

Montgomery County Community College
THA 205
Directing I
3-2-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to directing theories and methods, focusing on the directing of actors in theatre and film. Through practical exercises, students will focus on both the directing preparation process, and the practical application of directing techniques as they relate to collaborating with actors, designers, filmmakers, and other collaborators. Student directors will study an overview of directing styles, the skills required in analyzing a text for interpretation, and methods of organization for creating a production. Skills will be applied to scene-work (using student actors) and the conceptualization and presentation of live and/or filmed scenes. Students will be required to view live and/or streamed theatre and film productions.

PREREQUISITE(S):

THA 105 with a grade of C or better

Or

MSP 111 with a grade of C or better

CO-REQUISITE(S):

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Demonstrate skills which focus on the cooperation, respect and responsibility of working within a collaborative medium with professional decorum and respect.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Student Presentations Viewing and Critique of Scene Work	In Class Presentations of Scenes
2. Articulate the role, vision, and importance of stage/film directors in throughout history.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Research Project	In class Presentation of Research Project Submitted Source Materials and Citations
3. Apply skills to the creation of a live public production or narrative-style video project.	Rehearse and Perform a Theatre or Film Scene with Student Actors, Executing Basic Directing Techniques:	In Class Presentation of Scenes Edited and completed video presentation.

	Conceptualization, Guiding a Performer to a Particular Vision, Staging, Blocking, Time Management, and/or Shooting and Editing.	
4. Articulate and demonstrate directing styles and best practices.	Lectures/Discussions In-class rehearsals Demonstrations and Practice Student Presentations Viewing and Critique of Scene Work	Demonstration of Rehearsal Process Rehearsal Journal
5. Draw information from a written text to determine artistic and aesthetic choices used to interpret and communicate the writer/creator's vision (text analysis).	Assigned Readings Lectures/Discussions In Class Exercises	Directors Prompt Book, with Scene Analysis
6. Apply appropriate research and preparation techniques to create an original performance of a theatrical or cinematic work.	Student Presentations Library and On-line Research	In Class Presentations Director's Prompt Book, with Scene Analysis and Research
7. Apply skills of observation, aesthetic, and analysis to the creation of an informed critique of scene work.	Student Presentations Viewing and Critique of Scene Work Assigned Readings In Class Discussions	Rehearsal Journal Critique Journal
8. Engage with live theatre and film artists to grow a further understanding the theatrical and cinematic arts in practice.	Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) and/or Seminars, Film Screenings, and Talk Backs with Industry Professionals	In class Discussion or Response Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Director of Educational Effectiveness. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

Each class will emphasize a particular concept or skill.

The Role of Director:

- a. The evolution of the director: playwrights, actor/managers, Saxe-Meiningen and the creation of the modern “director”
- b. Theatre creative team: playwrights, designers and communicating a concept statement
- c. Film creative team: screenwriters, the cinematographer and creating a shooting plan
- d. Managing the team: stage management and inspiring a production team

The Text:

- a. Text analysis: interrogation of the script
- b. Discovering structure and form in a script
- c. Identifying actions within text
- d. Integrating themes within a conceptualization
- e. Preparing the rehearsal process

Rehearsing:

- a. Casting: defining a role clearly
- b. Communicating a vision: guiding artists to a shared goal
- c. Methods, theories, and vocabulary for working with actors
- d. Blocking methods: using space and movement to define focus
- e. “yes, and..”: The power of listening and building
- f. The film set: audio, lighting, cameras, set design

Class Presentations:

- a. Scene work and rehearsal
- b. The Director: Styles and History
- c. Conceptualization: a personal exploration of a full-length theatre or video piece, articulating research, concept, goals, and interpretation for a production

LEARNING MATERIALS:

A Sense of Direction: Some Observations on the Art of Directing | Author: William Ball

Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays | Edition: 2 Author: David Ball

Directing Actors: Creating Memorable Performances for Film and Television | Author: Judith Weston, 2021

Kazan on Directing | Elia Kazan, 2010

Or

Alternate texts as appropriate to the course

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Michael Whistler and Timothy Gallagher	Date: 9/22/2010
Interim VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 1/19/2011
Revised by: Michael Whistler and Timothy Gallagher	Date: 2/10/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 2/15/2013
Revised by: Timothy Gallagher	Date: 12/15/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 1/8/2018
Revised by: Tim Gallagher	Date: 4/18/24
VPAA or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 11/19/2024



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved, and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.