

# Directing for Theatre I – TPP 3310C

Class Location: AHA O101 (The Trailer!!!)  
TR 2:30PM - 4:20PM  
Instructor: David Reed  
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PAC T219, 407-823-2397

Office Hours: M 12:30 – 2:20  
T&R 11:30AM - 2:20PM  
Or by appointment



## Course Syllabus

### COURSE OVERVIEW

To Principles and techniques of play direction – to include script selection, directorial analysis, casting, composition/picturization, blocking, tempo, and rehearsal planning.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

#### **In this course, students will:**

- Learn to think like a director
  - What does a director do?
  - How is directing collaborative?
  - How does a director approach script analysis and the design and production process and work with the other theatre artists involved in the process?
- Use script analysis tools to articulate directing approaches to plays
- Develop an approach to directing a play / articulate an approach to a play text. Develop, articulate, and write your approach to your project play script.
- Discuss the mechanics of directing actors (stage pictures, strong and weak stage positions, blocking dynamics)
- Learn and study the dynamics of working with/talking with designers
- Practice collaboration within mock play production teams
- Study other directors' work by observing rehearsals and productions directed by professional directors
- Develop a director's vocabulary for communication with designers, actors, etc.
- Write a reasoned critique of a director's work after observing a production

### REQUIREMENTS

#### Text

Required Readings will be provided  
Students may be required to print and copy reading material and scene work

## **POLICIES**

### **Attendance is mandatory and will be strictly monitored.**

- Perfect attendance is assumed.
- Three absence will result in the dropping of a full letter grade. Five absences will result in your dismissal from the class.
- Lateness is disrespectful. It is not tolerated in the professional world nor in this class.
  - 3 lates = 1 absence
- If you are detained, enter quietly and offer the class an apology at your first opportunity.
- NEVER enter during a presentation; wait until it's completed.
- Guests will not be permitted in class (without prior consent of the instructor and the class.)
- The following will be counted as excused absences with no penalty:
  - Authorized UCF functions, including participation in sporting events, academic functions, scholarly conferences, etc.
  - Illness that is documented by doctor's note or prescription.
  - Death or serious illness in the immediate family.
  - The observance of religious holy days – you must submit in writing the dates and names of any religious holy days you must observe during the course of the semester and hand it into the instructor no later than Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- ... ALL MUST BE DOCUMENTED within one week after returning to class. No late documentation will be accepted.
- All missed class work (excused or otherwise) must be made-up.

### **Technology**

The use of phones and other handheld electronic devices in class is forbidden unless requested by the professor. Any interruption caused by your cell phone, or other non-approved electronic device, will result in your removal from the day's activities and a forfeiture of all points associated with that day. If you have questions, please ASK THE PROFESSOR!

### **Accessibility Statement**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

## Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with [UCF's Rules of Conduct](#). According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic Integrity](#). For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices](#)."

- **Cheating of any kind will result in the suggestion of failure for the semester**
- Make sure you understand your professor's guidelines about working with other students on assignments, receiving assistance from other students on assignments, citing sources, and using notes or exams from previous classes. If in doubt – ASK YOUR PROFESSOR!

## Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at [http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency\\_guide.html](http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html).
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to [ucf.edu](http://ucf.edu) and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student

Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”

- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this [video](#).

## Scholarship

### **Gordon Rule**

This course is a Gordon Rule course. The required three assignments which fulfill the Gordon Rule are indicated with an asterisk. Each has the following characteristics:

1. The writing will have a clearly defined central idea or thesis
2. It will provide adequate support for that idea
3. It will be organized clearly and logically
4. It will show awareness of the conventions of standard written English
5. It will be formatted or presented in an appropriate way.

### Syllabus

- This syllabus may be modified by the course instructor.
- Notice of such changes will be made by announcement in class or by email notice.
- Any handouts provided to the student with guidelines for written or performance projects are to be considered part of the syllabus. In addition, verbal or written changes to the syllabus as announced during class, a lesson or via electronic means, are the responsibility of the student.

## GRADING CRITERIA

- This class will observe the plus and minus grade system. Realize that C is considered to be a failing grade for a BFA student.

