



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: THEA

Course Title: Directing Actors

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 3611 002

Credits: *Click here to enter text.*

Course Description

Introduces basic directing techniques utilized in rehearsing and presenting acting scenes for stage and screen performance. Places emphasis on text analysis and effective communication with actors to achieve honest and believable performances in the intimate style of camera acting, as well as the highly physical acting style of the stage. Includes studies in script structure, visualization, movement, pace and rhythm, gesture and rehearsal techniques.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Chase Grant

Student Learning Outcomes

1	Create a director's book that defines the processes and goals formulated for the production.
2	Articulate the strengths and weaknesses of the varied approaches to directing.
3	Critique the work of self and others in a constructive and concrete manner.
4	Identify dramatic structure with specific examples from Student's chosen directing project.
5	Utilize the collaborative production process when working with each member of the production company.

Course Materials and Texts

ESSENTIAL TEXT:

- *The Empty Space: A Handbook for the Theatre*
Peter Brook

RECOMMENDED READING:

- *The Directors Craft: A Handbook for the Theatre*
Katie Mitchell
- *Different Every Night: Freeing the Actor*
Mike Alfreds
- *The Actor and the Target*
Declan Donnellan
- *Notes on Directing*
Hauser and Reich

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

1) **Quizzes:** There will be 10 quizzes throughout the semester, on topics ranging from readings, plays, and lectures/discussions in class. Quizzes will always be due BEFORE CLASS STARTS on the due date. Quizzes will be available on Canvas.

10 quizzes @ 10 points each – 100 possible points (10% of overall grade)

2) **Assignments:** There will be 10 assignments throughout the semester, contextually dependent on what we are working on at the time in class. The first assignment, for example, is a critique of a play. As we move through the process of the director, topics including text preparation, director concept, auditions, and other aspects of directing, the assignments and requirements will reflect accordingly. All assignments will have details and expectations on Canvas in their respective assignment page, and will be discussed in class ahead of their due dates. Points will vary according to requirements per each assignment and range from 50-100 points.

10 assignments w/varying point value – 590 possible points (59% of overall grade)

3) **Discussions:** There will be eight online Canvas discussions throughout the semester. These will normally require an initial post due on a Tuesday, with response to peers due by the Friday of that week. The discussions are designed to help prompt deeper engagement with course material, and will be graded based on depth of response (i.e. surface level posts will lose points).

7 discussions @ 30 points each - 210 possible points (21% of overall grade)

3) **Attendance and Participation:** See ‘Attendance Policy’ below for details about how your attendance can impact your score. In addition to the attendance policy, high levels of involvement in all areas of the course, including active participation and engagement in discussions, professional engagement during in-class workshops and activities, and a constructive attitude throughout each class period is expected. Failure to engage as detailed above may result in deduction of attendance and participation points.

Attendance and Participation - 100 possible points (10% of overall grade)

Grading Scale

A	94-100%	940-1000
A-	90-93%	900-939
B+	88-89%	880-899
B	83-87%	830-879
B-	80-82%	800-829
C+	78-79%	780-799
C	73-77%	730-779
C-	70-72%	700-729

