



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

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FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
DRAM 411 Introduction to Directing
Fall 2019

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Vanessa Porteous TBA Vanessa.porteous@ucalgary.ca Tuesday 2:30-3:30pm, Thursday 2:30-3:30pm, by appointment only, 12 hours notice please, via email.
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	Tuesday 3:30-5:20pm; Thursday 3:30-5:20pm CHD 015. Break out rooms CHE 004 and CHE 107
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Readings distributed in class; video links and other resources provided by instructor. Each student will direct a five minute excerpt of a play and be cast in two or three more, so every student will have to read a minimum of three or four plays, as selected by the students with instructor's approval.
Prerequisites	DRAM 223; One of DRAM 200 or DRAM 210: Intro to Acting II, and one of DRAM 340 or DRAM 346, Seminar in Drama I.
Course description	Fundamental approaches and skills in directing covered through theory and practice. Course Hours: 3 units; (2-2) Antirequisite(s): Credit for Drama 411 and 410 will not be allowed.
Course overview	In this foundational, practical introduction to the art of directing for the stage, we will investigate the tools directors use to tell stories in the theatre, in particular: the use of place and space; the rudiments of theatrical story structure; the physical score; elements of design; language and text; working with actors. Students will study, observe, learn, and put these tools into practice as directors, in both non-text and text-based work. Mandatory: Attendance at a performance of one professional production in the Calgary theatre season, between Friday September 5, 2019, and Wednesday November 6, 2019 Mandatory: A minimum of 2 hour-long rehearsals of group silent storytelling project outside class hours, which must occur before October 17, 2019, and 2 ninety-minute rehearsals of text-based scenes outside class hours, between November 18 and December 3, 2019. To be scheduled by the students. Optional: (to be confirmed): Exclusive invitation to observe one rehearsal of Calgary Opera's Amahl and the Night Visitors, directed by Vanessa Porteous. Between November 26, 2019 and Dec 6, 2019. Outside class hours. Date and time to be confirmed. RSVP required.
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Observe and analyze the director's fundamental tools of expression in work they witness; begin to use those tools themselves. 2. Demonstrate basic familiarity with historical context of the role of the director, and awareness of some contemporary directors. 3. Identify and respond creatively to the expressive qualities of a space as a site for performance.

	<p>4. Recognize, analyze, and communicate the basic elements of theatrical story in non-text based scenarios and within written text.</p> <p>5. Work with collaborators to apply knowledge of visual composition, physical relationship, blocking, and theatrical movement to create a physical score that tells a story to an audience.</p> <p>6. Articulate the role of design in service of a story; select and employ a simple design element in a scene.</p> <p>7. Guide collaborators in basic acting choices and interpretation.</p> <p>8. Demonstrate some collaborative and leadership skills required of a director, such as listening and responding to the ideas of others, clearly expressing one's own, and working together for the best outcome.</p> <p>9. Articulate awareness of their own artistic development; demonstrate the ability to apply theoretical learning in their creative practice.</p>
Course schedule	A detailed course schedule will be distributed on the first day of class.
Assessment components	<p><u>Assignment 1</u>: Five in-class quizzes occurring weekly during first half of semester Assessment Method: student-graded in class, verified by instructor. Description: In class quizzes to test retention and understanding of subject-relevant material (readings and multi-media links). Weight: 2% each for 10% total of overall grade Due Date: Same day. (Last quiz: Tuesday Oct 5, 2019) Note: failure to attend a quiz without submitting a Statutory Declaration ASAP to the instructor will result in a zero on that quiz.</p> <p><u>Assignment 2: Site-Responsive, Non-verbal storytelling project</u> Assessment method: graded by Instructor after presentation, based on rubric distributed in advance. Projects will be evaluated for how well they demonstrate the use of four of the directorial tools of expression explored in class and through readings and multi-media links. Note: All participants in each project may receive the same grade. Description: Students will work collaboratively in groups of 2 or 3 to select a non-traditional performance site located near the classroom. Over several weeks, in class and during a minimum of 2 hour-long rehearsals outside class time, together they will devise, rehearse and perform a very brief story told without words. They will explore and employ the first four storytelling tools explored in class: use of space and place; story; physical score; a design element. On the day of presentation, students will submit their rehearsal logs. (Logs will be returned to students after grading.) Weight: 15% of overall grade. Due date: day of presentation October 22, 2019 Note: Failure to attend on the day of presentation without submitting a Statutory Declaration ASAP to the instructor will result in a grade below 49% on this assignment. (For information about how to obtain a Statutory Declaration, please see https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq)</p> <p><u>Assignment 3: Written observation of a professional production in Calgary. 500-750 words.</u> Assessment method: Graded paper based on rubric distributed in advance. Description: Students attend a professional production of their choice, then observe, analyze, and describe the means of expression, besides language, text, and acting, that the production uses to communicate its story to an audience. Attach ticket as proof of attendance please. Weight: 15% of overall grade</p>

Due: Thursday Nov 7, 2019
Note: late papers will lose 10% of grade a day

Assignment 4: Scene Presentation

Assessment method: Graded by instructor after scene presentation based on rubric distributed in advance. A director's skills in collaboration are equally as important as their mastery of story-telling tools. Therefore, each student will be given a grade on 1) Their mastery of directorial skills, and 2) Their collaborative contributions as performers in other projects. (Note: acting talent or ability per se will not be graded.) These two grades will be **equally weighted**. The average will form the student's grade for this assignment.

