

University of Florida
School of Theatre and Dance
THE 4959: BFA Senior Project

BFA Acting Coordinator: Susan Schuld

BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator: Prof. Tony Mata

BFA Design/Production Coordinator: Jing Zhao & Sarah Moench

Instructor: To Arrange

Meeting Times: To Arrange

Office Hours: Varies with Instructor of Record

Credits: 2

Prerequisites: Senior BFA student, Approval of Project Advisor or BFA Faculty Coordinator

Course Description:

Senior project for Bachelor of Arts Theatre majors. Completion of a research project and/or preparation of a dramaturgical project to be undertaken with advisor's consent in the final semester.

Purpose Of Course:

The Senior Project in the BFA is designed as a capstone project for the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre track. Students enroll in THE 4959, usually during their senior year.

Description of Projects:

The Senior Project shall consist of a significant piece of work that will demonstrate the students' expertise in both the academic and practical fields of the theatre, resulting in a document of substantial length (usually 10-20 pages).

The Senior BFA student will select a final project in their major area of interest.

- BFA Acting and Musical Theatre students will use roles through the SoTD auditions. If not cast in a SoTD main stage play, students may elect to use a role from a Florida Players or Hippodrome production. Only under extenuating circumstances and on a case-by-case basis may students develop a project of sufficient scale and scope in a Studio Showcase.
- Design/Production students may elect to use projects in design or assistant design/ technical direction on SoTD productions. Off-campus projects are discouraged, as shop and personnel support is often unpredictable.

Objectives

In this course students will:

- Identify and refine a research question or problem for investigation;
- Develop an appropriate methodology for researching and responding to the research question;
- Conduct a review of pertinent literature that supports this research project
- Integrate the knowledge acquired through a practical project and/or research

in a paper that documents the findings, methodology and implications of the project.

Coordinator/Instructor of Record:

The Undergraduate BFA Acting Coordinators are Susan Schuld, BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator is Tony Mata, and the BFA Design Coordinators Jing Zhao & Sarah Moench. All BFA Senior Project proposals must be approved by the appropriate coordinator. However, every student is free to choose an alternate faculty member as the Project Advisor.

REQUIREMENTS

Senior Project Proposal Form:

A BFA Senior Project Proposal Form is required that describes a rationale for the project, goals or questions that guide its development, a proposal of related literature, methodology, discussion, and potential conclusions. The Project Advisor must approve the rationale and goals and the form must be signed by the Project Advisor and submitted to the SoTD Academic Advisor.

Basic Requirement/Expectations:

The student will:

1. Provide a written proposal to his/her Academic Advisor and senior Project Advisor that must be approved prior to the start of his/her project, no later than two weeks into the semester;
2. Keep a complete journal and record of research, sketches, drawings, budget, and promptbooks, as appropriate to the project.
3. Clarify the approach and topics to be addressed in the paper (create a paper outline);
4. Consult with his/her Project Advisor on a regular basis to discuss the status of the creative project;
5. In consultation with the project advisor, establish meeting times and deadlines for drafts and final submission of the paper;
6. Submit the paper for review according to predetermined deadlines. In order to guarantee sufficient time for grading, the submission date will usually be no later than one week before the final day of classes.

The Project Advisor may attend rehearsals, performances, design/production meetings, shop sessions, and/or fittings (when appropriate and within reason) upon the student's request.

BFA Performance: Acting and Musical Theatre—

The "research question" to be investigated is a role. The Senior Project Paper for performers is a process paper discussing the details of the actor's creative process for a given role. Documented and supported research should include dramaturgical research, information about the style of the production. The focus of the paper is an analysis of the rehearsal process and performance preparation to include research of acting practices and methods used (movement and voice techniques/methods, as well as acting techniques). The actor should be explicit about his or her methodology and refer to standard terminology and acting literature. The organization of the paper can be either chronological (charting progress) or thematic (documenting selected areas of concentration). The writer should avoid being merely anecdotal and should draw on the rehearsal journal to establish a clear sense of the

process of understanding and exploring the role. The emphasis should be on problem-solving, on how the specific challenges of the role were met.

- Introduction – Approx. 200 words
- Dramaturgy & Style – Approx. 600-750 words
- Voice (problems, solutions, investigation/explorations) – Approx. 700 words
- Movement (problems, solutions, investigations/explorations) – Approx. 700 words
- Scene Study/Acting approach – Approx. 700 words
- Conclusion. – Approx. 250-500 words. Final summary evaluation of the thesis project.
- Appendices – used as needed.
- Bibliography

Scheduled Meeting Times:

Meetings are to be arranged between the BFA Student and the Project Advisor.

The student is responsible for keeping the Project Advisor up-to-date on his/her progress.

Prior to starting the project, BFA students must clarify with their Project Advisor all the expectations for the BFA Senior Project including draft deadlines and submission dates.

Grading:

The project grade is assessed by the Project Advisor, based primarily on the quality of the written work submitted. Credit toward graduation is granted only if the student's work results in the grade of "B" or better.

BFA Acting Projects will include an assessment of:

- The construction of a personal process for character creation and actualization.

BFA Musical Theatre Projects will include an assessment of:

- Analysis and interpretation of musical theatre styles and history as applied to performance.

BFA Design/Production Projects will include an assessment of:

- The application principles of two and three-dimensional design aesthetics in relation to costume, lighting or scenic design for live performance as a method of bringing text, choreographic work or public exposition to the stage.
- Organizing, developing and participating in a creative process resulting in a live performance that incorporates successful application of design and technological principles.

Grading Scale:

Passing Grade	% Equivalency	Grade Points
A	100-94	4.0

A-	93-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-84	3.0
B-	83-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-74	2.0
C-	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.0
D-	63-60	.67
E	59-0	0

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner while pursuing their studies. They are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy, which defines an academic honesty offense as "the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage." In the context of this course, this includes conducting original research and properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in writing the supporting research paper. Submitting work that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade.

For more information on the UF Academic Honor Code see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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

<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact 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

(nseling.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://shcc.ufl.edu/>).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website (<https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- *Writing Studio*: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> --2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. For help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Library Support*: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

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. 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/>.