D+	68-69%	680-699
D	63-67%	630-679
D-	60-62%	600-629
F	0-59%	001-599

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Click here to enter text.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week #	Date	Title of Lecture	Assignments Due	To Do Before Next Class
1	T 1/7	Intros		Quiz 1: Goals Quiz
1	Tr 1/9	Syllabus Day	•Quiz 1: Goals Quiz	•Take Quiz 2: Syllabus Quiz •Submit Assignment 1
2	T 1/14	History of the Director pt. I	•Quiz 2: Syllabus Quiz •Assignment 1: Best Directing Ever	•Read Empty Space ch. 1 pt. I •Take Quiz 3 •Post in Discussion 1
2	Tr 1/16	Empty Space Discussion pt. I	•Quiz 3: Empty Space pt. I •Discussion 1: Empty Space	•Read Empty Space ch. 1 pt. II •Take Quiz 4
3	T 1/21	Empty Space Discussion pt. II		•Read Empty Space ch. 1 pt. II •Take Quiz 4
3	Tr 1/23	Empty Space Discussion pt. III	Quiz 4: Empty Space pt. II	•Watch All My Son's (NT) •Take Quiz 5 •Post in Discussion 2
4	T 1/28	Preparing a Text I	•Quiz 5: All My Son's •Discussion 2: Preparing a Text	•Submit Assignment 2
4	Tr 1/29	Preparing a Text II	•Assignment 2: Preparing a Text	•Watch Antigone •Take Quiz 6 •Post in Discussion 3
5	T 2/4	Directors Concept I	•Quiz 6: Antigone •Discussion 3: Directors Concept	•Submit Assignment 3
5	Tr 2/6	Directors Concept II	•Assignment 3: Directors Concept	•Watch The Seagull •Take Quiz 7 •Post in Discussion 4
6	T 2/11	Character Prep/Casting I	•Quiz 7: The Seagull •Discussion 4: Character Prep/Casting	•Submit Assignment 4
6	Tr 2/13	Character Prep/Casting II	•Assignment 4: Character Prep/Casting	
7	T 2/18	Guest Lecture		•Read Purpose of Preparation •Take Quiz 8

7	Tr 2/20	Purpose of Preparation/Group Up For Final Project	•Quiz 8: Purpose of Preparation	•Take Quiz 9
8	T 2/25	Introducing the Text: Table Read	•Quiz 9: Directing Scene Info	•Post in Discussion 5
8	Tr 2/27	First Rehearsals: On Our Feet	•Discussion 5: Working With Actors	
9	T 3/4	Exploration: Honing Intentions		•Complete Assignment 5
9	Tr 3/6	Polish: Giving Notes	•Assignment 5: Working With Actors Response	
10	T 3/11	No Class - Spring Break	No Class - Spring Break	No Class - Spring Break
10	Tr 3/13	No Class - Spring Break	No Class - Spring Break	No Class - Spring Break
11	T 3/18	First Rehearsal: Table Read		•Submit Quiz 10
11	Tr 3/20	Observed Rehearsal Time	•Quiz 10: Rehearsal Plan	•Submit Assignment 6
12	T 3/25	Guided Rehearsal	•Assignment 6: Guided Rehearsals	•Post in Discussion 6
12	Tr 3/27	Guided Rehearsal	•Discussion 6: Guided Rehearsals	•Submit Assignment 7
13	T 4/1	Observed Rehearsal Time	•Assignment 7: GR Reflection	
13	Tr 4/3	Observed Rehearsal Time		
14	T 4/8	Assessed Rehearsals	•Assignment 8: Assessed Rehearsals	•Post in Discussion 7
14	Tr 4/10	Assessed Rehearsals	•Discussion 7: Assessed Rehearsals	
15	T 2/15	Assessed Rehearsals		
15	Tr 2/17	Assessed Rehearsals		•Submit Assignment 9
16	T 4/22	Final Rehearsal Time	*Assignment 9: AR Reflection	•Direct Assignment 10
16	Tr 4/24	Finals - 11am-12:50pm	•Assignment 10: Final Performance	Nothing, you're done. Go home.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

Plagiarism

As explained in UVU's [Student Rights and Accountabilities](#) page, all students are expected "to maintain absolute integrity and high standards of individual honesty in academic work, and to observe a high standard of conduct for the academic environment." Under such expectations, the UVU English department views plagiarism as a serious offense that does not align with the university's mission and values. Our expectation is that every student's work will be their own and use outside sources in a manner that consistently gives proper credit to those sources through established academic conventions.

Plagiarism has occurred if you:

- Use the exact wording of another author or source in such a manner that it appears to be your own, regardless of the form in which those words originally appeared (e.g., a book, article, lecture, web site, speech, graphic, or any other form such as an AI text generator)
 - Paraphrase (put into your own words) another author's wording in a manner where the language and/or syntax is too similar to the original passage and is not properly cited
 - Fail to clearly acknowledge the partial or full authorship of someone else when submitting work
 - Fail to cite or quote textual resources properly, despite the instructor's attempts at educational intervention
 - Fabricate false information that is not corroborated by the actual research used on a writing project
 - Have someone else, paid or otherwise, write your paper or use a paper mill site that contains ready-to-use papers written by other people
 - Generate and submit a paper using artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT
-

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.