

TPA 4930: Special Topics – Introduction to Live Entertainment Design and Production

M/W/F 9:35 – 10:25
NZH 0112

Instructor: Jennifer Dasher
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McCarty 204
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00

Teaching Assistants:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Creating live performance onstage, backstage, and offstage defines the collaborative art of the School of Theatre and Dance (SoTD). This course serves as an introduction to the ecosystem of production within the school while broadening the student’s understanding of the larger ecosystem of the industry. From Cirque du Soleil to the Hippodrome Theatre live performance is defined by the engagement of the collective; this course breaks down, explains, and promotes understanding across all collaborators in order to transform and engage the collective at The University of Florida and beyond.

College of the Arts Mission: 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:

- 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.
- Collaborating effectively with the forces of change.
- Preparing students to access and unsettle centers of power in a radically changing world.
- Facilitating an arts education that will position emerging artists and researchers as catalysts for equity on local and global levels.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completing this course students will:

- have a broad understanding of the ecosystem that produces live performance.
- have an understanding of critical collaborative language.
- understand the variety of roles that collaborate towards visual storytelling under the Design and Technology umbrella.
- understand the intersection between performer, designer, and technician.
- be prepared to engage in the processes of the SoTD production season.

REQUIRED VIEWING:

2 School of Theatre and Dance productions

Cirque du Soleil's TORUK: The First Flight

ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Participation and Attendance (10%)

Participation and attendance are required. Please come prepared to each class meeting having completed all online assignments so that you can engage the content of each lecture and/or discussion.

Attendance Policy: The success of this course is based on discussion and class participation. Attendance is vital. Only one (1) unexcused absence from class will be permitted without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5%. Two (2) late arrivals and/or early departures to/from class will count as one (1) absence. Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade in this class. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academicregulations/attendance-policies/>) and require appropriate documentation.

Live Performance Response (20%)

Through the course of the semester, you will be required to attend 2 live performances produced by The School of Theatre and Dance. A response discussion will be curated by

instructor on Canvas. Responses should thoughtfully consider the production ecosystem onstage during each performance.

Exercises (20%)

Exercises to practice skills and ideas will be assigned periodically. The intention of these is to practice and develop an understanding of skills or to reinforce class material covered In lectures.

Crew Assignment (25%)

Students are expected to complete one crew assignment on live productions within the School of Theatre and Dance in order to pass this course. Crew assignments are hands on learning fundamental to the course content; learning outcomes from completing this assignment cannot be replicated. Crew assignments will be made and confirmed during the second week of classes. Crew assignment requires evening participation.

Final Project (25%)

The final project requires critical and creative thinking on topics in the second half of the course as they relate to the introductory topics of collaboration and the live performance ecosystem. Students will be placed in teams, assigned roles congruent with design and production needs, and create a miniature production of an assigned short play. Details on deliverables for assignment will be given as team roles are assigned.

GRADING:

The grading scale will be as follows:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72

D	68-69
E	0-67

The university grading policies for assigning grade points may be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES: The use of cell phones or other mobile devices is disruptive, and therefore is prohibited during class. Except in emergencies, those using such devices must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. Classes may not be recorded without express permission from the instructor.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

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.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: 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.

STUDENT CONCERNS:

Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-codestudent-conduct-code/

On-Line Students Complaints: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/

Title IX: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/>

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 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 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 shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit 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 352-7330111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/

Library Support: ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. cms.uflib.ufl.edu/

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420.

General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)