

# DIRECTING (TPP 3311/SECTIONS 2780, 2781)

Directing (Hybrid); 2780: CLASSES IN PERSON, 2781: CLASSES ONLINE

Spring 2021

Section 2780

Meeting Time and Location: T/TH 1:55pm – 3:50pm Classroom G13

Credits: 3

Professor: Lauren Caldwell

(352) 538-0599

[lcaldwell@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:lcaldwell@arts.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.
- The student explores the challenges and solutions of a rehearsal process.
- 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

**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.

## 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*

Sarah DeLappe, *The Wolves*

**GROUPS A and B (CLASSES IN PERSON)**

The class will be divided into two groups: A and B. The student will meet in person on the day her group is scheduled. Due to the rules of the space, a student cannot attend a class from a group that is not assigned to her. Groups will be assigned.

**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 along with a *written* presentation. The *written* presentation will be handed in on the same day.

**CRITICAL DATES:**

Scene One Presentations: February 11, 16, 18, 23, and 25.

Scene Two Presentations: March 25, 30, April 1, 6, and 8.

Director Presentations: April 13, 15, and 20. (FINAL)

(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 (CLASS DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS A/B)**

*Subject to change.*

**January 12 – Introduction/A**

**January 14 – Introduction/B**

**January 19 – Role of the Director/Chapters 1 & 2/A**

**January 21 – Role of the Director/Chapters 1 & 2/B**

**January 26 – Script Analysis (Prepare rehearsal for first presentation)/Chapters 6, 7 & 8/A**

**January 28 - Script Analysis (Prepare rehearsal for first presentation)/Chapters 6, 7 & 8/B**

**February 2 – Working with Actors/Chapters 14 & 15/A**

**February 4 – Working with Actors/Chapters 14 & 15/B**

**February 9 – Discussion on Diversity & Devised Theatre/A (TBD)**

**February 11 – Scene 1/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**February 16 - Scene 1/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**February 18 - Scene 1/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**February 23 - Scene 1/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**February 25 - Scene 1/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**March 2 – Working Professionally/B**

**March 4 – Working Professionally/A**

**March 9 – Communicating with Designers (Prepare rehearsal for second presentation)/Chapter 16/A**

**March 11 - Communicating with Designers (Prepare rehearsal for second presentation)/Chapter 16/B**

**March 16 – Audition Process/Chapter 11/B**

**March 18 – Audition Process/Chapter 11/A**

**March 23 – Discussion on Diversity & Devised Theatre/B (TBD)**

**March 25 - Scene 2/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**March 30 - Scene 2/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**April 1 - Scene 2/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**April 6 - Scene 2/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**April 8 - Scene 2/Three Directors and Cast (Analysis due)**

**April 13 – Director Presentations (verbal and written) 5 Directors**

**April 15 – Director Presentations (verbal and written) 5 Directors**

**April 20 - Director Presentations (verbal and written) 5 Directors**

### 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

### ADDITIONAL CRITICAL INFORMATION

**Attendance Policy:**

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.

Given the format of this course and the pandemic during which this course is being taught, there are special instructions that students *must* abide regarding attendance:

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.

**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 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>

**A COVID-19 NON-NEGOTIABLE:**

For all face-to-face scene work, COVID-19 safety protocols must be honored at all times - including no person-to-person contact, maintaining at least 6 feet physical distance between actors, and the wearing of masks. To do this creatively in in-class explorations, actors will incorporate a mandatory given circumstance into all of their scene work regardless of the circumstances that the playwright provides.

There is a deadly pandemic going on, and to protect your character and their loved ones and/or the other character and their loved ones, you as the character must maintain strict safety protocols.

If a scene calls for or implies physical contact, you must figure out another way to communicate the thought or impulse behind the physical contact-just as you would in a "real-life" scenario where touch can be hazardous to one's health or the health of a loved one.

Any violation of this restriction will bring an immediate halt to the exploration and result in an automatic zero for the day for that student.

**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](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)**