

Director's Ensemble

THEA 3910 Spring 2020

Instructor: **Lisa Devine, MFA**

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Class Time: MW 2:00-4:20

Office: RTFP 215

Prerequisites

Basic acting skills.

Course Description

This course has been designed to offer credit for performance opportunities in the directing classes. The course offers experience in auditioning, character creation, script analysis, rehearsal technique, performance and post-performance assessment.

- Actors must be available during the Directing class period (Monday, Wednesday 2:00-4:20p.m.), *however you will not be called to every class.*
- Your assignment is prompt attendance at rehearsals, showings, and performances; homework, script analysis, memorization of lines, and exercises as decided upon by your director; creation of a quality characterization following the concept of your director; and at all times collegial collaboration.
- **You must check you voice and email messages daily.**
- After being cast in scenes, students will proceed to follow the rehearsal schedule set by your director and fellow actors. Your promptness, attendance, work habits, and performance will be assessed by the professor.

Class Goal

The primary concentration of this study is the physical and mental training of the actor. It is beneficial to all those interested in active self-expression but especially actors and directors. The work's result is usually a more acute sense of one's ability to create and greater self-confidence.

****Because you (and only you) know what you'd like to gain from this class, I encourage you to set a few goals to accomplish over the course of the semester. Please let me know what I can do to assist you as you achieve these goals.*

Attendance

Attendance is regulated by the University and the Department of Dance and Theatre. The following policy is consistent with all performance oriented classes in the department.

- You may receive one excused absence for a family emergency, official UNT business, or illness with doctor's excuse.
- After that each absence lowers the final grade 5 points on a scale of 100 possible. More than two (2) absences beyond the one excused, are considered sufficient reason for failure in the course.
- For director's ensemble, please wait outside until your director calls you in. To avoid disturbing your classmates and the work, no one will be admitted after the scenes begin.
- Please note that the teacher/director's roll book is the official record of absences and tardies. As the teacher/director to check the roll book to ensure that your attendance record is correct.
- Leaving class or rehearsal early will count as an absence.
- Please be reminded that University policy states that any instructor who informs students in writing about the necessity of class attendance may request that the Registrar drop a student from the course with a grade of WF or F upon the accumulation of the stated number of absences.

Participation

- Attitude
- Willingness to try
- Citizenship
- Adding to the conversation,
- Work ethic
- Improving during the semester
- Acceptance of grades earned
- Handling of absences

1. **Wear Appropriate Clothing:** Comfortable clothing, such as jeans and t-shirts are desirable. Be ready to roll on the floor. You may keep rehearsal clothing in one of our lockers and change in the dressing rooms.
2. **Promptness:** Since one of the objects of this course is to prepare you to function effectively in a demanding professional situation, being ON TIME is of the utmost importance.
3. **Dependability:** Acting is normally a group effort. A great deal of emphasis will be put on the student's ability to function in a group situation. Students are expected to come to class consistently with all assignments prepared.

Late Assignments

No late assignment. Directing scenes will be administered only on the day that is listed on the assignment sheet. This is to guarantee equitable treatment of all students. Please acquaint yourself with the calendar attached. ***In theatre, the curtain rises on opening night regardless.*** As far as any written assignments, consider the “due date” the last moment I will take the assignment. Any written assignment may be turned in early. This allows you to structure your study schedule to allow you time for other course assignments. *Time Management is a life skill. If you are not good at time management, this is the semester you will conquer this skill.* **Bottom line: Any assignment can be early. Nothing can be late. Show initiative.**

Grades

There is a grading rubric that has been designed for each assignment. This tool is used to stay as objective and fair as possible. **You are responsible for knowledge of your grade at all times.** If you have any questions about your grades, please contact me and I will be happy to help you. **Grades will not be discussed over the phone.**

Cheating/Plagiarism

The Student Code of Conduct prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing (including but not limited to ‘cutting and pasting’ unattributed passages from the Internet), the student will receive an F for that assignment. If the student is caught a second time, the student will receive an F for the course. With plagiarism, it will also be incumbent upon the student to demonstrate that s/he has not plagiarized (rough drafts of papers, notes, outlines, annotated source materials, etc.) so please retain all evidence of your having done writing projects yourself.

