



**THE 597: ADVANCED SUMMER THEATRE WORKSHOP  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II 2022  
LION THEATRE CAMP: JULY 11-23, 2022**

**Instructor: Rebecca Worley, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre**  
**Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon or by appointment**  
**University Email Address: Rebecca.worley@tamuc.edu**

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Required Textbooks:**

As the bulk of this course will be focused on experiential learning and practical application, there is no required textbook.

**Course Description:**

Preparation and performance, with laboratory, of summer productions. Techniques, practices, problems, and processes in lighting, costume, scenic, sound, management, directing, and acting for the graduate student.

This course will explore individual methods for negotiating and addressing artistic and/or managerial challenges during the practical, developmental process of theatrical production (2022 Lion Theatre Camp productions – instructor approval required for enrollment – Theatre Majors Only).

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate development of skills and proficiency in executing advanced creative and/or managerial activities.
2. Determine personal artistic and/or managerial strengths and challenges.
3. Communicate ideas regarding theatre topics using effective communication skills.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:**

**Active Participation (50 points):** *Note that attendance alone at required activities does not constitute active participation.* Active participation is a *very large* portion of your grade in this course – for good reason! This is an interactive environment focused on experiential learning, and students must not only attend required activities as determined by their assigned positions, but must also actively, appropriately, and consistently contribute throughout the entire process of production/course development and realization. Positive, respectful and helpful attitudes

are mandatory. *I would like to make this very clear: I will make every effort to treat you with the respect that I believe you deserve. You are also expected to treat your peers and me with that same respectful attitude.* Disrespect, rudeness, or negative attitudes will *substantially* lower the student's participation grade. **Please also note that failure to complete assigned web training and approval of a background check by the assigned deadlines as communicated by the instructor will result in substantial loss of participation points, re-assignment of duties for the class, and may result in failure of the class – please do not make this mistake.**

Finally, it should go without saying that refusal to participate in any activity or part of an activity as expected in the student's assigned position will result in a substantial and appropriate loss of participation points for the student and/or dismissal from position and subsequent failure of the class. This is a class that regards self-development as a goal. You and your peers will arrive at various levels of creative and/or managerial proficiency, and you will leave at different levels; however, I challenge you to push yourself to grow and succeed – no matter how much previous experience you may have in your assigned position. This class is concerned with developing *your* skills to the best of *your* ability. As graduate students, you should understand the importance and absolute necessity of contributing as a very active co-facilitator of your own educational process. Truly, this class is a stellar example of the insightfulness of the old adage: "You will get out of it what you put into it."

**Points for Growth Outline (5 points):** Each student will develop a document clearly outlining *three to five points* in which they hope to achieve artistic, managerial, and/or pedagogical growth through the process of executing their assigned duties at Lion Theatre Camp. *Each point should be numbered and stated directly in one complete sentence.* Your Points for Growth Outline will serve as a jumping off point for your Process Journal (as described below) and for noting and achieving your own developmental goals via your participation at Lion Theatre Camp. Your Points for Growth Outline should be sent to the instructor via email no later than 11 a.m. on Monday, July 11 (first day of camp).

**Process Journal (20 points):** Each student will be expected to engage in daily journal notations throughout the primary production/course development/realization process from Monday, July 11 through Saturday, July 23. *The daily journal notations should specifically document the student's immediate impressions regarding his/her own artistic, managerial, or pedagogical negotiations, successes, and challenges from the days in question. Please document very specific examples for yourself in your daily journal entries.* The daily notations in the Process Journal are intended to be done in a "safe space" in which the student can uninhibitedly document their immediate impressions of experiences. The student's engagement in the required daily entries of the Process Journal is largely executed on "the honor system." Under normal circumstances, the daily entries in the Process Journal will not be viewed by the instructor; however, during interactions with the instructor, should it appear that a student is not making daily journal entries, the instructor reserves the right to ask to see the journal entries at any point. If journal entries are not completed at that time, appropriate points will be deducted from the Process Journal grade.

The student will earn his/her grade for the Process Journal by reflecting on all of the daily journal entries at the conclusion of the developmental/performance experience of the production(s)/class(es), synthesizing the whole of the experience, and writing a more formal **Final Process Journal Entry of three-to-five full pages in length** to be submitted to the instructor. The three-to-five page Final Process Journal Entry should document, explain, analyze, and offer specific examples of *at least three* of the student's overall, major, recurring strengths/successes and *at least three*, overall, major, recurring challenges during the creative, managerial, and/or pedagogical process of the production/class development/realization period. When documenting both the successes and challenges, please also be sure to highlight any relevant negotiations of artistic, managerial, and/or pedagogical methods that you enacted. Avoid knee-jerk responses (keep those responses for your personal, daily journal entries). Really reflect in great depth on the whole of the experience for this final, formal entry. While the daily journal notations can (and perhaps should) be "stream of consciousness writing," this Final Process Journal Entry should not.

