

TPP 5386C 1 Directing For TYA

3 Credits – TR 2-3:20 – PAC M120

Instructor: Vandy Wood

Office: PAC T235

Phone: 407-252-1520

Email: vandy@ucf.edu

Office Hours: T 9:30-11:30, W 12-2, TR 9:30-11:30 (by confirmed appointment).

Course Description:

The course is designed to give the student an *advanced* look into to the collaborative art form and fundamentals of Directing for the Theatre. The class will focus on: clear storytelling, landing truthful moments, physical and psychological action, analysis of scripts, design, research, rehearsal, staging techniques, directorial vocabulary and other areas of directing for the stage. Through research, and investigative participatory viewing, the course will also introduce the student to contemporary directors and contemporary/classic writers, their techniques and genres in addition to theatrical literature of historical significance.

Course Objectives:

- Deepen the student's understanding of and practice with the basic tools of play script analysis.
- Deepen understanding and use of the tools needed for Directing monologues, scenes, and plays.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the collaborative art form of Directing and begin to establish a collaborative Directing voice.
- Give the student required opportunities for the practical application of Directing Theory and Practice.
- Give the student required opportunities to observe and critique professional theatrical productions by writing critical analyses.

Students should be able to:

Re-imagine the role and practice of the director to align with their personal values, style, and techniques. Direct a play using the above.

Financial Aid Alert:

Since the Fall 2014 semester, UCF is required to comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their aid.

In order to document your participation in this course, please complete the Required Discussion by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 27, 2018. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Course Prerequisites:

Graduate student status in the Theatre department.

Required Texts:

None – Reading will be assigned from a number of texts. I will provide you with access to the books.

Supplemental Texts:

Thinking Like A Director by Michael Bloom

Tips: Ideas for Directors by Jon Jory

Directing For The Stage by Terry John Converse

Notes on Directing by Frank Houser and Russell Reich

A Director Prepares by Anne Bogart

The Empty Space by Peter Brook

Improvisation for the Theatre by Viola Spolin

Theatre Games For Rehearsal by Viola Spolin

The Dramatic Imagination by Robert Edmond Jones

Impro - Improvization And The Theatre by Keith Johnstone

Improv – A Handbook for the Actor by Greg Atkins

What is Scenography by Pamela Howard

The Village Voice (online) weekly theatre reviews as assigned

The Orlando Sentinel (online) theatre reviews as assigned

Or from the New York Times, Village Voice and various online reviews as assigned

Various articles and handouts as assigned.

Online research on writers and directors as assigned.

Special Requirements:

You will be required to cast your directing scenes and rehearse when your cast and a space is available. This will be in addition to regularly scheduled classes. You will also be required to attend a performance and write a paper.

Required Technology:

You will need to have access to a computer with an internet connection and access to webcourses.

Assignments:

Reading Presentations: Select a chapter from a directing book to read and lead a discussion on the topic addressed.

Observations: Arrange to observe and interview a director in at least 1 rehearsal and one meeting. Write a brief paper about your observations and be prepared to discuss your observations in class.

Getting Lost: Exercises in getting lost. This assignment will have weekly journal entries.

Directing Exercises: TBD

Directing Project:

A contemporary or classic full one act, or a scene or an act of a full-length play (The play or scene or act should be approximately 30 to 45 minutes and each student will work primarily on this piece during the semester having several opportunities to show progress and then present as a honed, completed project.)

Directing Packet

Each student will be responsible for creating a directing packet for directing projects. We will create guidelines for these in class before work begins.

Paper

Papers must include the following:

- 1) OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF THE THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE
- 2) PERCEPTIONS OF THE AUDIENCE'S EXPERIENCE VERSUS YOUR OWN
- 3) ACTING
- 4) DESIGN ELEMENTS INCLUDING: THE SET, COSTUMES, LIGHTING, SOUND, PROPS, SPECIAL EFFECTS, ETC...
- 5) THE SCRIPT OR ADAPTATION INCLUDING AUTHOR BACKGROUND
- 6) SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE PIECE
- 7) OBSERVATIONS BASED ON REVIEWS AND QUOTES FROM REVIEWS

GRADING POLICY PERCENTAGES

ASSIGNMENTS (SCENES/READING/DISCUSSION ETC) = 20% OF GRADE

NOTEBOOKS/JOURNAL ENTRIES = 20% OF GRADE

DIRECTING ASSIGNMENT (including all related materials) = 40% OF GRADE

PAPER = 10% OF GRADE

CLASS PARTICPATION/COLLABORATION = 10% OF GRADE

Evaluation and Grading:

I will use a traditional 100 point grading scale with plus/minus rankings:

100%-93% = A; 92%-90% = A-; 89%-87% B+; 86%-83% = B;

82%-80% = B; 79%-77% = C+; 76%-73% = C, 72%-70%= C-; etc.

Attendance Policy:

UCF honors religious holidays for all faiths so please plan your schedules so that you can complete the assignments. Late work will not be accepted.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MATERIAL MISSED DUE TO AN ABSENCE.

Absences due to illness only excused with prior notice or documentation.

Instruction/Content

•There are plays and materials which may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to assess your chances for success in this course.

