

Instructor: Ryan Hope Travis

Office Hours: 3:00pm-4:00pm (Tues.) + 3:00pm-5:00pm (Thurs.)

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Course Description:

The role of the director is multifaceted. The fact that every single decision is filtered through them is both daunting and exhilarating. After many months of preparation and toil, the director's vision is finally realized when their work premieres. Yet, at that singular moment, the moment when the audience views the work, the job of the director is surely complete. This course explores every phase of the director's creative process.

College of the Arts Meta-Strategy 2021-2025: Systemic Resilience

The University of Florida College of the Arts intends to be a transformative community, responding to and generating paradigmatic shifts in the arts and beyond. We do so by:

- A) Embracing the complexity of our evolving human experience and seeking to empower our students and faculty to shape that experience fearlessly through critical study, creative practice, and provocation.
- B) Collaborating effectively with the forces of change.
- C) Preparing students to access and unsettle centers of power in a radically changing world.
- D) Facilitating an arts education that will position emerging artists and researchers as catalysts for equity on local and global levels.

Course Objectives:

- A) To develop in the student an understanding of the role of the director and explore the various tools that may be utilized to achieve one's vision
- B) To generate a directorial point-of-view that may be applied to future work
- C) To strengthen the skills needed to communicate with actors, designers, and creative team
- D) To apply the techniques explored in class to one's directorial practice

Required Text:

Students will direct one monologue and two scenes (a 2-person and a multi-person). These scripts will be provided by the student. Additional published plays and reference materials, both of which may be obtained from the campus libraries, will be utilized by the student in class. Handouts may be distributed as well.

Course Journey/My Commitment:

Here is my first commitment to you: the space we create will be your incubator. Your safe space to explore. To stretch. To bomb. To shine. I commit to cultivating a space where your vulnerability can thrive. Throughout our time together, I will connect the work we do in class to the profession that you will soon join.

Consider me your *No. 1* Cheerleader – pushing, prodding, encouraging, never settling, and hopefully inspiring the best out of you. Let's get it!!

Assignments and Course Expectations:

Students may have varying degrees of experience and “talent” in acting, writing, etc. Therefore, presenting a good scene is not enough. TIME, EFFORT, and COMMITMENT are the crux of your grade. Full *participation* is crucial in grading – i.e., participation in and/or leadership of exercises, willingness to participate in class discussions, etc. Each assignment will be awarded a specific point value. Details for each assignment will be provided. Points will be tallied at the end of the semester to determine your final grade.

The course concludes with a final class presentation/performance utilizing the skills and techniques acquired throughout the semester. Finally, to lighten our impact on the planet, all documents will be submitted via Canvas.

300-270	A	225-239	C+	180-194	D
255-269	B+	210-224	C	193 and below	E
240-254	B	195-209	D+		

Monologue Rehearsal	25 pts
Monologue Performance	25 pts
Scene #1 Rehearsal	30 pts
Scene #1 Performance	30 pts
Scene #1 Directing Notes	25pts
Scene #2 Rehearsal	30 pts
Scene #2 Performance	30 pts
Scene #2 Directing Notes	25 pts
Participation	80 pts
TOTAL POINTS = 300	

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please visit the [link to the university grades and grading policies](#).

Attendance at UF Productions:

You are strongly encouraged to see all UF mainstage shows and be prepared to discuss them in the class.

Jan. 21 – Feb. 6	<i>As You Like It</i> Written by William Shakespeare Directed by Charlie Mitchell
Feb. 4 – Feb. 13	<i>Antigone</i> Written by Sophocles Translation by Anne Carson Directed by Lauren Caldwell
Mar. 24 – Mar. 27	<i>Reader's Theatre Festival</i> Directed by Tim Altmeyer + Elaina Walton
Apr. 8 – Apr. 15a	<i>Marisol</i> Written by Jose Rivera Directed by Colleen Rua

Late Assignment Policy:

Professional actors who show up late get fired. Keep track of due dates. Keep the lines of communication open. Let's get through it, especially if you are having a challenge.

SoTD Performance Area 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.

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 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
- 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.

*NOTE: 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:
catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Additional Course Fees:

\$98 *included in your course payment

Accommodations for 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](#). 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.

Privacy Statement Related to the Online Component of this Course:

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.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). 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 ufl.bluer.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

Academic 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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

Campus Resources:**Health & Wellness**

1. *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
2. *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
3. *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.
4. *University Police Department*: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
5. *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; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

1. *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
2. *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
3. *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
4. *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
5. *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
6. *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
7. *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

Final Thoughts:

Our primary goal is to develop a process that *serves* your work as a creator. You will direct multiple works. We (you and I) are equal partners in this goal. I will bring my full self to every class. I expect you to come to this space with a willing and open heart, with (or developing) a strong sense of self-awareness, a vibrant imagination, and above all, be ready to work!

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

WEEK 1:

Course Introduction, Orientation, Syllabus Review
Self-introductions

WEEK 2:

Who/What/When is the director?

WEEK 3:

SCENE #1 Pitch Scene Idea
Exercises in script development and character motivation

WEEK 4:

Exploration and Workshop Scene #1

WEEK 5:

Continuing explorations and workshopping of Scene #1

WEEK 6:

DUE Tuesday, February 6th: *SoTD Show 1* Discussion
Crafting text using actual historical facts

WEEK 7:

Making history and crafting in absence

WEEK 8:

Scene #1 – Script and Performance Presentations Cont’d
Feedback on Scene #1

WEEK 9:

SCENE #2 Pitch Scene Idea
Directorial themes explored

WEEK 10:

NO CLASS – March 5th – March 12th – SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11:

Scene #1 – Actor Feedback
Exploration and Workshop Scene #2

WEEK 12:

Exploration and Workshop Scene #2

WEEK 13:

Finalize Script and Performance Blocking begins
Exploration and Workshop Scene #2

WEEK 14:

Exploration and Workshop Scene #2

WEEK 15:

Exploration and Workshop Scene #2

WEEK 16:

Scene #2 – Actor Feedback

Presentation of Scene #2 (Last Day of Class)
