

## DIRECTING II

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### Course Syllabus

**COURSE SYLLABUS-SPRING 2012**  
**THEA 4613/Directing II & THEA 4611/Directing II Lab**  
**CLASS/Tues & Thurs: 1pm-2:20pm (AU 108/109)**  
**LAB/Tues & Thurs: 3pm-3:50pm (AU 108/109)**

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#### **SPRING SEMESTER 2011 OFFICE HOURS**

M-W-F 10am-12:30pm / T & TH 10am-11:30am  
*Above times are subject to change without warning,  
SO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!*

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Structured in a workshop format, Directing II will continue to study the principles, procedures, and practices of stage direction begun in Directing I. We will further explore verbal and non-verbal approaches to composition, movement, genre and styles, in pursuit of the art of storytelling. Exercises, assignments and lectures will culminate in the direction of a one-act play, which shall be mounted for departmental performance at the end of the semester. Pre-requisites: THEA 1033, THEA ***As does theatre itself, this course demands a highly interactive, team playing commitment and, because of this, ATTENDANCE AT ALL CLASSES IS EXPECTED.***

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- *Delve further into stage directing styles and methodologies.*
- *Further develop communicative skills, interpretive skills and practical skills.*
- *Further develop leadership, coaching and diplomatic skills.*
- *Expand each individual's practical experience in the art of collaboration, ensemble building, commitment, time management, and the mounting of a production.*
- *To prepare, rehearse and direct a one-act play in collaboration with a company.*
- *To demonstrate an ability for text analysis and critical response.*
- *To develop rehearsal techniques, problem solving skills and clearly expressing ideas and concepts.*
- *To gain knowledge of stage directing methodologies.*
- *To understand the broad spectrum of what a director seeks to master.*
- *To have a working vocabulary of more advanced terminology of the acting & directing process.*
- *To deepen one's love and appreciation for the theatre through the discipline of directing.*
- *To continue the journey of personal discovery, imagination, self-expression and creative growth.*

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS**

- ✓ Nothing required, but here is a list of *Recommended Reading* all good directors should be familiar with:  
A SENSE OF DIRECTION by William Ball  
THE EMPTY SPACE by Peter Brook  
BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS by David Ball
- ✓ *Binder/Notebook for important class lecture notes. Pens and pencils.*
- ✓ *Comfortable movement clothes.*

#### **CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Much of the time the class will be divided into teams. Team members will act in each other's scenes.
2. Watching plays is a wonderful way of learning more about directing. Students are expected to attend all Directing II presentations.
3. Rehearsal space is limited. You must schedule any usage of campus space, so **PLAN AHEAD!**
4. Basic rehearsal furniture is available; everything else must be acquired on your own. Therefore, **KEEP IT SIMPLE**, in the areas of set pieces, design elements, costumes, etc.
5. Students are expected to function as Crew Heads for the Final Plays of other directors when needed.
6. No make-up scene work will be permitted.
7. Rehearsal space is limited. You must schedule any usage of campus space, so **PLAN AHEAD!**

8. It is strongly advised that you do not use any students who have been cast in Mainstage, Second Studio or other Independent Projects. This may result in serious conflicts with your rehearsal schedule, and usually leads to disaster.
9. Students will need to organize any auditions, technical requirements, and PR for final directing projects.
10. If stage managers are desired, they must be found outside of class. You are encouraged to invite students from the Stage Management class.
11. Help clean up the space after class.
12. Record notes and observations where appropriate.

### **CLASSROOM ETHICS & REGULATIONS**

- *Respect for all persons at all times is necessary. (Opinions, Cultural Backgrounds, Sexual Preferences, Religion, etc.). Sometimes, texts, topics or characters explored in class might use language or subjects that are uncomfortable for you personally. Understand your limits and the limits of others and be open to discover strategies for respectfully handling these situations.*
- *Constructive criticism of classmate's work is necessary. The best approach to successful criticism is to avoid judgment words (liked/disliked, hated/loved, good/bad, etc) and use terms of observation (what I saw was..., this made me feel..., my experience of this was..., I heard this...)*
- *Commitment to the group dynamic and respect for the ensemble.*
- *Classroom etiquette (Attention during lectures, performances, exercises, etc. Disruptive behavior may result in lowering of grade)*
- *Turn off cell phone for the duration of class.*
- *No food, drinks (except bottled water), or tobacco is allowed in any class, or performance space at any time.*

Any and all assignments must be prepared with understanding and thoroughness. Prepared means that the material is carefully thought through and attention is paid to process, grammar & spelling, and must apply lessons from class. Each assignment must be ready on the date assigned. Unprepared students will be given no credit for that assignment.

### **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students will be required to attend all mainstage Department of Theatre Arts productions, and should be ready to discuss them in class. Discussion of all performances in and outside of class should remain constructive with respect for all persons at all times.

