

Theatre 464  
Monday & Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00  
Spring 2008  
Office Hrs: MWF 10:00

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## Directing II

### Course Summary

This course is designed to continue a systematic approach to the process of directing which would further enable a beginning director to undertake the challenges, methods, and the responsibilities of play production- from inception to completion. While looking at various approaches to directing, our study of directing will cover a phenomenological approach to the analysis process that will develop into a working process of play analysis and production, based upon the given circumstances of the dramatic form being produced.

In our continuance of this approach we will develop processes for the many stages of production and directorial functions including: play selection, blocking and picturization, design, casting, rehearsals, actor coaching, self-awareness and personal style.

Though theatre is a collaborative art form, the majority of a director's work is alone— in process— preparing for the moments when they must communicate their ideas to their actors, designers, and ultimately their audiences. Toward this end, we will seek to develop communication tools that will assist the director in presenting their artistic concepts to other physical and visual artists involved in production.

Plan on doing and re-doing a good deal of thinking and writing during the course.

“Each piece of the puzzle, both when found and when put in place,  
changes and redefines the shape of the whole.”

### Course Requirements

1. Successful completion of all performance deadlines, all readings and assignments. As additional assignments will be given out daily in class and as syllabus time-lines naturally adjust themselves during the course, **you are responsible to keep account of and in time with both the syllabus and daily class assignments.** A good director anticipates their deadlines. **Late work is NOT acceptable. Late assignments- if accepted- will be assigned a significantly lower grade. If you are not turning in work - you will fail the course.**
2. Each student is required to see the rehearsal of two different scenes and provide a written response to their observations. Along with this they must provide the scene directors with a copy of their notes from that rehearsal. The directors are required to respond to both sets of given notes as a separate part of their Prompt Book Rehearsal Journals.
3. Along with all assigned readings in your texts, you are also required to read each play being produced in class. All directors are required to provide two copies of their chosen script to the class, in order to accommodate timely reading. (Plan on reading, reading, and reading.) Quizzes based on the texts, and assigned plays.
4. A Mid-Term Assignment - To Be Arranged: (20%)  
(Most possibly your completed analysis)
5. All students must be prepared to show their work and ready to discuss and/or respond to the ideas and plays presented **on a daily basis.** Those students ready to participate and engage in class discussions,

ready to take risks, show their work, or otherwise attempt to demonstrate conceptual directorial ideas, will, simply stated, be the ones getting and doing the work. **Unprepared students and students who are not actively engaging in the course will be asked to withdraw from the class.** (1, 2, & 5 = 15%)

6. A completed Prompt Script containing the following:

Complete Hodge Analysis	Communication with Designers
Spines	Set Design/Costume Design
Units of Action/Root Action Analysis	Floor Plan
Intentions/Verbs/Action Words	Pre-blocking Notation

The more organized you are the easier your work will be. (25%)

7. A Rehearsal Idea Journal marking your travel, what you intended– what you got, your discoveries, your losses, etc. These are to be written in daily- as you think of your play, as well as, possibly before but definitely after, each rehearsal. Rehearsal and personal directing issues recorded in your journals will become material discussed in class weekly. (15%)

8. Preparation of a 20 minute 3 - 5 character scene/act from a **full-length contemporary realistic play**. Some of the scenes will be seen twice during the class as rehearsals-in-progress and presented as the final at the end of the course. (25%)

9. Attendance policy- Attendance **is mandatory**. Students are expected to attend all classes. To even have to state this seems to me to be ludicrous. The likelihood is that if you intend on missing classes, you will fail this course. **After 3 official or un-excused absences, your final grade (based upon the average of the whole of your work) will be lowered one full letter grade. For each subsequent absence your grade will be lowered another full letter grade. Students missing 6 classes will receive a failure for the course. Absences on the day of your presentations will count as double. Three tardies equals one absence.** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from fellow students.

As stated in the 2007 University Bulletin, “Students are responsible for all class work missed, regardless of the reason for the absence. Immediately upon the student's return to class, a conference should be arranged with the instructor to determine what action on the student's part is necessary to compensate for the time lost and materials missed due to the absence.”

Further clarification of the University’s attendance policies, can be found on pages 395 - 396 of the University Bulletin.

**10. Due to the performance laboratory nature of the class, evening Mid-term and Final performances will likely be scheduled. You are required to attend.**

### Texts

Hodge, Francis: Play Directing, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> ed. Prentice Hall  
Ibsen, Henrik: A Doll’s House  
Hellman, Lillian: The Little Foxes  
Mamet, David: Oleanna  
Fuller, Charles: A Soldier’s Play

All scripts produced in class

### **Grading Policy-**

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|--|-----|
| 1. Preparation, class work, effort, and commitment | 15% |
| 2. Prompt Book (Completed)                         | 25% |

- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 3. Mid-term           | 20% |
| 4. Rehearsal Journals | 15% |
| 5. Scene Work         | 25% |
- (Remember, I well understand that this is your first directing process and that even if it was your 100th production process, you may not be successful. Therefore, be advised that hard work, commitment, participation, and growth figure into this percentage.)

6. Attendance Policy- As it effect your final average

Grading scale:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
65-70	D
0-64	F

**Cell Phones** – Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom or during any class activity. **All phones are to be turned off (not just silenced) during the class period.** Likewise, text messaging is prohibited in the classroom or during any class activity. Students utilizing the phone or messaging during class will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an absence for the day. Messaging during an exam will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Students messaging during an exam will automatically receive an F for the exam and will be penalized to the fullest extent possible in keeping with the University’s Academic Honesty Policy.