CALENDAR

A performance schedule will be set up so all students will know when they will be presenting a directing scene and/or acting in one. These dates are always subject to change due to the needs of the class. The schedule will be flexible but once a presentation date is set, you must present and/or act on that day. There can be no exceptions as this will throw off the entire schedule.

Course Schedule/Calendar (subject to change):

Tues. 8-21: Introduction - Discussion

Thurs. 8-23: Discussion – Production Roles, Collaboration,

Tues. 8-28: Preparation – Webcourse Assignment Due

Thurs. 8-30: Reading Discussions

Tues. 9-4: Preparation

Thurs. 9-6: Reading Discussions

Tues. 9-11: Collaboration – Pre-Production

Thurs. 9-13: Reading Discussions

Tues. 9-18: Collaboration

Thurs. 9-20: Reading Discussions

Tues. 9-25: Rehearsal

Thurs. 9-27: Reading Discussions

Tues. 10-2: Rehearsal

Wed. 10-4: Reading Discussions

Tues. 10-9: Guest

Thurs. 10-11: Reading Discussions

Tues. 10-16: Guest

Thurs. 10-18: Reading Discussions

Tues. 10-23: Guest

Thurs. 10-25: Reading Discussions

Tues. 10-30: Observe Directing Projects

Thurs. 11-1: Reading Discussions

Tues. 11-6: Observe Directing Projects

Thurs. 11-8: Reading Discussions

Tues. 11-13: Observe Directing Projects

Thurs. 11-15: Reading Discussions

Tues. 11-20: Work on Projects (No Formal Class)

Thurs. 11-22: No Class

Tues. 11-27: Directing Presentations

Thurs. 11-29: Directing Presentations

12-4: 1-3:50 - Final Exam – Reflection on Presentations

Policies:

UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

Integrity

I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

Scholarship

I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

Community

I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

Creativity

I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

Excellence

I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

Ethics statement

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see <http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>).

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Many incidents of plagiarism result from students' lack of understanding about what constitutes plagiarism. However, you are expected to familiarize yourself with UCF's policy on plagiarism. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative efforts. UCF's Golden Rule defines plagiarism as follows: **"whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own."**

Similarly, please see an Ethics statement.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://z.ucf.edu/>.

For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see <http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

Course Accessibility Statement

It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SAS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sas@ucf.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

Webcourses

Webcourses is an online course management system (accessed through my.ucf.edu and then the "Online Course Tools" tab) which will be used as a medium for turning in assignments and a forum for communicating with your teammates. Under the "Discussion" section, you will have a designated forum section. My recommendation is to check Webcourses every 2-3 days for updates from your teammates or myself.

Student Grades

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grades section of Webcourses@UCF.

Technology/Software Requirements

Students will be expected to have access to a computer frequently, as all writing assignments used will be typed out and not handwritten. The software you use to write your assignments is irrelevant, as long as you follow my writing guidelines outlined later in my syllabus. I recommend to have access to a computer weekly.

Internet Usage

You will be expected to have daily access to the internet and email, since I will be emailing you constantly about assignment updates, additions and changes. All students at UCF are required to obtain a [Knight's Email account](#) and check it regularly for official university communications. If you do not own a computer, there are computer accessible to you in all UCF's computer labs, and most computer labs have computers connected to the internet. For further information on computer labs, please see the following website: http://registrar.sdes.ucf.edu/webguide/index_quickfind.aspx.

University Course Requirements

This course may count as a GEP Humanities requirement and a Diversity requirement for some majors. For more information about GEP and Diversity requirements, please see the current course catalog (<http://www.ucf.edu/catalog/current/>) for Diversity and GEP course requirements.

Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to

support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at www.shield.ucf.edu and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – EO/AA - <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu/> & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services - <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – diversity.ucf.edu
- Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team - <http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/>
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office - <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombuds Office - <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

Online Learning

Online learning is not for everyone; some people may not be able to manage a course that does not meet face to face to learn. Online learning requires lots of planning and self-pacing so that you may be successful in my course. Since I will be covering a significant amount of material over the semester, I would highly recommend treating this course like a regular lecture course, and keeping up with lectures and assignments. Late work will not be accepted so be sure to do your assignments before each Sunday at 11:59PM.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center

Colbourn Hall 105

Satellite Locations: Main Library, Rosen Library, Online

407-823-2197

<http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/>

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Tutors provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix or edit papers, but to teach writing strategies that can be applied to any writing situation. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by clicking the *Success Resources* tab on Webcourses, calling the UWC at 407-823-2197, or through the UWC website.

Email (Knightsmail) Policy

In this class our official mode of communication is through email located inside Webcourses. All communication between student and instructor and between student and student should be respectful and professional. It is the student's responsibility to check the "coursemail" tool frequently. You may also wish to create a Knight's Email account at www.knightsemail.ucf.edu for separate official communication from the university.

UCF Cares

During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit UCFCares.com ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

Religious Observances

It is my intention to encourage students of all faiths to observe religious holidays. Please plan your weeks to avoid conflicts. If it is not possible to complete a module without conflicting with a religious holiday, please contact me at least one week prior to the beginning of the week in question.

This Syllabus is Subject to Revision