### **GRADING CRITERIA**

Students are not graded on talent or experience. You will always be evaluated on individual growth and execution of class work. Your grade will be based on the quality of your performance in the following areas:

- *The quality of your participation;*
- *The level at which you master the material presented;*
- *The manner in which your attitude and commitment effect your ability to approach and participate in the intended course of study;*
- *The quality of your work in relation to your peers;*
- *The significance of your growth throughout the course of the semester;*
- *The quality with which you complete specific assignments both performance and written.*

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

A grade of "A" will be issued to students whose performance in the above areas is Excellent.

A grade of "B" will be issued to students whose performance in the above areas is to be Good.

A grade of "C" will be issued to students whose performance in the above areas is Satisfactory.

A grade of "D" will be issued to students whose performance in the above areas is Below Satisfactory.

A grade of "F" will be issued to students whose performance in the above areas is Unacceptable.

REMEMBER: Your attendance, initiative, enthusiasm and willingness to explore unfamiliar ground will go a long way in the determination of your final grade. Grading will be a letter grade, which is based on the average of all the letter grades earned during the semester from the following criteria listed below:

#### **YOU WILL RECEIVE LETTER GRADES FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Attendance (Please See Attendance Policy Below!)

Effort: Participation/Attentiveness/Attitude towards the Work

Directing Assignments (Variable)

Mid-Term Project  
 Final Project  
 Director's Book

At semester's end, each grade earned will be averaged into your final grade based on the following:

|                |                |                |              |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| A = 3.8 - 4.0  | B = 2.8 - 3.0  | C = 1.8 - 2.0  | D = .8 - 1.0 |
| A- = 3.5 - 3.7 | B- = 2.5 - 2.7 | C- = 1.5 - 1.7 | D- = .5-.7   |
| B+ = 3.1 - 3.3 | C+ = 2.1 - 2.3 | D+ = 1.1-1.3   | F= 0 - .4    |

| ATTENDANCE | EFFORT: P/A/A | DIR ASSIGNMENTS | MID-TERM PROJ | FINAL PROJECT | DIRECTOR'S BOOK | FINAL GRADE |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
|------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|

**EXAMPLE OF HOW A STUDENT MAY BE GRADED:**

| ATTENDANCE | EFFORT: P/A/A | DIR ASSIGNMENTS | MID-TERM PROJ | FINAL PROJECT | DIRECTOR'S BOOK | FINAL GRADE    |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 4.0        | 3.0           | Average 3.0     | 3.5           | 3.5           | 3.0             | <b>3.33=B+</b> |

Plus and minus grades may be included in the assigning of student grades. Students are not graded on talent or experience. You will always be evaluated on individual growth and execution of assignments. REMEMBER: Your attendance, initiative, enthusiasm and willingness to explore unfamiliar ground will go a long way in the determination of your final grade.

**ATTENDANCE**

Refer to departmental attendance policy below. **If you are absent on a day that affects the group experience or a partner's experience, negative points may be given.**

**Departmental Attendance Policy:** In all theatre and dance classes, attendance is crucial. For purposes of grading, no distinction between excused and unexcused absences (excluding recognized religious holidays and approved university functions) as absenteeism affects the progress of the entire class.

**WARNING: IN THIS CLASS YOU ARE ALLOWED (2) TWO EXCUSED ABSENCES. PERIOD. EACH ABSENCE, IN EXCESS OF (2) TWO, WILL LOWER YOUR GRADE!!!**

**Lateness:** If you arrive within 10 minutes of the beginning of class your lateness constitutes 1/3 of an absence. If you are more than 10 minutes late you will be considered absent.

Missing class and not inquiring about missed lessons reflects poorly on your participation and effort. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY when you are absent to make up the missed lesson. Make an appointment to see the instructor, ask classmates, and do whatever is necessary to MAKE THE EFFORT TO SHOW YOU ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR EDUCATION AND THE COURSE. If you know you will be absent in advance, please let the instructor know.

**The Americans with Disabilities Act:** If you require special accommodations to participate in this course, please contact the Disability Support Center and the instructor as soon as possible. No accommodations are required until this process is complete with approval from the Disability Support Center. It is the sole responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Support Center and/or the instructor. The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973 states:

**“Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.”**

The acting process requires many physical exercises and activities. You must be the judge of what your physical limitations are and only attempt what is within your range. You strength and flexibility will improve at an individual rate. Please make your professor aware of any conditions that might affect your physical participation in class.

**Sexual Harassment:** This course will observe the university's policy for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because theatre imitates human behavior and because sexuality is a significant part of human behavior, some materials in this course may deal with sexual behaviors, situations, stereotypes and language. People easily offended by such subject matter may want to reconsider taking this course.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the university and departmental handbooks regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on campus behavior.

**HEOA Compliance statement:** The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.suu.edu/it/p2p-student-notice.html>.

**Emergency Management statement:** In case of emergency, the University's Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the homepage of the *mySUU* portal. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Response Protocols posted in each classroom. Detailed information about the University's emergency management plan can be found at <http://www.suu.edu/ad/facilities/emergency-procedures.html>