

**University of Florida — School of Theatre and Dance**

**MFA Acting Company**

TPP 6385 Directing

M/W Period 4-5 (10:40 PM - 12:35 PM)

***Location:*** CON G15

***Academic Term:*** Fall 2023

Professor: Michelle Bellaver

Email: mbellaver@ufl.edu

Office location: McCarty C 302

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 12:45 – 2:00 pm, and by appointment

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Explores the philosophy and psychology of directing and the director. Applied to scene study.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Identify the components and demonstrate the abilities involved in bringing your director's concept to life.

Demonstrate ability to work creatively and communicate collaboratively with actors.

Demonstrate your ability to audition, rehearse, schedule and present your scenes on time and with aesthetic beauty using the concepts of composition, rhythm, movement, style, casting, truth in acting and idiosyncratic point-of-view.

**TEXTBOOK:** *Fundamentals of Play Directing* by Dean & Carra

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- a. **ASSIGNMENT ONE: Scene for a Proscenium Stage**
  - Please choose a scene – “Realism”
  - The focus is on composition and directing actors
  - Use 2 -3 actors. Be sure that your actors have their scene memorized for first round.
  - 4-5 minutes in length
  - You must audition and rehearse outside of class.
  - ROUND ONE: In-class presentation
  - ROUND TWO: Using feedback from round one, rehearse and then re-present the scene for class grade.
  - **A list of plays as reference for Assignment One:**
    - *Angels in America, Part One* by Tony Kushner
    - *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
    - *August, Osage County* by Tracy Letts
    - *Proof* by David Auburn
    - *Stick Fly* by Lydia R Diamond
    - *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage
    - *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson
    - *True West* by Sam Shepard

- b. ASSIGNMENT TWO: Scene for a *Thrust* stage.
- Please choose a scene – “Contemporary HIGH STYLE”
  - Use 2-3 actors. Be sure that your actors have their scenes memorize for first round.
  - 5 -7 minutes in length
  - You must audition and rehearse outside of class.
  - ROUND ONE: In-class presentation
  - ROUND TWO: Using feedback from round one, rehearse and then re-present the scene for class grade.
  - **A list of plays as reference for Assignment Two:**
    - *Fairview* by Jackie Sibblies Drury
    - *Glengarry Glen Ross* by David Mamet
    - *Good Friday* by Kristiana Rae Colón
    - *Pass Over* by Antoinette Nwandu
    - Any of *The Brothers/Sisters Plays* by Tarell Alvin McCraney
    - *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia* by Edward Albee
- c. ASSIGNMENT THREE: Final Scene for One-Act Showing
- Script – A short One-Act play (between 10-15 minutes long)
  - Use 2-3 actors.
  - More details will be discussed in class.
  - Performed in the evening during last week of classes
  - Directors produce and run all aspects of this festival (with the mentoring of professor)

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Directing Scene - Proscenium	50
Directing Scene - Thrust	50
One Act Showing	75
Participation	40
Attendance (approx. 27 class meetings; see gradebook for final total point value; subject to change by professor)	54*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>269*</b>

## PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

Participation Rubric: Total points for the below categories = up to 10pts./category, totaling 40 pts. for 4 categories.

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>EXEMPLARY 10-9</b>	<b>PROFICIENT 8.9-8.0</b>	<b>DEVELOPING 7.9-7.0</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY 6.9-0</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
Frequency of Participation	Proactively and regularly contributes to class discussion; initiates discussion on issues related to class topic.	Sometimes contributes proactively to class discussion; asks questions and responds to direct questions.	Rarely contributes to class discussion; seldom volunteers but responds to direct questions.	Never contributes to class discussion; fails to offer relevant responses to direct questions.	
Preparation	Consistently well-prepared with all assignments completed; demonstrated preparation with notes, observations, & questions.	Arrives fully prepared with some frequency; partially prepared at other times; inconsistent demonstration of preparation through notes, observations & questions.	Demonstrates infrequent completion of assignments and readings; often has not completed assignments or prepared notes or observations.	Exhibits little evidence of having read or thought about assigned material.	
Listening Skills	Listens attentively and actively as indicated by comments that often built on others' remarks; contributing to class dialogue	Some evidence of active, attentive listening in remarks	Listens very infrequently and without attention to concept or detail, as indicated by polls & comments that are often loosely related to others' remarks.	Rarely or does not listen to others; did not pay attention while others speak; comments did not contribute to class dialogue, engages in activity unrelated to class.	
Quality and Relevance of Contribution	Comments always insightful & constructive, balanced between general impressions, opinions, & thoughtful analysis; uses appropriate terminology.	Comments mostly insightful & constructive, occasionally too general or not relevant; mostly uses appropriate terminology.	Comments are sometimes insightful & constructive, with occasional signs of insight; comments often general and rarely use appropriate vocabulary.	Comments are uninformed and counter-productive; almost never uses appropriate vocabulary; heavy reliance on uninformed opinion & personal taste.	
				TOTAL	XX/40

## UF GRADING SCALE

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
87.0 - 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 - 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 - 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 - 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

### GRADING

Grading will be evaluated and will be based on the methods and requirements unique to each assignment, as well as quality of work, approach, enthusiasm, development, completion of all assigned work, and the student's ability to express written and oral knowledge concerning the course topics. Final course grades will be based on the above criteria, and the evaluation and assessment of each student's attitude toward the work, and the individual development of each student throughout the semester.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#calculatinggpa>

## ATTENDANCE POLICY and CLASS EXPECTATIONS

The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

This is an experiential class. You are expected to attend class daily and be on time. Tardiness is disruptive to a class of this nature.

Here is my policy:

Each class meeting is worth 2 points. I take attendance every class meeting and record it under "Attendance" in "Gradebook".

All tardies (regardless of how late you are to class) will result in 1 point removed for the class meeting in which the tardy took place. If you are going to miss class or be late, you will need to inform me via email BEFORE class starts.

At the end of the semester, Gradebook totals all the class meeting points and you are given a total based on that number.

You are allowed ONE unexcused absence.

You are allowed ONE tardy.

You are allowed ONE "excused" absence.

These are non-negotiable and the “allowed” mentioned above are reconciled in Gradebook at the end of the semester.

To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation and include the following reasons:

- 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)

*Religious observances do not require documentation.* But, to help organize accommodations, students must 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.

## **UNIVERSITY 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 (<https://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 in this class.

## **CAMPUS RESOURCES**

### Health & Wellness

1. *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 [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://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/](http://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/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).
4. *University Police Department*: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.](#)

### **COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:**

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/>.