, *The Three Sisters* (trans. David Mamet)

Course Requirements and Expectations:

Attendance and Participation (20%): As this is a studio course, the bulk of our learning is completed through hands-on, in-class activities which cannot be made up. Included here are **leading one favorite warm-up over the course of the semester** and a **5-minute "Theatre Now" presentation**.

You are allowed two unexcused absences. After that, your final grade will be reduced by one step for each missed class (i.e., from an A- to a B+).

Exercises, Reading Responses, Chapter Presentations (15%): You will complete questions associated with assigned readings, as well as two 500-word responses to assigned sections of *A Director Prepares*. In two instances, you will present material covered in selected readings.

Devising scene (15%) You will work in collaboration to devise a piece based on the principles covered during our devising unit.

Director Presentations (20%) You will select a well-known director from the list provided (or one that appeals to you, with my approval) and research this director as well as a significant

production that they directed. Choose someone whose work or career path speaks to you, and articulate why this is so. Pay specific attention to the path they followed to become a professional director as well as her/his distinct style in directing. You will present your findings in a 10-minute formal presentation. A handout with more details will be distributed in class.

Three scenes (30%): You will present two short scenes from *The Three Sisters* that demonstrate specific directing principles, and one scene from a play of your choice (more details will be provided later in the semester).

Scene #1 is a 3 to 5-minute scene that will demonstrate principles of stage picture and blocking. These may be presented script-in-hand.

Scene #2 is a 3 to 5-minute scene that will demonstrate the principles of action verbs. This scene will be presented off-book.

Scene #3 Be a director! You will present a fully-realized 5 to 7-minute scene in which you demonstrate the principles of directing that we have covered over the course of the semester. Along with your scene, you will turn in a completed director's book. Specific requirements for the scene and book will be distributed in class.

Grading Rubric:

A = 94-100 C = 73-76
A- = 90-93 C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89 D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86 D = 63-66
B- = 80-82 D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79 E = <60

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

(Note: This schedule is subject to change. Please bring your syllabus to every class in order to keep up with changes as they happen. Readings and responses are DUE on the date listed.)

Tuesday 8/20	Introduction to course
Thursday 8/22	The Role of the Director Read: Catron, Chapters 1 & 2 and answer questions on page 30 only
Tuesday 8/27	Objects in Space Due: List of 100 Things
Thursday 8/29	Objects in Space Read: Bogart, Introduction and Preface Due: Response
Tuesday 9/3	Script Analysis for the Director Read: Chekhov, <i>The Three Sisters</i> (trans. David Mamet)

Read: Catron & Complete Questions (using *Three Sisters*) for **your assigned chapters only**. Be prepared to guide the class through a discussion of the concepts covered in your chapter

Group A: Chapter 4 Group B: Chapter 5

Group C: Chapter 6 Group D: Chapter 7

Group E: Chapter 8

- Thursday 9/5 Script Analysis for the Director
Warm-up/Theatre Now:
Group A Read: Bogart, Memory (Ch. 1) Respond & be prepared to guide the class through the concepts covered in your chapter
- Tuesday 9/10 Groundplans:
Warm-up/Theatre Now:
Read: Catron, Chapter 16 and complete questions
- Thursday 9/12 Blocking
Warm-up/Theatre Now:
Read: Catron, Chapter 17 and complete questions
Group B Read: Bogart, Violence (Ch. 2) Respond & be prepared to guide the class through a discussion of the concepts covered in your chapter
- Tuesday 9/17 Blocking
Read: Catron, Chapter 18 and complete questions
- Thursday 9/19 Rehearsals for Short Scene #1
Actors Required
- Tuesday 9/24 Rehearsals for Short Scene #1
Group C Read: Bogart, Eroticism (Ch. 3) Respond & be prepared to guide the class through a discussion of the concepts covered in your chapter
Actors Required
- Thursday 9/26 Short Scene #1 Presentations & Discussion
Actors Required
- Tuesday 10/1 Working with Actors
Warm-up/Theatre Now:
Group D Read: Bogart, Terror (Ch. 4), Respond & be prepared to guide the class through a discussion of the concepts covered in your chapter
- Thursday 10/3 Working with Actors
Warm-up/Theatre Now:
Group E Read: Bogart, Stereotype (Ch. 5) Respond & be prepared to guide the class through a discussion of the concepts covered in your chapter

Tuesday 10/8	Director Presentations
Thursday 10/10	Action/Verbs Warm-up/Theatre Now: Read: Director's Vision, Chapter 15 and complete questions Group F Read: Bogart, Embarrassment (Ch. 6), Respond & be prepared to guide the class through a discussion of the concepts covered in your chapter
Tuesday 10/15	Action/Verbs; Script Scoring Warm-up/Theatre Now: Read: Catron, Chapter 20 and complete questions
Thursday 10/17	Short Scene #2 Rehearsals
Tuesday 10/22	Short Scene #2 Rehearsals
Thursday 10/24	Short Scene #2 Presentations & Discussion
Tuesday 10/29	Devising!
Thursday 10/31	Devising!
Tuesday 11/5	Devising Rehearsals
Thursday 11/7	No class; Dr. Rua at ASTR Conference
Tuesday 11/12	Devising Presentations and Discussion
Thursday 11/14	Image, Research & Concept Presentations Warm-up/Theatre Now:
Tuesday 11/19	Groundplan Presentations Warm-up/Theatre Now: Group F Read: Bogart, Resistance (Ch. 7) Respond & be prepared to guide the class through a discussion of the concepts covered in your chapter
Thursday 11/21	Short Scene #3 Rehearsals Actors Required
Tuesday 11/26	Short Scene #3 Rehearsals Actors Required Read: Catron, Chapter 10 to prepare for assembling director's book
Thursday 11/28	No class – Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday 12/3 Scene #3 Presentations and Discussion
Actors Required

Tuesday 12/10 Due: Director's Book, including reflection

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>

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Online Course Evaluation Process:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

UF Honesty Policy:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness:

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>.
Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honorcode-student-conduct-code/>

On-Line Student Complaints: <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>