

# Directing I: THEA 3318:001

Fall, 2016

Instructor: Dona Roman  
Office: 203C Fine Arts Bldg.  
Phone: x8219

Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00  
TR 3:30-5:00 or by appointment  
E-mail: droman@sulross.edu

Theatre Student Learning Outcomes: This course is designed to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes applied to all Theatre majors. The graduating theatre student will demonstrate:

1. A knowledge of the 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 script.
4. The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
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.
7. The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

## I. Course Description:

Application of directing and staging techniques upon selected scenes and short plays for laboratory purposes. Included are the fundamentals of blocking, script analysis, achievement of emphasis, and the development of aesthetic values.

## II. Goals for the course: Student Learning Outcomes

The goal of this class is to gain a basic understanding of the principles of directing.

- To achieve knowledge of staging, analysis, director/actor communication, the balance between truth and technique, and the performance process itself.
- To improve student's organizational and communication abilities.
- Understanding and developing strategies for solving problems and making decisions, considering alternative courses of action, developing criteria for evaluating outcomes, and analyzing results.

## III. Text:

Play Directing: Analysis, Communication, and Style,  
By Francis Hodge and Michael McLain. Allyn & Bacon

**IV. Techniques of Instruction:**

1. Reading and discussion of reading material.
2. In-class projects.
3. Constructive criticism of in-class projects.
4. Active peer, instructor, and self-evaluation.
5. Outside projects: directed scene from one-act play.

**VI. Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Mastery of directing techniques and skills = 20%
2. Midterm project (scene) = 10%
3. Completion of in-class projects = 20%
4. Instructor, peer, and self evaluation = 20%
5. Final class project (one-act play) = 30%

**V. Organization of Course Content:**

- Week 1 Course Introduction and Assignment Review
- week 2 Chapters 3 & 4  
The Foundation and Facade of the Play Script  
The Hard Core of the Play Script
- Week 3 Chapters 5 & 6  
Idea and Rhythmic Beats  
The Director's Preparation
- Week 4 Chapters 7 & 8  
Directing is Working with Actors  
Leaning to See
- Week 5 Chapters 9 & 10  
The Ground Plan  
Composition
- Week 6 Chapters 11  
Helping Each Actor Intensify
- Week 7 Chapters 13 & 14  
The Dynamic Tool of Movement  
Coordinating Visual Tools
- Week 8 Chapters 15, 16, & 17  
The Director's Job is Finding Oral and Visual Balance  
Directing is Designing  
The Director and the Stage Machine
- Week 9 Chapters 18, 19, & 20  
Director's Option 1: Choice of stage  
Director's Option 2: Scenery  
Director's Option 3: Costume, Makeup, and Sound Effects

Week 10 Chapter 21  
Responsibility to the Audience

Weeks 11-14 Major Project: Rehearsals and Performance

**Final: Performance of Scene: TBA**  
**One-Act Play promptbook is due on exam day: Monday, December 5**

**VI. Grading Scale:**

100-90% = A  
89-80% = B  
79-70% = C  
69-60% = D  
59% or below = F

**ADA STATEMENT:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu).