



Master Course Syllabus

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

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: THEA

Course and Section #: 3614 001

Course Title: Directing Actors for Film

Credits: 3

Course Description

Builds upon concepts covered in Directing Actors for Stage and Screen. Includes class workshops and demonstrations followed by class/instructor critique. Requires completion and presentation of a director's book. Culminates in public presentation of a short film. For Digital Media Majors and Theatre Majors with instructor approval.

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	Critically analyze student's own directing and that of others.
2	State conceptual positions as they relate to the student's production.
3	Reveal the intentions of a script's author.
4	Conduct an audition leading to the casting of student's production.
5	Oversee all aspects of a production from conception to final adjudication.

Course Materials and Texts

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Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

1) **Assignments:** There will be 10 assignments throughout the semester, contextually dependent on what we are working on at the time in class. 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.

10 assignments - 35-50 points each - 450 possible points

2) **Directing Project I: Filmed Monologue** Your first directing project for the course will allow you to gain an understanding of the acting process and directing process first hand. You will select a monologue for film, memorize the monologue, and coach (and be coached) by your directing peers, culminating in a filmed presentation of the performance and formative feedback by the instructor. Final submission must include 5-10 minutes of directing student actively engaged in coaching their actors.

1 Directing Project I - 100 points

3) **Directing Project II: Scene from a Film** Your second directing project will involve selecting a filmed scene, and recreating that scene with actors. Recommended that the scene have no more than three actors total (ideally two). Assessment emphasis on acting performance (cinematography, complexity of shooting, etc. will not factor into final grade) and evidence of considered direction. The project will culminate in a filmed presentation of the scene and formative feedback by the instructor. Final submission must include 5-10 minutes of directing students actively engaged in coaching their actors.

1 Directing Project II @ 150 points

4) **Directing Project III: Page to Film** Your final directing project will task you with choosing some form of textual story and adapting the story into a 4-7 minute scene. Can include stage plays, short stories/novels, video game narratives, radio shows, etc. Recommended that the scene have no more than three actors total (ideally two). Assessment emphasis on acting performance (cinematography, complexity of shooting, etc. will not factor into final grade) and evidence of direction. Actors can be both fellow students in the class and/or students outside of the class. The project will culminate in a filmed presentation of the scene and formative feedback by the instructor. Final submission must include 5-10 minutes of directing student actively engaged in coaching their actors.

1 Directing Project III @ 200 points

5) **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 points

Assessment Breakdown

Assignments:

- Assignment 1: Open Scenes 35 points
- Assignment 2: Character Profile 45 points
- Assignment 3: Assessed Rehearsal 45 points
- Assignment 4: Reflection on Directing Project 1 50 points

- Assignment 5: Scene Prep 50 points
- Assignment 6: Assessed Rehearsal 45 points
- Assignment 7: Reflection on Directing Project 2 50 points
- Assignment 8: Pitch 35 points
- Assignment 9: Assessed Rehearsal 45 points
- Assignment 10: Final Reflection 50 points

450 points total 45%

Film Projects

- Directing Project 1 100 points
- Directing Project 2 150 points
- Directing Project 3 200 points

450 points total 45%

Participation

- Active participation in-class 100 points

100 points total 10%

Total

1000 points total 100%

Grading

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

Date	Title of Lecture	Assignments Due	Next Class
T 1/7	Introductions/Expectations		
Tr 1/9	Syllabus Review		Memorize Open Scenes

T 1/14	Open Scene Rehearsal/Filming		Submit Assignment 1
Tr 1/16	Screen Open Scene performances	Assignment 1: Open Scenes	
T 1/21	Monologues		Pick a Monologue
Tr 1/23	Developing a Character		Submit Assignment 2
T 1/28	Memorization and the Actor	Assignment 2: Character Profile	Prepare for Assignment 3
Tr 1/29	Coaching Actors Demo: The Mighty Why		Prepare for Assignment 3
T 2/4	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 3: Assessed Rehearsal	
Tr 2/6	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 3: Assessed Rehearsal	
T 2/11	Monologue Rehearsal/Filming		
Tr 2/13	Screen Monologues	Directing Project 1: Monologues	Submit Assignment 4
T 2/18	Dialogue: Anatomy of a Scene	Assignment 4: Reflection on Directing Project 1	Pick a scene to direct
Tr 2/20	Text Analysis: Preparing a Scene		Submit Assignment 5
T 2/25	World of the Scene	Assignment 5: Scene Prep	Memorize Your Scene
Tr 2/27	Rehearsal: How to Work With Actors On-Book		Prepare for Assignment 6
T 3/4	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 6: Assessed Rehearsal	
Tr 3/6	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 6: Assessed Rehearsal	Prepare to film scene
T 3/11	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	
Tr 3/13	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	
T 3/18	Scenes Rehearsal/Filming		Submit Directing Project 2: Scenes
Tr 3/20	Screen Scenes	Directing Project 2: Scene from a Film	Submit Assignment 7
T 3/25	Final Project: Discussion	Assignment 7: Reflection on Directing Project 2	Submit Assignment 8
Tr 3/27	Pitch Day	Assignment 8: Pitch	

T 4/1	Advanced Directing Techniques: Points of Concentration		
Tr 4/3	Working with Actors Demo		
T 4/8	Rehearsal Time		
Tr 4/10	Rehearsal Time		Prepare for Assignment 9
T 2/15	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 9: Assessed Rehearsal	
Tr 2/17	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 9: Assessed Rehearsal	
T 4/22	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 9: Assessed Rehearsal	
Tr 4/24	Assessed Rehearsal	Assignment 9: Assessed Rehearsal	
T 4/30	Presentation of Final Project	Directing Project 3: Stage to Screen	Submit Assignment 10
Tr 5/2	Final Meeting	Assignment 10: Final Reflection	

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 Theatre 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

While the above actions can happen with intentionality to deceive, plagiarism can also happen accidentally (due to careless resource use, not using proper citation methods, and not understanding the conventions of our chosen style guide). Though intentional vs accidental is often a judgment call for an instructor, it's important to note that accidental plagiarism is still plagiarism—a serious need to address the incident arises regardless. Though the resulting consequences may vary based on the degree of intentionality, any form of plagiarism will be addressed with equal seriousness.

The most serious infractions may lead to your instructor filing an incident report with the Student Conduct office. In this scenario, you have the right to appeal the report with the English department chair. Regardless of the chair's decision, the incident report remains a part of your permanent record. If you are unhappy with the chair's ruling, you then have the right to file an appeal with the Dean. The Dean's decision on the matter will be final.

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.