Description: Students select a five-minute excerpt/scene of a play. In groups of 3 or 4, the students cast each other in the scenes. They each take on the role of director and apply the six expressive tools explored in class: use of space and place; story; physical score; a design element; text/language; working with actors. In addition to scheduled rehearsal time within class, a minimum of two 90 minute rehearsals outside class are mandatory. Scenes will be presented during class time on the two final sessions in the semester. Performers may remain on book but must demonstrate familiarity and ease with the text. On the day of presentation, students will submit *copies* of their rehearsal logs.

Weight: 20% of overall grade

Due Date: Tues Dec 3 and Thurs Dec 5, 2019

Note: Failure to attend on the day of presentation without submitting a Statutory Declaration ASAP to the instructor will result in a grade below 49% on this assignment.

Assignment 5: Self-reflection essay, 1250 – 1500 words.

Assessment method: Graded by instructor based on rubric distributed in advance.

Description: Meta-cognition, or the ability to understand one's own learning and creative process, is a key skill for a director. Students will submit a paper that articulates key moments of learning and discovery throughout the semester, and how those breakthroughs have influenced their directorial work on the scene. Students should cite specific examples from class discussion, assigned readings and multi-media links, attendance at a theatrical production (assignment 3), and their own rehearsal logs, to chart their development, both in the six directorial tools that form the focus of the class, and more holistically, as a learner. Identify areas of strength and passion, and opportunities for further growth and learning. Honesty about what did not go as planned, what you have learned from that, and what still remains to be discovered, will be rewarded more highly than self-praise. This written articulation of one's own learning process is the most important assignment of the semester.

Weight: 30%

Due date: Monday Dec 9, 2019 (the Monday after final class).

Note: Late papers will lose 10% a day

Assignment 6: Communicating artistic ideas/Contribution to ensemble

Assessment method: Daily observation by instructor and TA. A rubric will be distributed on first day of class. Students will receive a mid-semester update on their grade in progress.

Description: Communicating and discussing artistic ideas with collaborators is one of the fundamental skills of directing. Students will be assessed for the quality and

	<p>impact of their contributions to artistic conversation in class discussion, and for their ability to listen and receive the ideas of others.</p> <p>In addition, as a leader the director must model a high level of contribution to the ensemble. The most basic way you contribute is by being there when required. Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals is mandatory. If you fail to show up to an agreed upon, scheduled rehearsal of a scene you are cast in, whether during class hours or outside class hours, you will automatically receive 0/10 in Assignment 6, regardless of your other work in this area.</p> <p>The University of Calgary takes physical and mental health very seriously. If your non-attendance at a pre-scheduled rehearsal is due to illness that incapacitates your participation, or a family emergency, the instructor will require a Statutory Declaration to that effect, as soon as possible. In that instance only, you will not receive a 0/10. (A statutory declaration is an oath signed by a notary on campus. The form is available to download from the Registrar ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals and you can meet with a Commissioner for Oaths by visiting Enrolment Services during regular business hours. For more information, please consult the Student FAQs on the use of statutory declaration/medical notes, and April Vizcko, Chair & Associate Professor, Drama.)</p> <p>If you are facing a health or family emergency, please alert your collaborators as soon as possible, so they can attempt to reschedule, and please alert the instructor.</p> <p>Weight: 10%</p> <p>Due Date: Dec 5, 2019.</p>												
Assessment expectations	<p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p> <p><u>Formatting:</u> All assignments must be submitted in type-written hard copy using MLA style.</p> <p><u>Late assignments:</u> Will lose 10% of their final grade a day starting at end of class on day assignment is due.</p> <p><u>Attendance at rehearsals:</u> Support for each other's work is essential in theatre. Students are expected to be on time for and attend all rehearsals of their own projects and projects in which they are cast, whether within class hours or outside class hours, up to the mandatory minimum of rehearsals. If a student misses a previously scheduled and agreed upon rehearsal, and does not provide a Statutory Declaration to the Instructor within 24 hours, they will automatically be graded 0% on <u>Assignment 6</u>.</p>												
Grading scale	<p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2019-2020 OR as outlined in the section H.1 Distribution of Grades of the Graduate Calendar for 2019-2020:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="505 1717 1495 1934"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Grade Point Value</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A+</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Outstanding performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Excellent performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>3.70</td> <td>Approaching excellent performance</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance	A	4.00	Excellent performance	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
Grade	Grade Point Value	Description											
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance											
A	4.00	Excellent performance											
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance											

	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance	
	B	3.00	Good performance	
	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance	
	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	
	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance	
	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.	
	*D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	
	*D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.	
	F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.	
	**I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.	
	CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable	
	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations. • The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy. 			
Student Support	Please visit this link for a concise list of UCalgary's student support services: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines			
Academic integrity, plagiarism	The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar (ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html ; ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html) and are reminded that plagiarism—using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it—is an extremely serious academic offence. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.			
Internet and electronic communication device	elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2/ ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app The in-class use of computers may be approved by your Instructor. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be silenced or turned off upon entering the classroom. If you violate the Instructor's policy regarding the use of electronic communication devices in the classroom, you may be asked to leave the classroom; repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without explicit permission of the Instructor. For more information on Freedom of Information and Privacy visit: ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip			
Copyright	All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of			

	the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.
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