**Special Needs** – Students requesting special arrangements in order to accommodate specific testing needs are responsible to inform the faculty at least one week in advance of EACH test so that these arrangements may be made. In addition, each student requesting special accommodations must provide the appropriate paperwork, as required by the Learning Center in Lee Hall.

Additionally, there is free confidential help on campus for students with psychological disabilities (Bipolar, Depression, Anxiety, etc.). Students who feel a need for assistance can contact Kim A. Warren, MSW, PhD, LCSW, Supported Education Advisor, at 482-5252 or at [kimawarren@louisiana.edu](mailto:kimawarren@louisiana.edu). Dr. Warren is located in the Conference Center, Room 126. Student can also visit the SSD website for information on SSD and SEP services.

**Moodle** – This course will use the Moodle system to post class documents, assignments, grades, as well as to disseminate any amendments to the course schedule or policies. As all material posted in this manner will become the responsibility of ALL who participate in this course, the ability to log onto Moodle and receive email at your University email account is a course requirement for all students. Any questions or concerns regarding this undertaking should be directed to the UCS Help Desk ([helpdesk@louisiana.edu](mailto:helpdesk@louisiana.edu), 482-5515).

**Academic Honesty** – Students are expected to abide by all policies of conduct as specified within University policy. Any breach of this code (i.e. forgery, plagiarism, or acts of academic dishonesty) will be enforced to the fullest extent possible (including, but not limited to, automatic failure and/or expulsion). Clarification of the University’s Academic Honesty Policy can be found on page 396 of the 2007 University Bulletin.

**Drop Procedure** – (Note - students wishing to drop should consult the student handbook for more specific information regarding University drop policies.) If you are in Junior Division, you can only obtain drop cards from Lee Hall. If you are Upper Division, then you can only obtain drop cards from the Dean’s office (The Dean for the College of the Arts is located in FL 202).

Please be aware that dropping a course may have adverse effects and that the following statement appears on the drop card you are required to sign: “I accept full responsibility for all consequences, including academic, financial aid and health insurance, of dropping this course.” Therefore, although you are under no obligation to consult faculty prior to dropping a course, please consider discussing your plans with your professor prior to taking this action.

**Emergency Egress Procedures** – A map of this floor detailing both the Designated Rescue Area (area where emergency service personnel will first check for individuals in need of assistance) and evacuation route is posted near the entrance. Students who need additional assistance should identify themselves to the teaching faculty.

### **Course Timeline**

January			
23	W	No Class	<b>Research Plays</b>
28	M	Course Outline, Syllabus	Read: A Doll’s House Prep: Doll’s 1 <sup>st</sup> Notes
30	W	<b>Unit I - Given Circumstances</b> A Doll’s House - Quiz/1st Notes	Prep: Doll’s Previous Action Ideas & Polar Attitudes
February			
4	M	No Class - Mardi Gras	
6	W	No Class - Mardi Gras	
11	M	Previous Actions Polar Attitudes/Spines	<b>Play Selection Ideas Due</b>
13	W	Discussion: From Givens to Production	<b>Read Play/1<sup>st</sup> Notes</b> Read: The Little Foxes Prep: Foxes 1 <sup>st</sup> Notes
18	M	<b>Unit II - Dramatic Structure</b> The Little Foxes - 1st Notes	Prep- Foxes R. A. Analysis Prep- Foxes Units/Objectives
20	W	Action Analysis Units of Action/Beats/Objectives	Prep- Foxes Spines
25	M	Spines/Spine of Play	Read: Chosen Play Prep: Chosen Play 1 <sup>st</sup> Notes
27	W	No Class – KCACTF	Prep: Hodge Chosen Play
March			
3	M	Discuss Play 1st Notes/Hodge	<b>Work on Prompt Book Over Next Weeks</b> Prep- R. A. Analysis Prep- Spines

5	W	Root Action Analysis	<b>Auditions &amp; Casting???</b>	
10	M	Spines/Spine of Play		
12	W	Finding Environment of Play Ground Plan/ Staging	<b>1st Analysis Completed R. A. Statements &amp; Spines</b>	<b>Prepare Mid-term</b>
17	M	<b>Rehearsal Schedule Due</b> Ground Plan/Staging		
19	W	<b>Mid-Term Due/</b> Catch-up/ Ground Plan Staging	<b>Completed Text Analysis Due</b>	
24	M	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Work on Prompt Book Units/ Titles/ Ground Plan</b>	
26	W	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Block Your Show</b>	
31	M	Catch-up	<b>Objectives &amp; Tactics in Script</b>	
April				
2	W	Theatre Space Staging	<b>Blocking Notation Completed</b>	Prep: Design Ideas
7	M	Design Elements Costume/Set/Lighting	<b>*Nyalls in Rehearsals* *Next Three Weeks*</b>	
9	W	Design Elements	<b>Design Notes</b>	
14	M	No Class - HLC	<b>Director in Rehearsals</b>	
16	W	Discussion: Student Work Q & A - Prompt Book		
21	M	No Class - Ohio University	<b>Director in Rehearsals</b>	
23	W	No Class - Ohio University	<b>Director in Rehearsals</b>	
28	M	Discussion: Student Work Catch-up - Q & A - Prompt Book		
30	W	Discussion: Student Work		
May				
5	M	Discussion: Student Work		
7	W	<b>Prompt Books Due/ Final</b>		
12 - 14		<b>Final Class Time - TBA</b>		