

## **Directing I**

THEA 3318-001

Fall 2021

Class Meeting time: T/Th 9:30am-10:45am

Class Location: Marshall Auditorium (in Morelock Bldg.)

Instructor: Eva Gil

Office: Fine Arts Building, 203B

Email: [eva.gil@sulross.edu](mailto:eva.gil@sulross.edu)

Cell: 917-331-9273 Office: 432-837-8372

Office Hours: Drop-in between 11am-12pm MWF. Or by appointment (send an email to set up a time).

### **Course Catalog Description:**

The technology and application of directing for the stage. Prerequisite: THEA 3312

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

**SLO 1** Students will develop the ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance and/or design.

**SLO 2** The student will develop the ability to employ analytical and critical thinking skills through directing, playwriting, theatre history and script analysis, so that they will work creatively and concretely with actors and technicians in mounting laboratory theatrical productions.

**SLO 3** The student will develop the ability to demonstrate and apply standard industry requirements to all aspects of technical production.

### **Additional Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Understand how to analyze a dramatic text in order to direct it as well as better observe it.
2. Learn tools for applying your imagination and individual creativity to rehearsing and staging effectively.
3. Learn how to direct actors, what terminology is used, and how to effectively convey notes.
4. Be able to formulate Director Concepts and sharpen your distinct artistic taste/curiosity.

### **Texts:**

We will have excerpted readings from the following texts (not required purchases but consider getting for your personal library):

*Directing Plays, Directing People*, Mary B. Robinson

*The Director's Craft* by Katie Mitchell

*Tips, Ideas for Directors* by Jon Jory

*A Sense of Directing* by William Ball

Other assigned readings, etc will be made available via Blackboard. You must have access to Sul Ross email, Blackboard.

**Marketable Skills:**

- 1. Strong oral and written communication skills.
- 2. Strong analytical skills.
- 3. Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

**Course Assignments:**

All written assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard by start of class on the date due. 10% off grade per day late, up to a week unless there is an emergency and prior arrangements have been made.

Class Discussions

There will be discussions about readings, viewings, feedback for your colleagues. Come prepared with notes, questions, etc. To get credit for this portion of the course you must be participating in each discussion.

Directing Text Analysis and Journal (3)

Worksheets will be provided for the analysis of plays and process journals. Due dates and further info on Blackboard.

Directing Scenes (3)

You will be assigned two plays and pick scenes to direct for in-class sharings. The scenes should be around 3-5 minutes in length. The third play/scene will be your choice.

Director Concept (2)

On your own you will read 2 additional plays this semester of your own choosing and you will create a director concept for each play (use the Director Concept questions for this assignment). One is due at mid-term one, at end of semester. Further info and due dates on Blackboard.

Final Reflection Paper

Further info and due dates on Blackboard.

Final Exam Period

Mon 12/6 8am-10am Sharing of Final Scene work.

**Assignment Grading:**

Attendance/Discussions/Participation: 75 pts  
 Direction of Scenes: 3 @ 50 pts = 150  
 Director Concept 2 @ 20 = 40 pts  
 Directing Text Analysis (Scene 1, 2, 3): 3 @ 65 pts = 195  
 Reflection Paper: 40 pts

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 =500 pts

**Course Grading:**

A= 450-500 pts B= 400-449 pts C= 350-399 pts D= 300-349 pts F= 0-299 pts

### **Important Fall Semester dates:**

8/23 Start of Fall Semester classes  
8/26 Last day to register/change classes  
9/6 Labor Day, no classes  
9/8 Last day to drop 16 wk class without being on Academic Record  
10/18 Mid-term  
11/24-26 Thanksgiving Break, no classes  
12/1 Last Day of classes  
12/2 Dead Day  
12/3, 6-8 Final Exam Period  
12/9 Grades due for Graduating Seniors  
12/10 Commencement  
12/13 Grades due for all other students

