

Montgomery County Community College
THA 205
Directing: Creating the World of the Stage
3-2-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course gives theatre artists the tools for moving a story from page to stage. Student directors will study an overview of the role of the director in theatre history, the skills required in analyzing a text for interpretation, and basic organization for creating a production. These skills will then be applied to scene-work (using student actors), as well as the conceptualization and presentation of a theatre piece. Students will be required to attend live theatre performances. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

REQUISITES:*Previous Course Requirements*

- THA 105 Introduction to Acting I: Improvisation and Fundamentals with a minimum grade of “C”
- THA 114 Introduction to Theatre with a minimum grade of “C”
- THA150 Theatre Production Workshop I: Introduction to Stagecraft with a minimum grade of “C”

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Use 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 directors in theatrical history.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Research Project	In class Presentation of Research Project Submitted Source Materials and Citations

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Apply skills to the creation of a public production.	Rehearse and Perform a Scene with Student Actors, Executing Basic Directing Techniques: Conceptualization, Guiding a Performer to a Particular Vision, Staging, Blocking, and Time Management	In Class Presentation of Scenes
4. Identify the specific use of the imagination as an artist's tool; applying specific techniques and methods to free the imagination for the creation of a performance.	Lectures/Discussions 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	Prompt Book, with Scene Analysis
6. Apply appropriate research techniques to create an original performance of a theatrical work.	Student Presentations Library and On-line Research	In Class Presentations 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 theatre artists to experience and understand theatre arts in practice.	Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) and/or Seminars, Talk Backs with Theatre 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 Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. 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. The creative team: playwrights, designers and communicating a concept
- c. Managing the team: stage management and constructing a production

The Text:

- a. Discovering structure and form in a script
- b. Identifying actions within text
- c. Integrating themes within a conceptualization

Rehearsing:

- a. Casting: defining a role clearly
- b. Communicating a vision: guiding artists to a shared goal
- c. Blocking: using space and movement to define focus
- d. “yes, and..”: The power of listening and building

Class Presentations:

- a. Scene work and rehearsal
- b. The director in history: an investigation and presentation on seminal theatrical artists
- c. Conceptualization: a personal exploration of a full-length theatre piece, articulating research, concept, goals and interpretation for a production

LEARNING MATERIALS:

A Sense of Direction: Some Observations on the Art of Directing | Edition:

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

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.

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: Date: 1/8/2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. F. W. S.", located in the upper left quadrant of the page.

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.