

SYLLABUS

TH 450-01: Directing

Fall 2017

M/W 11:20am-12:40pm Wilson Theatre

Course Description and Prerequisites:

Theatre forms and styles; director's function and responsibility in producing plays; script analysis; directing laboratory scenes; participation in departmental productions. The prerequisites for this class include completing TH 150, TH 322/323, junior or senior standing, or permission by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

In this class students will learn multiple theoretical approaches to directing, via reading/discussion and experiential work, a variety of works in a variety of spaces, both traditional and non-traditional. Students will expand their theoretical and practical theatre knowledge, present effectively, write critically and analyze thoughtfully. Students show mastery of these skills through a combination of moderated discussions, writing assignments and scene presentations.

Instructor Information

Name: Amy Guerin

Telephone number: 256-824-2360

Email address: amy.guerin@uah.edu

Office hours: T 2:30-4:00pm in my office; or, R 2:30-4:00pm in the Charger Cafe section of the library; or, by appointment

Office location: Morton Hall Rm 108D

Required Texts:

A Director Prepares: Seven Essays on Art and Theatre by Anne Bogart

Tips: Ideas for Directors by Jon Jory

Recommended Texts:

American Theatre subscription

100 Essays About Theatre by Sarah Ruhl

The Empty Space by Peter Brook

The Director's Voice, Vol 2: edited by Jason Loewith

And Then You Act and *What's The Story*, both by Anne Bogart

Course Assignments and Grading Scale:

Assignments:

Attendance and Participation – Theatre relies on interpersonal trust. Be respectful and mindful of your classmates, as they will be of you. You are expected to be on time to class and ready to participate with your classmates. **Any students more than 5 minutes late to class will be docked an unexcused absence.** If the classroom door is closed, do not knock. Consider yourself absent. The professor's watch will be the arbiter of class time.

Production Response (100 Points Each/200 Points Total) You will write performance responses on both of the UAH Theatre MainStage production this semester. The responses will be 750-900 words, and turned in via the class Canvas page. Focus on your experience and response to the play in performance, focusing on theme, acting, directing and design elements (lighting, costume, sound, projections.)

Moderated Discussion (150 Points) – During the semester you will moderate one 10- 20 minute discussion. You will write 5-7 open-ended discussion questions to turn in.

Discussion Participation (150 Points) -- During the moderated discussions, your participation in the discussion will

be noted by number and quality of comments. There are 16 discussions. Aim for approximately 6 quality comments per discussion to receive the maximum number of points.

Director's Notebook (200 points) – At the end of the semester, you will turn in a complete director's notebook, outlining all of the analytical, conceptual and logistical work done for your final scene presentation. Your points will come from the level of complexity and creativity presented in your notebook.

Final Scene (300 Points) – At the end of the semester, you will direct one 10 minute scene featuring 2 actors coming primarily from Acting I class, and secondarily from fall non-major auditionees. The scene must come from a published play written after 2000 that you have not worked on before in any capacity.

Grading Scale:

1000-900 A 899-800 B 799-700 C 699-600 D 599-0 F

Class Policies:

Please come to every class dressed comfortably with water, your copies of the text reading that is due that day, and the proper note-taking materials—paper and pencil. **Notes cannot be taken on your laptop, tablet, or phone.**

Attendance: The basis of this course is personal participation and class discussion. Those who do not attend regularly and promptly will not succeed. **Because emergencies occur, your first two unexcused absences will not affect your final grade. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter grade. At 5 unexcused absences, I will drop you from the class.**

Work missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up. If it involves a performance of a scene, the person with the unexcused absence that day will take an automatic F. The partner who attended that day may 1) receive a grade that is an average of his or her other grades for similar assignments, or 2) receive no grade for the assignment because it will not count in the tallying of the final grade, or 3) have other arrangements made at the discretion of the instructor. Absences may be excused for medically documented illness, documented university obligation approved in advance or observance of a religious holy day approved in advance.

Work is considered late if not turned in at the time it is due. If turned in late, it is 10 points off for the same day, and then 20 points off every day after that—regardless of what day of the week it is. All revised and final projects must be turned in completed, or the student will automatically fail the class. **I do not accept revised or final work without a first draft.**

(University Policies regarding absence: The university views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Instructors are expected to give adequate notice of the dates on which major tests will be given and assignments will be due.)

Academic Integrity

Your written assignments must be your own work. Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. To insure that you are aware of what is considered academic misconduct, you should review carefully the definition and examples provided in Article III. Code of Student Conduct, Student Handbook, p. 93.

Course Calendar

Week 1: 8/16		Course Introduction/Ruhl Essay Discussion
Week 2: 8/21 & 8/23	Class Discussion: Jory text "Vocab" and "The Play" chapters 8/22: Audition Observation 7:00-9:00pm	Museum Visit. Meet at the classroom and walk together to Wilson Gallery

Week 3: 8/28 & 8/30	Composition Work: Color/Line/Feeling	Class Discussion: Jory text "Casting"
Week 4: 9/4 & 9/6	NO SCHOOL: LABOR DAY	Exercise: Typing Headshots
Week 5: 9/11 & 9/13	Class Discussion: Jory text "Director Homework" and "Beginning"	Exercise: Group Action Analysis
Week 6: 9/18 & 9/20	Class Discussion: Jory text "Blocking" Performance Response Due 11:15am	Composition Work: Proscenium
Week 7: 9/25 & 9/27	Composition Work: Thrust	Composition Work: Arena
Week 8: 10/2 & 10/4	Composition Work: Found	FALL BREAK
Week 9: 10/9 & 10/11	Class Discussion Jory text "Working With Actors"	Class Discussion: Jory text "Table Work" and "Rehearsal Process"
Week 10: 10/16 & 10/18	Composition Work: 1 person scenes	Guest Discussion: Designer/Director Communication with Autum Casey
Week 11: 10/23& 10/25	Composition Work: 1 person scenes	Class Discussion: Sex and Violence
Week 12: 10/30 & 11/1	Composition Work: Flash Mob Class Discussion Online: Bogart Essays 1 & 2	Composition Work: Flash Mob
Week 13: 11/6 & 11/8	Composition Work: Devised Performance Class Discussion Online: Bogart Essays 3 & 4 Performance Response Due 11:15am	Composition Work: Devised Performance
Week 14: 11/13 & 11/15	Composition Work: Immersive Theatre Class Discussion Online: Bogart Essays 5, 6 & 7	Composition Work: Immersive Theatre
Week 15: 11/20 & 11/22	<u>11/20 Acting/Directing Showcase 6pm</u> Director Notebook Due in class Class Work: Scene Transitions Rehearsal <u>11/21 Acting/Directing Showcase 6pm</u>	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Week 16: 11/27	Final Class Day: discussion & snacks!	

THIS SYLLABUS MAY CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR IF UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES ARISE. YOU WILL BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.