The Final Process Journal Entry should be a formally written essay and should be typed, double spaced, utilize one-inch margins on all four sides, and a 12 point Times New Roman or 10 point Arial font. The Final Process Journal Entry should include the student's name at the top of the page; the student should title the document Final Process Journal Entry. Given the nature of this reflective document, there is no need to include a Works Cited page with this document unless you choose to use outside research to support your claims; if you choose to use outside research, please follow MLA format with parenthetical citations and include an appropriate Works Cited page.

Graduate students will be graded on the depth of thought and the content of their Final Process Journal Entries, as well as the formal construction of the documents – so please use your very best writing skills. ***The Final Process Journal Entry is due via email as a Microsoft Word attachment or Google Doc to the instructor no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.***

**Instructor Observation (15 points):** The instructor will conduct an observation of your work via the performance(s) and/or during the time leading up to the performances at the end of camp. The student will be graded on his/her effectiveness of executing the assigned duties. More about scheduling will be communicated to you at a later date.

**Oral Defense (10 points):** Each student will complete one 20-30 minute formal Oral Defense of their Final Process Journal Entry. The Oral Defenses will be scheduled individually with the instructor **during the week of August 8-12 via Zoom**. During the defense, the instructor will ask questions regarding the student's experiences, may ask the student to clarify and/or expand on points in the written essay, and prompt students to critically think about and discuss relevant theatre topics. During the defense, the instructor will also communicate points for improvement in the student's formal writing. Please view the Oral Defense as you would an "interview" in many regards. Review what it is that you submitted to me beforehand, and be prepared to discuss, revise your thoughts, or add to those thoughts appropriately to frame yourself in the most professional, articulate, and knowledgeable ways possible. The student will be graded on the depth of their critical thought and ability to communicate such thoughts in an effective way. More about scheduling will be communicated to you at a later date.

**Grading:**

The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

90-100 =	A
80-89=	B
70-79=	C
60-69=	D
59 and below=	F

**Please note: A grade of "A" will not be assigned to an individual who has not completed ALL outside of class assignments, regardless of average.**

**CAMP DUTY ASSIGNMENTS/DIRECT SUPERIOR CONTACT**

- **Tara Abell, Voice for Musical Theatre Teacher** – Direct Superior: Becca Worley; Donna Deverell, Technical Coordinator and Production Manager: [donna.deverell@tamuc.edu](mailto:donna.deverell@tamuc.edu); AND Cade Sikora, Scene Shop Foreman: [cade.sikora@tamuc.edu](mailto:cade.sikora@tamuc.edu)
- **Deana Caffey, Assistant Acting Teacher (all three acting classes)** – Direct Superiors: Eric Skiles, Acting Teacher: [eric.c.skiles@lonestar.edu](mailto:eric.c.skiles@lonestar.edu); ; Donna Deverell, Technical Coordinator and Production Manager: [donna.deverell@tamuc.edu](mailto:donna.deverell@tamuc.edu); AND Cade Sikora, Scene Shop Foreman: [cade.sikora@tamuc.edu](mailto:cade.sikora@tamuc.edu)
- **Vanessa Eichler, Stage Manager/Asst. Director, *The Book of Everything*** – Direct Superior: Becca Worley; Donna Deverell, Technical Coordinator and Production Manager: [donna.deverell@tamuc.edu](mailto:donna.deverell@tamuc.edu)
- **Kara Freeman, Assistant Properties Designer (all shows)** – Direct Superior: Baxter Chaney, Properties Designer, [baxterchaney@gmail.com](mailto:baxterchaney@gmail.com); Holly Stone, Properties Designer, [hstone1221@hotmail.com](mailto:hstone1221@hotmail.com); AND Donna Deverell, Technical Coordinator and Production Manager: [donna.deverell@tamuc.edu](mailto:donna.deverell@tamuc.edu)
- **Jill Ludington, Director, *The Book of Everything*** – Direct Superior: Becca Worley
- **Joshua Mata, Assistant Movement Teacher (all three movement classes)** – Direct Superiors: Glenn Price, Movement Teacher: [glenn.price@annaisd.org](mailto:glenn.price@annaisd.org); Donna Deverell, Technical Coordinator and Production Manager: [donna.deverell@tamuc.edu](mailto:donna.deverell@tamuc.edu); AND Cade Sikora, Scene Shop Foreman: [cade.sikora@tamuc.edu](mailto:cade.sikora@tamuc.edu)
- **Kiley Towne, Stage Manager/Asst. Director, *She Kills Monsters*** – Direct Superior: BK Goodman, Director: [its6319@gmail.com](mailto:its6319@gmail.com); AND Donna Deverell, Technical Coordinator and Production Manager: [donna.deverell@tamuc.edu](mailto:donna.deverell@tamuc.edu)

