

**Theatre 4305: Independent Study Syllabus**  
**Spring, 2016**  
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**I. Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to give the upper-level theatre student the opportunity to explore his/her knowledge in a given area of theatre (i.e. directing a full-length play, performing in a one-person play, writing a full-length play, designing selected aspects of a theatrical production, functioning as a technical director on a production, etc.) Additionally, the student will show an acceptable level of knowledge of the various aspects of theatre through a comprehensive oral and/or written examination.

Theatre Arts ExCET Objectives:

- 743-001: Identify methods for developing concentration and sensory perception
- 002: Identify relaxation and warm-up techniques for the body and voice
- 003: Identify techniques for developing awareness and use of body, energy, and time
- 004: Understand the awareness and use of space
- 005: Identify elements and techniques of voice production
- 006: Identify elements and techniques for pronunciation of spoken language
- 007: Understand vocal communication of thought and emotion
- 008: Understand improvisation and theatre games as preparatory techniques for performance
- 010: Understand stage movement and blocking
- 011: Analyze procedures for developing characterization
- 012: Understand the technical (objective) approach to acting
- 013: Understand the intuitive (subjective) approach to acting
- 014: Understand play analysis
- 015: Identify elements and methods of playwriting
- 016: Understand directing techniques and procedures
- 017: Understand theatre facilities
- 018: Understand scenery and properties of theatre
- 019: Understand lighting and sound for theatre
- 020: Understand costumes for theatre
- 021: Understand makeup for theatre
- 022: Apply knowledge of principles and procedures of design for theatre
- 023: Analyze the actor-director, actor-actor, actor-technician, and director-technician relationships in theatre
- 024: Understand public relations in theatre
- 026: Understand budgets and sources of materials for theatrical productions
- 040: Understand theatre for children and mime as theatrical modes
- 043: Understand theatre appreciation

**II. Instructional Materials:**

- A) Varies with each individual area of theatre
- B) Study Guide for comprehensive examination

**III. Course Requirements:**

- A) For Direction of a Full-Length Play:
  - 1) The student will be required to turn in his/her written research material covering the playwright, the play, the period, etc., as well as pre-audition and production staff information
  - 2) The student will be required to coordinate and run the rehearsal process for the play
  - 3) The student will need to coordinate with the technical staff the completion of

all of the technical elements of the production

- 4) The student will oversee the performances of the play
- 5) The student will need to submit his/her organized prompt book for the production, which will include detailed analysis from *Play Directing* by Francis Hodge of Given Circumstances, Dialogue, Dramatic Action, Character Analysis, Idea, Moods, Temp and Tone. The prompt books must also include rehearsal schedules, cast list, audition sheets, business dealings, his/her diary, which will include rehearsal goals, notes, etc. covering the entire directorial period and an self-evaluation of the student's abilities and failings as a director, an evaluation of the senior project process, and a prognosis of the student as an artist in the world of theatre.

**B) For Acting in a One-Person Play:**

- 1) The student will submit a one-person, full-length play or several one person one-acts to his/her Project Director for approval to produce.
- 2) The student, along with his/her Project Director, will select a director for his/her one person show.
- 3) The student will submit an Actor's Notebook, which will include all of his/her research into the play, the playwright, the period, etc., plus a detailed character analysis of his/her character(s), and the scored script of the play(s).
- 4) The student will also submit his/her production diary, which will include rehearsal goals, notes, etc. covering the entire acting process and an self-evaluation of the student's abilities and failings as an actor, an evaluation of the senior project process, and a prognosis of the student as an artist in the world of theatre.

**C) For Writing a Full-Length Play:**

- 1) The student will submit several germinal ideas for plays to the Director of Theatre for consideration.
- 2) The student will regularly submit drafts of his/her play to the Director of Theatre during the course of the writing process. The Project Director will make comments upon the content, structure, writing style, characters, action, language, etc. and discuss them with the student.
- 3) Once the student has completed a final draft that has the approval of the Project Director and is in the correct playscript format, he/she will select a cast to present the play in a "Dark Night Reading".
- 4) The student will oversee the rehearsal and production process of the Dark Night Reading.
- 5) Following the reading of the play, the playwright will entertain comments from the audience, the cast, crew and director concerning the play.
- 6) The student will also submit his/her production diary, which will include research information, writing goals, notes, etc. covering the entire playwriting process and an self-evaluation of the student's abilities and failings as a playwright, an evaluation of the senior project process, and a prognosis of the student as an artist in the world of theatre.

**D) For Designing a Full-Length Play**

- 1) The student will submit to the Technical Director and the director of the play several ideas for all of the design areas of a production: scenic, costume, sound, properties, lighting and publicity.
  - 2) The student will regularly submit designs, sketches, etc. to the production team until the designs have approval of all pertinent personnel. He/she will then complete final renderings, draftings, lighting schedules, etc. to aid in the completion of the technical elements of the production.
  - 3) The student will then oversee the completion of two of the design areas. This includes working with all of the technical and production staff, as well as aiding in the construction or completion of the selected areas.
  - 4) The student will also work with the Technical Director on the completion of the other design areas as well, if asked to do so
  - 5) The student will also submit his/her production diary, which will include design goals, notes, etc. covering the entire designing process and an self-evaluation of the student's abilities and failings as a designer, an evaluation of the senior project process, and a prognosis of the student as an artist in the world of theatre.
- E) The student will have a post-production meeting with the theatre faculty and all other pertinent faculty, staff or student personnel to discuss his/her senior project.
- F) The student will pass an oral and/or written comprehensive examination, covering various topics of theatre. The examination(s) will be developed by the theatre faculty using the student's theatre courses as a basis for the test.

#### **IV. Criteria For Grade Evaluation:**

100% of the student's grade will be determined upon the basis of several factors, which may include faculty evaluation(s), student/participant evaluations, audience evaluation, production/technical team evaluation, completeness of prompt book/designs/play drafts, actor's notebook, journal/diary writings, self-evaluation, etc.