



## THEA 2140

**Division:** Fine Arts

**Department:** Theater Arts

**Course:** THEA 2140

**Title:** Directing

**Catalog Description:**

This course is an analysis and laboratory application of theories of stage direction. It examines directing as art and craft, with emphasis upon the director as an interpretive artist, acting coach and administrator/manager. For professional, civic and educational settings.

**General Education Requirements:** N/A

**Semesters Offered:** Spring

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 6

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** THEA 2033 or instructor

**Justification:**

This course satisfies a lower-division recommended core requirement for undergraduate theatre majors with equivalent courses at four-year institutions in Utah and elsewhere. It fills a major requirement for theatre arts majors and otherwise satisfies elective credit criteria.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

As a result of the course, students will be able to:

- - a. Composition; b. Picturization; c. Movement; d. Rhythm; e. Pantomimic dramatization
  1. Apply the theoretical, aesthetic, and practical tasks of a director as artist and craftsman.
  2. Apply acting theory and technique essential for the success of a director as an acting coach.
  3. Apply the director's media through the application of the elements of:
    4. Utilize and develop skills as a manager of people (actors/designers); time (schedules/deadlines); and space (proscenium, thrust, arena stages).
    5. Synthesize and apply critical evaluation to performance tasks.

**Content:**

1. Script analysis:

- a. Circumstances (time, setting, locale)
- b. Plot (action: linear, circular, episodic)
- c. Character (background, motivation, relationships)
- d. Obstacles and Effects
- e. Language (dialects, regionalisms, poetry, prose)

2. Director-actor relationships and visual tools:

- a. Communicating
- b. Visual perception and visual coordination
- c. Ground plans, composition and picturization
- d. Gesture and improvisation
- e. Movement dynamics

3. Speaking a play: Oral and visual balance

4. Designing and staging a play:

- a. Symbolization and synthesis
- b. Types of stage space
- c. Scenery, properties, lighting
- d. Costume, makeup, sound

5. Audience composition and dynamics

6. Production styles:

- a. Actor
- b. Playwright
- c. Director
- d. Modern plays
- e. New Plays f. Musicals/Opera
- g. Historical plays

Students will participate in supervised lab activities, during which they will demonstrate practical application of the material they are introduced to by lecture, reading and discussion of each unit.

Labs include:

- a. Major Project 1A: Scene Practice
- b. Major Project 1B: Diagnostic Criticism
- c. Major Project 2: Directing with Designers
- d. Major Project 3: Designing and Directing Your Own Black box Production-Series

**General Education Outcomes:**

- 1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Each student will be required to read the textbook and selected plays. Quizzes and exams will be given to test their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students will be asked to evaluate plays read in class through a series of written responses. They will also be required to write critiques of live performances produced by the theatre department. These responses are based on criteria that will be examined in class lectures and textbook reading. Papers and portions thereof verbally shared in class are graded and written comments are provided to the students.

3) Speak effectively in a variety of contexts.

Students will be expected to participate in oral group presentations on specific selected topics.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

One of the objectives of this course is to provide historical context to a variety of theatrical genres and styles. Students should be able to understand the historical context in which various periods of theatre developed.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

All students should be able to respond to any work of art in an articulate manner. In particular, students should be able to respond to a theatrical piece both as art and as entertainment.

**Key Performance Indicators:**

Each student will be evaluated on (percentage values are approximate):

- Attendance and contribution to regular class discussion (5% of total grade)
- Verbal and written critiques of peer laboratory performances (5% of total grade)
- Laboratory exercises and directing projects evaluated on the basis of: preparation; clear script analysis; casting; composition; picturization; oral and visual projection (55% of total grade)
- Periodic written reading quizzes (10% of total grade)
- Director s prompt books (20% of total grade)
- Written critiques of on and off campus theatrical productions with emphasis on specific directorial components (5% of total grade)

Additional course evaluations consist of:

- Subsequent participation and attendance at on and off campus theatrical productions
- Transferability to four-year programs
- Application of skills in professional, civic or educational theatre program

**Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

*Play Directing: Analysis, Communication, and Style* by Francis Hodge. Prentice Hall.

**Optimum Class Size: 12**

**Maximum Class Size: 15**

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Theater Arts Department:

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Kim Christison, PhD, Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

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Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

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Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

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Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)