### **Course Policies:**

1. Phones are put away and ringers off for the duration of class. (If there's a reason you need to be contacted in class, please let me know).
2. No food or beverages consumed during class (water ok and encouraged).
3. Please be respectful of each other regarding constructive criticism; receive and give feedback in a professional, courteous manner.
4. There should be no aggression, micro, or macro toward each other. We cannot be vulnerable in this art form or in a learning space if we are working in a negative environment. Please bring me any issues.
5. Leave your day at the door, come into class with "clean feet." Be ready to work with joy, curiosity, and discipline.
6. Written work must be proofed/spell checked. Points will be taken off for errors. Take your written work to the Tutoring Center if you need assistance with your writing skills.
7. If you are absent on the day of a presentation you will receive a zero unless there is an emergency and a plan has been established and I have been contacted PRIOR to class as well as your actors.
8. Attendance: this class is participation heavy. You cannot experience the work if you are absent. Most of the points are based on your being in class and participating! It will be very difficult to make up missed classes. I allow 2 absences per semester with no penalty on your Attendance grade. After that, it is 2 pts off per absence from Attendance point allotment. Per Sul Ross policy at: 9 absences for MWF or 6 for T/TH, a student may be dropped from the course. That being said, if you are ill please do not come to class, notify me in advance and we can make arrangements.
9. There might be material presented that you find challenging; please be open-minded. As actors we will be asked to play many different roles with different moral codes, behaviors, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, etc. sometimes far from our own experiences and points of view. If you are to explore this work deeply, you must allow yourself the creative freedom to explore vantage points that are different than your own. Please bring me your concerns.
10. I will be wearing and encourage you to wear a mask to keep our community safe.

11. If you have questions about Covid protocols or need to Self-Report if you have a positive test, please go to this site: <https://srinfo.sulross.edu/covid-19/> Also, inform your professors so that accommodations can be established. You must self-report! Free testing will be Mondays and Thursdays this fall.
12. Grades (with feedback on assignments) will be posted on Blackboard where you can also see your Cumulative grade. Attendance/Participation points will be assessed at Mid-term and at Finals.

## **Student Resources and Policy Statements:**

### **Tutoring/Writing Center**

Students who would like assistance with classwork and writing skills: Phone: 432-837-8865.  
Email: [tutoring@sulross.edu](mailto:tutoring@sulross.edu). More info: <https://www.sulross.edu/TLC>

### **Libraries**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine, offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123). The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass. Offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, [library.swtjc.edu](http://library.swtjc.edu). The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

### **Office of Information Tech Help Desk:**

Phone: 432-837-8888 Email: [techassist@sulross.edu](mailto:techassist@sulross.edu)

### **Blackboard Help Desk 24/7:**

Phone: 888-837-6055. Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

### **Student Mental Health Services**

To get Mental Health Counseling, call 432-837-8203 or stop by the Counseling Center, Ferguson Hall, Room 112 <https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/mental-health-counseling-services/>

### **Sexual Misconduct Resources**

Student Counseling Services: Phone: 432-837-8203. Ferguson Hall Room 112  
<https://www.sulross.edu/title-ix/sexual-misconduct-resources/>

### **SRSU Disability Services**

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact

Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### **SRSU Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

### **Classroom Climate of Respect**

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

### **Diversity Statement**

"I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you."

### **Kognito Training**

Kognito At-Risk for Students is an online, 45-minute training program designed to help you recognize signs of emotional distress, effectively discuss your concerns, and refer students to mental health counseling. If you complete this training program, take a screenshot of the certification screen and email it to me and I'll give you 10 pts of extra credit:

<https://blogs.sulross.edu/counseling/kognito-training-mobile-friendly/>

\*Please see Student Academic Regulations for additional SRSU policies: <https://www.sulross.edu/catalog/undergraduate-academic-regulations-2/>

## Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change):

Readings, due dates, and other assignments posted on Blackboard.

### Week 1

Tues 8/24: Classes Begin: Syllabus, Intro. What is directing? Your experiences.

Assignment: Read Intros readings: Robinson 1-14, Jory XVI, Ball 13-22, Mitchell 1-5. For all readings, prep at least three questions for each reading/author.

