

THEATRE 5305: Directing Syllabus (2012)
Tuesday & Thursday (12:30 p.m. – 1:45 pm) FAB 105

Mr. Gregory M. Schwab, Professor of Theatre/Chair of Fine Arts and Communication
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Office Hours T & R 8:30-9 a.m. & 3:30-4:30 p.m.; W 10 a.m.-noon or by arrangement

I. Instructional Materials:

- A. Textbook: *The Director's Vision: Play Direction from Analysis to Production*, Louis E. Catron, c1989
- B. Outside information and research
- C. Various scripts

II. Course Overview:

This course is designed to aid the student in the understanding of the various directing styles and techniques.

The student will have the opportunity to critically analyze the impact of directors and their visions upon selected productions.

Utilizing assigned research and analytical rubrics, students will work individually and cooperatively in small groups to understand and analyze various directing concepts and components.

The student will use acquired knowledge and skills to mount small scenes and a portion of a one act play.

The graduate student will conduct the class in directing exercises based upon research and other acquired knowledge and skills.

The graduate student will research and present a 30 minute discussion/demonstration on a selected directing style or technique.

Additionally, the student will utilize acquired knowledge to analyze and critically assess directing styles used in two Sul Ross theatrical productions.

The course assignments, discussions, and other instructional materials/modules will be supplemented through materials in Blackboard.

III. Course Objectives:

By the end of this course the student should be able to

- Critically understand the major directing techniques and styles used in contemporary theatre;
- Using both cognitive and intuitive research methods, demonstrate the appropriate techniques of directing;
- Critically analyze the directorial works and visions of other directors.
- Communicate successfully written critical assessments of theatrical performances and printed works.

IV. Program Learning Outcomes:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. knowledge of eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History.

Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

2. the ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance;
3. the ability to analyze scripts;
4. the ability work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production; and
5. the ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production.

Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:

6. the ability to apply all approaches to theatrical design and rendering of the design; and
7. the ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production

Additionally the student will be able to:

8. describe the theatre process and compose a functional definition for the theatre event;
9. describe the close link between theatre and religion;
10. name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor and designer in the theatre production;
11. have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic and absurdist theatre;
12. describe the uniqueness of the theatre art;
13. understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production;
14. identify a variety of theatre spaces;
15. know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre; and
16. demonstrate their understanding of acting, directing, playwriting or design in the areas of set, sound, or make-up.

V. Course Requirements:

- A. The students will be required to present a 10-12 minute scene from a one-act in December during the Night of Scenes.
- B. The student will have to submit a completed Director's Promptbook, chronicling the entire directing process from initial reading, research and analysis through post-production critiques. The promptbook is due no later than noon, Wed., December 12.
- C. Additionally, the student will be required to present exercises and/or written assignments, including a graduate exercise on directing and a 30 minute demonstration/lecture.
- D. Short, written discussion papers on the directing style and vision of two SRSU theatrical will be required.
- E. Participation in all class activities is mandatory.

VI. Criteria for Grade Evaluation:

A. Each student will be graded on the basis of the assignment's guidelines and the complete-

B. Breakdown of grading percentages:

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| 1. Directing Final Scene | 25% |
| 2. Directing Prompt Book | 20% |
| 3. Directing First Scene | 10% |
| 4. Graduate Research Presentation | 15% |
| 5. Graduate Exercise | 4% |
| 6. Written Critiques (2 at 2%) | 4% |
| 7. Class Assignments | 17% |
| 8. Attendance and Participation | 5% |

C. Grading will be on the following 100 point system:

90-100+ = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D Below 60 = F

D. **All work and assignments must be turned in/presented on the designated day**, or taken or

presented prior to the scheduled date if the student is absent for a legitimate SRSU activity, or the first class day that the student is back from a doctor verified illness (doctor's note must be submitted).

- E. Assignments that are late will be **penalized 25 points** per class period.
- F. Since the final grade is dependent upon the total number of accumulated points, it is important that all work be completed and turned in.
- G. Extra credit: (0-100 points) Extra credit may be given for participation/involvement in any of this semester's SRSU theatrical productions. Points will be awarded on the basis of the quality and the level of participation. Extra credit will not be given if the student is enrolled in Theatre Practicum or any theatre course unless the requirements for that class have already been fulfilled.

VII. Special Needs:

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, who is located in FH 112 or call 432-837-8203. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor prior to the third class day.

VIII. Final Schedule: Thursday, December 11, 10:15 a.m.

IX. Class Courtesy: For the courtesy of all students, **all cell phones and pagers must be turned off** prior to the beginning of the class. Emergency personnel may seek a special dispensation from the professor.

X. Syllabus: A copy of this syllabus will appear on the Department of Fine Arts and Communication's web page

XI. Tentative Semester Class Schedule:

Week of August 25	Course overview; syllabus;
Week of September 1	Chapters 1 & 2: Developing Your Directorial Vision
Week of September 8	Chapters 3 & 4: Introduction of Play Analysis and Plot
Week of September 15	Chapters 5 & 6: Character and Thought
Week of September 22	Chapters 7 & 8: Diction/Language & Music
Week of September 29	Chapters 9 & 10: Spectacle and the Prompt Book
Week of October 6	Chapters 11 & 12: Auditions and Casting
Week of October 13	Chapters 13 & 14: Planning the Rehearsal Schedule & Working with Actors; \ Part 1
Week of October 20	One Act Play and Selection of Scene Prep;
Week of October 27	Chapters 15 & 16: Working with Actors, Part 2 and the Floor Plan
Week of November 3	Chapters 17 & 18: Blocking the Play, Part One and Part Two
Week of November 10	Chapters 19& 20: Rhythm, Tempo, and Pace and Working with Actors, Part 3
Week of November 17	First Scene due
Tuesday, November 25	Preparation for full scene
Week of December 1	Preparation for and presentation of full scene
Thursday, December 11	10:15 a.m. Final Class

SRSU Theatrical Production & Special Events Schedule:

Oct. 10-11, 17-18	8:15 pm	Studio Theatre	Performances of <i>Moises: A Modern-Day Tragedy</i>
Oct. 12 & 19	2 pm	Studio Theatre	Matinees of <i>Moises: A Modern-Day Tragedy</i>
Nov. 20-22	8:15 p.m.	Studio Theatre	Performances of <i>East 2nd Street</i>