



THEA 360 Directing

Hampden-Sydney College

Spring 2018

Meeting Days: T/R

Meeting Time: 2:00p.m. – 3:20 p. m

Location: Johns Auditorium 104

*Please note that the meeting location may change more than once over the semester, due to production conflicts.

“When I am lost in rehearsal, when I am stymied and have no idea what to do next or how to solve a problem, I know that this is the moment to make a leap. Because directing is intuitive, it involves walking with trembling and terror into the unknown.” –Anne Bogart

“The director’s indispensable quality: patience. His passion is a long patience. The contrary is also true: his patience is the proof of a long passion.” –Eugenio Barba

Instructor: Elizabeth Parks

E-mail: eparks@hsc.edu

Office: Johns Auditorium 205

Phone: 434-223-7020

Office Hours: T/R 12p.m.-2p.m.

Contacting the Instructor: You are always welcome to come by during office hours, call my office, or email me. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response to any emails.

REQUIRED READING:

Play Directing: Analysis, Communication, and Style, 7th ed. by Francis Hodge and Michael McLain
A Director Prepares by Anne Bogart
True West by Sam Shepard
Glengary Glenn Ross by David Mamet
Other handouts as assigned

RECOMMENDED READING:

Notes on Directing: 130 Lessons in Leadership from the Director’s Chair by Frank Hauser and Russell Reich
The Director’s Voice, Twenty Interviews, Volume 2 by Jason Loewith

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the principles of play direction including technical aspect of production and the acting conventions involved in mounting a play for presentation. This course will cover the role of the director and the major duties of the director including text analysis, directorial concept, working with actors, technicians and designers, auditioning, scheduling, rehearsing, and most importantly, dreaming the play. This course will explore multiple ways of approaching a production to empower students with a variety of directorial methods.

Questions explored in this course include:

1. What is the scope of the director's responsibility?
2. How is the director's work with actors, a stage manager, designers, marketers and producers different? How is it the same?
3. What are the essential qualities of an effective director?
4. How does the director's job evolve or change over the course of a production?

Expected Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define the parameters of the director's job.
2. Analyze a script's dramatic action and characters.
3. Analyze a play's underlying concepts and write a Director's Concept Statement.
4. Practice effective communication with actors and production staff.
5. Identify different leadership and directorial strategies.

POLICIES:

Professionalism and Courtesy: Courtesy is crucial to a positive learning experience, but the greatest tool any theatre artist has is their professionalism! That is what keeps them employed, so let us begin practicing it today!

How do we practice professionalism?

Be on time- This means being early, setting down your things, readying yourself to work, and circling-up to begin class.

Be prepared- This means that you have read the material assigned, done the work assigned, and are dressed appropriately. (See below for attire requirements)

Be present- This means being an *active* participant in the room; being mindful and respectful of everyone in the room. This does not mean that you always have to be talking, sometimes it means allowing time for your colleagues to speak.

Respect the space- Water is acceptable but you may not eat or chew gum in any room we work in. Pick up after yourselves. Leave the room in better condition than you found it.

HONOR CODE and PLAGIARISM:

The college honor code will be enforced. If there is any aspect of the honor code that you are not absolutely certain about, it is your responsibility to clarify any issues before a problem occurs.

All assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class.

Attendance: Timelines and participation are crucial to excellence in the performing arts and in life in general. Regular attendance is **mandatory**.

- 1) Each student is allowed **two** absences in total for the semester. Please use these absences judiciously and save them for emergencies.
- 2) For each absence beyond the allotted three absences, the student's overall course grade will be reduced by 1/2 letter grade with each subsequent absence. After five absences, I reserve the right to dismiss you from the class.

Accommodation Statement:

Students who think they may need accommodations in this course because of the impact of a disability are encouraged to meet with the professor privately at the beginning of the semester. Students should also

contact Teresa Laughlin, Disability Services Coordinator, Office of Academic Success (tloughlin@hsc.edu , 434-223-6324, Bortz 232) to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Early contact will help to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and delays.

Electronic Devices: CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

GRADING SCALE:

A + 100-97	A 96-93	A- 92-90	B+ 89-87
B 86-83	B- 82-80	C 76-73	C- 72-70
D+ 69-67	D 66-63	D- 62-60	F 59 and below

Grading Determination:

Late work will not be accepted

1. **Attendance/Participation- 200 points**
 - 1) Each student is allowed **two** absences in total for the semester. I do not differentiate between excused versus unexcused absences.
 - 2) Each absence beyond the allotted two will result in a grade reduction (1/3 letter grade per day) After five absences and a warning I reserve the right to remove you from the class.
 - 3) Attendance of fall production will count as two class periods: *Atsumori* April 5,6,7,12,13 2018.
2. **Writing Assignments-200 points**
3. **Scene #1 – 100 points**
4. **Scene #2-100 points**
5. **One Act play- 200 points**
6. **Leading discussions and exercises- 100 points**
7. **Final Reflection paper- 100 points**

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given throughout the semester over content from the required reading.

Directing

GRADE SHEET

Name:

Attendance/Participation: 200 points

Total _____ /200

Writing Assignments: 200 points

Total _____ /200

Scene #1: 100 points

Total _____ /100

Scene #2: 100 points

Total _____ /100

One Act Play: 200 points

Total _____ /200

Leading discussions and exercises 100 pts

Total _____ /100

Final Reflection Paper: 100 pts

Total _____ /100

Total _____ /700

FINAL GRADE _____



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I _____ have read and understand the contents of the syllabus for this course. I therefore understand all that is expected of me and I accept the contents therein including all assignments, classroom procedures, grading policies and procedures.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____