A = 1,000-940	A- = 939-900	B+ = 899-870	B = 869-840
B- = 839-800	C+ = 799-770	C = 769-740	C- = 739-700
D+ = 699-670	D = 669-640	D- = 639-600	F = 599-0

## ASSIGNMENTS

• Director Writing assignment	50
• Concept Packet for class plays	100
• Audition and Cast list write up	150
• Blocking assignment and Mapping	150
• Final Concept Packet	150
• Final Scene	100
• Attendance at UCF Performance and Written Directorial Response (5-6 pgs)	150
• Classroom Attendance and Participation	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 pts</b>

**Attendance at UCF Production: (150 total)** Students will be required to write a 5-6 page response evaluation to a production at UCF. This should not be a review, but rather a critical response to the performance. Papers are due Friday after a production closes. This assignment will be graded for its cohesiveness, accuracy, and insight.

<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	Black Box	Thursday, September 20, 2018 - Sunday, September 30, 2018
<i>Hot Mikado</i>	Main Stage	Thursday, October 11, 2018 - Sunday, October 21, 2018
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Black Box	Thursday, November 8, 2018 - Sunday, November 18, 2018

**Participation: (150 points)** Students are expected to participate in every class. This includes class discussion and all exercises and activities. Participation also includes being fully prepared for class (memorized, rehearsed, homework done, dressed appropriately, and with necessary supplies including scripts).

**Director Writing Assignment: (50 points)** An initial assignment to gauge a student’s understanding of the craft of directing as well as their own predilections as directors.

**In Class Assignments/Productions/Performances: (Point totals vary)** Performances of scene work and directing techniques as covered and assigned within the semester.

**Concept Packets: (100 points for first and 150 for final)** A plan of attack for directors as they approach a script. The packet should include:

- 1) Analysis
- 2) About Set
- 3) Concept
  - o How you arrived there
  - o How it will impact the overall performance
- 4) How it relates to Tech
- 5) How it relates Acting
- 6) How it relates Direction

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Week One: Introduction and Overview

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Aug 21	Familiarize yourself with: <i>Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</i> , <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> , <i>Death of a Salesman</i>  Prepare Audition	Introduction and Group Selection
Thu, Aug 23	Write: Three paragraphs summarizing your directing experience, your ideal director, and your ideal career path in theatre.	Read and Discuss <i>All My Sons</i>

### Week Two: Analysis

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Aug 28		Hodge Analysis - <i>All My Sons</i>
Thu, Aug 30		Hodge Analysis - <i>All My Sons</i> Thomas Analysis

### Week Three: Script Analysis for Directors

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Sep 4	Assign Concept Packets	About Set and Concept
Thu, Sep 6		Thomas Analysis - <i>All My Sons</i>

### Week Four: Director's Approach to a Play (using CLASS PLAY)

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Sep 11		Concept Ideas and Brainstorming
Thu, Sep 13	Concept Packet	Concept Packet –1-10

### Week Five: Concept Packet and Casting

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Sep 18	Concept Packet	Concept Packet – 11-20
Thu, Sep 20		Characterization and Casting

### Week Six: Collaboration

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Sep 25	Cast List	Casting and Collaboration
Thu, Sep 27	Plays/Scenes selected and due	The First Rehearsals -Discuss Blocking Assignment -Mapping

### Week Seven: Director conversation and Mechanics of Directing

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Oct 2		<i>She Kills Monsters</i> – David Reed
Thu, Oct 4		Mechanics of Directing

### Week Eight: Mechanics of Directing

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Oct 9	Blocking Maps	Blocking
Thu, Oct 11	Blocking Maps	Blocking

### *Hot Mikado: October 11-21*

### Week Nine: Blocking

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Oct 16	Blocking Maps	Blocking
Thu, Oct 18		Production Meetings (Responsibilities)

### Week Ten: Discussion with the Director

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Oct 23		Earl (Yay!)
Thu, Oct 25		Production Meetings (In Class Groups)

### Week Eleven: Scene Work

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Oct 30	Group 1	
Thu, Nov 1	Mark- ?	

### Week Twelve: Scene Work

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Nov 6	Scene Work Group 1 and 2	
Thu, Nov 8	Scene Work Group 2 and 3	

### Week Thirteen: Watching Directors Direct

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Nov 13	Scene Work Group 3 and 4	
Thu, Nov 15	Scene Work Group 4	

***Of Mice and Men* closes November 18**

### Week Fourteen: Your Production Notebook

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Nov 20		Rehearsal
Thu, Nov 22	<b>No Class</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>

### Week Fifteen: Collaboration and Communication

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
Tue, Nov 27	Discuss <i>Of Mice and Men</i> Scene Work Group 5	
Thu, Nov 29	Scene Work Group 5	

**FINAL: Thursday, December 6, 2018**  
**1:00 PM – 3:50 PM**

	Assignments Due	Class Activities
	Concept packet for Final Scene	Final Scenes