Subject Matter Disclaimer

Theatre is an art, which imitates human living: since sexuality and violence are a part of human living, some materials in this class may deal with sexual and violent images, behaviors, situations and language. ***People who may be offended by such materials may want to reconsider taking this course.***

Attendance at all UNT DTA Season Productions

You will receive vouchers for free tickets to the productions. See the Box Office for further information.

Textbooks

Scripts and research materials as needed for your projects.

Assignments and Grading

Silent Tension		A= excellent (100-90)
My Photo Story		B= good (89-80)
Brecht Test		C=average (79-70)
Final Scene	40%	D= (69-60)
		F = (59 or below)
Final Reflection		
Actor to Director Evaluation	30%	
Attendance (Class and Productions)		
Class Participation		
Learning Activities		
Director to Actor Evaluations	30%	
		<hr/>
		100%

Scene Study Procedure

This is a course in directing so actors willing to explore, listen and experiment are essential to learning the directing process. But it is extremely difficult to coach your acting when the full play has not been read and scene is not memorized. Thus, it is essential that this homework be completed before coaching begins.

Memorization is actor homework.

- First major step to characterization. You are not acting until you are full memorized.
- There are apps for your phone that can help you memorize your lines and cues.
- Before coming to rehearsal with your director and fellow actors, you should be able to recite your lines while doing an unrelated activity like wash dishes, vacuum, play basketball etc.
- *An unwillingness to memorize and lack of knowledge of the play is sufficient cause for an “F” for that assignment.*

Final Period

- Final scene performances will be held April 27 and April 29 during class time (2:00-4:20). All students are required to see all scenes on both days.
- The Final Reflection and scene critiques will be due Monday May 4, 1:30-3:30. This is your Final Exam and attendance is mandatory.

Incompletes

Only under extraordinary circumstances will an Incomplete be given.

Withdrawal

Should you choose to drop this course, you must initiate the drop and acquire all the proper signatures and paperwork. If that process is not completed, you will be subject to a WF or F at the close of the semester.

Course Fees

The fees for this course are used for copying, equipment, productions and guest artists.

Fitness

This course is designed to accommodate all levels of physical ability and fitness. As with any physical training, there will be some soreness and muscular fatigue as a result of a new use of the body. This is normal and healthy. *However, you are responsible for your own health.* If you are in doubt as to whether you can perform some aspect of the exercises, please refrain from doing so until you can consult a physician. If you need to refrain from doing significant portions of the coursework due to this condition, you must get written verification from a physician and be prepared to do alternative assignments.

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice

The UNT Department of Dance and Theatre does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment or admission of students. The content of this class requires each student to (a) actively participate in a safe manner and (b) spontaneously process visual and verbal cues.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

Accommodation

Please let me know if you need accommodation for religious holidays or other issues.

SPOT

The Student Perception of Teaching Effectiveness (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized class at UNT. This short survey will be conducted in class on your laptop or cellphone at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in your feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider your "Personal Growth Assessment Assignment" and the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Future Training and Possibilities of Production

Our Acting Sequences includes:

Acting Fundamentals

Acting Shakespeare

Physical Theatre

Acting Realism

Musical Theatre Acting

Topics in Production

Acting Styles

Acting for the Camera

Special Problems in Acting

Our Directing sequence includes:

- Directing I: Scene Study
- Directing II: Play Conceptualization and Design Collaboration
- Directing Practicum: Rehearsal and Performance of Plays

There are many opportunities to direct in D+T. Students must have at least Directing I to be considered to direct a "First Stage" one act. More advanced students may be chosen to direct for the "Lab Series" or Summer Arts Festival which are small budgeted full-length productions with the possibility of designers and technical support as part of our season. Apply early January for a place in next year's season.

There are also opportunities as Assistant to the Director (no directing classes), Assistant Director (Directing I), and Associate Director (Directing II). Please let me know of interest.

Last day to withdraw with a grade of W: March 30, 2020

I am looking forward to getting to know each of you!