

Graduate Directing  
TPP 6385  
Hybrid Course  
Spring 2021  
T/R: 12:50-2:40 (Periods 6 and 7)  
G Blackbox Space  
Malcolm Gets  
[mgets@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:mgets@arts.ufl.edu)  
352-273-0500  
231 McGuire Pavilion  
Office Hours: m/w: 10:40-12:30

#### COURSE OBJECTIVE:

"The work of a director can be summed up in two very simple words. Why and How."  
-Peter Brook

"But innovation and invention do not only happen with smart people who have all of the answers. Innovation results from trial and error. The task is to make good mistakes, good errors, in the right direction."  
- Anne Bogart

"The only way to learn how to direct a play, is ... to get a group of actors simple enough to allow you to let you direct them, and direct."  
-Sir Tyrone Guthrie

What is a Director? Who is the Director? What is the Director's position? During the semester we will explore these basic questions and explore the roots of this ever-evolving position, beginning with the *didaskalos* (Greek for "teacher"). We will study the fundamentals of this multi-hyphenate job, such as creating a concept, casting, script analysis and stage composition. We will also examine the work of some of the theater's greatest visionaries, such as Peter Brook and Lloyd Richards. The primary goal for the course is to help the student directors utilize their unique Voice in interpreting a play, regardless of what period it comes from. By the end of the course, the young director should have a stronger sense of different ways to tell stories and how to imbue those stories with that director's singular Voice.

#### WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Intro/Syllabus  
Week 2: Script Analysis, Reading the Play. Beginning to explore what we want to say.  
Week 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Scenes (1<sup>st</sup> Pass)  
Week 4: Developing the Approach  
Week 5: 1<sup>st</sup> Scenes (2<sup>nd</sup> Pass)  
Week 6: Design Process  
Week 7: 2<sup>nd</sup> Scenes (1<sup>st</sup> Pass)

Week 8: Casting  
 Week 9: 2<sup>nd</sup> Scenes (2<sup>nd</sup> Pass)  
 Week 10: Visionaries/Peter Brook  
 Week 11: Final Scene (1<sup>st</sup> Pass)  
 Week 12: Visionaries/Lloyd Richards  
 Week 13: Final Scene (2<sup>nd</sup> Pass)  
 Week14: Director's Prompt Book  
 Week 15: Sharing/Final Scene

**REQUIRED READING:**

Thinking Like a Director, by Michael Bloom. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (text provided)

**SUGGESTED READING:**

A Sense of Direction, by William Ball. Drama Publishers

The Empty Space: A Book About the Theatre: Deadly, Rough, Holy, Immediate, by Peter Brook. Scribner.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

- 1) Attendance and Punctuality (15%)
- 2) Preparation and Professionalism (15%)
- 3) Research Papers (10%)
- 4) Discipline, Growth, Effort and Class Participation (35%)
- 5) Ability to retain and incorporate methods explored in class (25%)

**GRADING SCALE:**

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	100-94	4.0
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	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59-0	0.00

Please note that a C- is no longer an accepted grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to stay home and seek medical help for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill). The culture of hiding illness or the “show must go on” mentality must be avoided. Students who are medically required to quarantine will have documentation from a medical provider. Students who self-quarantine must communicate with the instructor and “attend” courses remotely synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor. Students who elect to enroll in a hybrid course are expected to participate in in-person instruction. If a student is uncomfortable attending in-person, the student should elect courses that are delivered online only and plan to take the hybrid or face-to-face course in a future semester. In the case that the student does not have the option to take the class at a later time (i.e. a graduating senior), the student must make arrangements with the instructor to “attend” all class meetings synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor. Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time. Students are allowed 2 “unexcused” absences that do not require documentation and do 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
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., 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. For Majors: 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.

#### HYBRID COURSE:

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.

[\(https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/\)](https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/)

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

#### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

#### HONOR PLEDGE:

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

[\(http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/\)](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) 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.

#### HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website. (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>)

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website (<https://police.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website. (<https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>).

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.aa.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.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.