Thurs 8/26: Discuss Intros readings. Go over Text Analysis Worksheet. Go over Director Concept Worksheet.

Assignment: Read *Proof*, read Text Analysis readings: Jory 17-35, Mitchell 47-49, Robinson 19-21. Prep answers for Intuition, Theme, Place, Time from Worksheet.

### Week 2

Tues 8/31: Discuss *Proof*, discuss answers to Intuition, Theme, Place, Time from Worksheet. Work A/B scenes for Objectives, Characterization.

Assignment: Read Mitchell 11-30, do Back History lists from Worksheet and Character Biographies.

Thurs 9/2: Discuss Back History and Biographies. Work A/B Scenes for Relationship.

Assignment: Read Mitchell 54-55. Do Atmosphere, Events, Titling Scenes and Acts from Worksheet.

### Week 3 (No classes-Mon Sept 6- Labor Day)

Tues 9/7: Discuss Atmosphere, Events, Titling Scenes and Acts from Worksheet. Work A/B scenes for Atmosphere and Events/Titling. Decide *Proof* Scenes.

Assignment: do Scene Text Analysis for Proof Scenes from Worksheet. Read Table Work: Jory 62, 67-76, Robinson 69-78.

Thurs 9/9: Discuss Scene Text Analysis. Discuss Table Work readings, create questions for Table Work of Proof. Discuss Staging area possibilities for the three scenes.

Assignment: Read Blocking/Rehearsing: Ball 58-61, Robinson 79-88, Jory, 77-84, 90-91.

### Week 4

Tues 9/14: Discuss Readings on Blocking. Work blocking exercises/experiments.

Assignment: Read Talking to Actors: Robinson 89-106, Mitchell 127-129  
Ball, 88-92

Thurs 9/16: Discuss Readings on Talking to Actors. Work mini-rehearsal with feedback. Discuss plan for *Proof* rehearsals.

### Week 5

Tues 9/21: *Proof* Table Work with actors the whole play then each scene.

Thurs 9/23: Begin working scenes, Director #1 in-class rehearsals.

### Week 6

Tues 9/28: Director #2 in-class rehearsals

Thurs 9/30: TBD

### Week 7

Tues 10/5: Director #3 in-class rehearsals

Thurs 10/7: Director #1 in-class rehearsals. Submit and get approval for Scene #3 your choice, secure your actors and schedule outside rehearsals (should be rehearsing no later than week of 11/8 with two in-class showings on 11/23 and 12/6. Actors must be able to come to these two classes.)

### Week 8

Tues 10/12: Director #2 in-class rehearsals

Thurs 10/14: Director #3 in-class rehearsals. Assignment: Read *Gruesome Playground Injuries*.

### Week 9

Tues 10/19:(Mid-term) Post-mort on *Proof* scenes.

Discuss *Gruesome*. Directing Analysis for *Proof* and Journal due on Blackboard.

Thurs 10/21: Director Concept #1 due on Blackboard.

### Week 10

Tues 10/26: Table work for Scene #2 (*Gruesome Playground Injuries*) with actors

Thurs 10/28: Director #1 in-class rehearsals

### Week 11

Tues 11/2: Director #2 in-class rehearsals

Thurs 11/4: Director #3 in-class rehearsals

### Week 12 (start outside rehearsals for Scene #3)

Tues 11/9: Director #1 in-class rehearsals

Thurs 11/11: Director #2 in-class rehearsals

### Week 13

Tues 11/16: Director #3 in-class rehearsals

Thurs 11/18: Post-mort on GPI scenes. Directing Analysis/Journal due on Blackboard for GPI.

### Week 14

Tues 11/23: Bring outside scenes to class sharing and for notes (No classes Wed 11/24-11/26)

### Week 15

Tues 11/30: Guest Speaker, Director Tim Koch. Director Concept #2 due.

Week 16 (Dec 3, 6-8 Finals Week) Our Exam Period is Monday 12/6 from 8am-10am. Share Scene #3 for grade. Final Reflection Paper due.