

# Theatre 375

Course Syllabus – Spring 2017

## Directing I

Instructor: Tyler Marchant

Course Time: Friday 9:00 – 11:50am

Classroom: NFAC 283

Office: NFAC 212

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1pm – 2pm, or by appt.

Final Exam: Final Exam **(There will be no final exam due to travel for Showcase.)**

### **Required Texts:**

#### Rental:

Play Directing: Analysis, Communication, and Style (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Francis Hodge

#### Purchase:

ART by Yasmina Reza

Backwards & Forwards by William Ball

\*Play to be purchased (or found in Library collection) for final scene assignment.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- integrate a director's approach to a play in analysis, conception, rehearsal preparation and implementation.
- effectively explore a text/production with a director's creative and analytical eye.
- apply and adapt skills to work with Actors, Designers, Artistic Directors and collaborators.
- direct a short scene.

### **Coursework:**

Students should understand there will be time needed outside of class for rehearsal of directing material/scenes used during the course. When students are directing scene work, directors must choose actors who are available to attend in-class working sessions. *I highly recommend using actors from within the class whenever possible.*

In this course you will prepare a Director's collage using the text of a play including ideas of all design elements, text, imagery, and conceptual work.

You will work with your classmates to direct various exercises throughout the semester.

A short scene will be rehearsed and performed in class from a play written no earlier than 1990.

**Grading:**

Grading will be out of 1000 points.

**Assignments:**

Participation/Collaboration/Ensemble Building	100 Points
Exercises/Assignments/Quiz	250 Points
Midterm Project	350 Points
Scene direction/direction in class	300 Points

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Total 1000 Points

*\*\*Please note: assignments and/ or points assigned per project may alter due to class size, overall class achievement, and/ or other unforeseen circumstances.*

Range in Percentile	Grade Letter
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
60-64	D
0-59	F

**Grading Criteria:**

The evaluation of this course will be given through the traditional “A” through “F” grading system. It is imperative that each of these letter grades is clearly defined in order for students to understand why a particular grade was given. It is also important to realize that grades are derived from objective evaluation and should not be perceived solely as negative feedback. The following is an index of the criteria for each letter grade:

A (90 – 100%) The student demonstrated an intellectual understanding of the material covered and incorporated the intellectual work into his/her performance. The student attended and actively participated in class and completed the assignments within the given time frame. The student was consistently prepared for class and showed strong improvement throughout the semester.

B (80 – 89%) The student understood and completed the assignments, but was unable to rectify some of the smaller problems. The student completed the assignments well, exceeding the minimum requirements. The student was present during class and actively participated. The grade of “B” is very good: above average improvement.

C (70 – 79%) The student attended and participated in class, followed through on feedback, and made an effort to finish requirements. He/She improved enough to fulfill the minimum requirements. The grade of “C” is average.

D (60 – 69%) The student attempted to complete the assignments, but was unable to achieve some of the requirements. The “D” grade reflects the minimal amount of effort/improvement to receive a passing grade.

F (below 60%) The student did not attend all the class periods nor did he/she adhere to the assignment guidelines. The student did not adequately participate in class. No improvement was seen.

### Class Policies:

- Attendance at all Faculty directed Theatre & Dance productions is mandatory.
- **Department Costume and Property Collection Use:** Students may use costumes or properties for class purposes. A student may not borrow a prop or costume unless it is integral to their classwork and not readily available (for example: a weapon or corset could be borrowed, a coffee cup could not). ***The instructor of the course must first approve the object to be borrowed*** and then the student must send an email to Cece Hill for costume piece(s) or Joe Klug for prop(s) or Jared Hanlin for any weapons. The instructor must be copied on the email.
- Everything handed in must be **typed** (unless otherwise stated), **stapled** if more than one page, **three hole punched** and with your name on it. Failure to do so, will be ½ **late penalty**.
- Absolutely no flip-flops or high heels (unless using specifically in scene work.)
- You CANNOT use the office copier for paper copying for this class.
- Class requires regular attendance and participation. After one absence, whether excused or unexcused, your grade will be dropped one letter grade per absence.
- Attendance on performance days: Failure to deliver your performance on the assigned day results in a zero for that performance assignment. In addition, you must be on time the day you present your performance. If not, you will not present your performance. **There will be no make-up performances.** You are responsible for making sure your actors are available and on time for in-class work/performances. It is your responsibility to find actors you trust and will be on time and ready for work/performances.
- Be on time for class (Two late arrivals equal one absence).
- **No late assignments are accepted.** Failure to hand in an assignment at the beginning of class on the due date will result in a zero for that assignment.
- Dress appropriately for your class/performance – you may get dirty you will get sweaty.
- You will lose 25 points from your Total grade points if your cell phone or pager disrupts the class.

- Active listening and participation are required.
- You are responsible for the information sent to you in your UWSP e-mail. Please check your UWSP e-mail daily for class updates.
- Students are responsible for all relevant policies according to the University Catalog and the UWSP Student Handbook.
- All papers must be typed, double-spaced, using MLA style. All sources must be cited. In addition, all papers will be graded on grammar, proper citation, and content.
- All students are expected to prepare for class by completing all the necessary readings for class and being prepared for all class assignments.
- You must have the full script for any scene assignments/performances you work with in class.
- Do your own work. Plagiarism, with print or Internet sources (using another person's ideas or expressions in your writings or speeches without acknowledging the source) carries severe penalties, ranging from a zero for the assignment to failure of the course. Please see UWSP guidelines and academic misconduct policies for further information.