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

**Technical Support:** If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Contacting Me:**

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the session/camp. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. Communicate, communicate, communicate! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is **via email**. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

### **Email Policy:**

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check D2L/ask a classmate first**. If your question has already been addressed in one of those places, then you will have the answer you need. If you cannot find the answer, please feel free to email me.

**When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear, concise, and written with proper grammar in order to assure my earliest attention. In addition, please follow some common “email etiquette” procedures in order to keep our electronic communication effective and efficient. Specifically:

- Write a relevant subject line (e.g., “Adv. Summer Theatre Workshop question,” or “THE 597 meeting request”)
- Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor Worley" or "Hi Becca" or just "Becca")
- Bonus: "meaningless niceties" are never a bad idea!
- Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, perhaps request an appointment. **If requesting an appointment**, give me times that you are available **in the initial email!!!** My office hours are posted above.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and **sign your name**.

**Not following these guidelines potentially puts you at the bottom of my list for response time.**

### **Student Resources:**

#### **Department of Theatre**

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
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### **Face-Coverings**

While I cannot require that you wear a mask while in class/at camp, I **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** you to do so.

### **Attendance Policy:**

**Attendance during camp is mandatory** I have designed this course for those serious students of the theatre who are committed to developing as artists and leaders and generating an exceptional product. With that said, serious students of the theatre do not skip assigned duty sessions unless there is an absolutely unavoidable very extreme emergency. In this graduate-level class, there is no such thing as an “excused” or “unexcused” absence. You must attend every work session as appropriate to your assigned job. You are expected to have done any outside work necessary before attendance at these sessions, as well.

### **Late Work:**

I do not accept late work.

### **Extra Credit:**

As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class – please, do not even ask.

**Adaptation of Assignments:**

Due to the fluid nature of this class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

**Incompletes:**

Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will NOT be given for a final grade in this course. Per University policy, students who **because of circumstances beyond their control** are unable to attend classes will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of X (incomplete) in all courses in which they were ***maintaining passing grades at the time of the request*** for an incomplete.

**University Specific Policies and Procedures:****Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

**TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

**Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **ADA Statement**

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

***Please note restrictions that apply when minors are present, as will be the case at Lion Theatre Camp.***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for



students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**BEFORE CAMP BEGINS (NO LATER THAN DATES LISTED)**

- June 24      Contact and introduce yourself to your primary direct superiors if you have not already and offer to help with any preparatory work.  
Daily reviews of Base Camp for assigned shows/reading of scripts/executing any artistic/managerial preparation duties requested and/or needed by superiors  
Regular communication with direct superior at camp (through Base Camp or otherwise)
- June 30      **Web training and background check completed** (Instructor has sent the links.)
- July 6 (tent)      **Required Camp Orientation Meeting @ 11 a.m. via Zoom**

**WEEK ONE (7/11-16) – CAMP!**

- July 11      **Required Staff Meeting @ 11 a.m.**  
**Points for Growth Outline due via email by Staff Meeting**  
\*Everyone should plan to work until approximately 9:30 p.m. on this day  
(Director/SMs Only: You are also required to attend the casting meeting)
- July 11-16      Artistic and Managerial Reflection Activities via Process Journal  
Instructor Check-ins  
Daily reviews of Base Camp for assigned shows/reading of scripts/executing any artistic/managerial preparation duties requested by superiors; and/or regular communication with superior as needed requested  
**Instructor Observations**

**WEEK TWO (7/17-23) – CAMP!**

- July 17-23      Artistic and Managerial Reflection Activities via Process Journal  
Instructor Check-ins  
**Instructor Observations**
- July 20      **Class Showcase (9:30-11:20 a.m.)**
- July 22      **Performances of Shows for Camp – Respondent: Dr. Carrie Klypchak**  
Everyone is required to attend the performances & observe the respondent

July 23

**Final Performances/Strike/Camper Checkouts**

Performances will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 23. Everyone should plan on worked that day from approximately 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**WEEK THREE (7/25-29)**

Work on Final Process Journal

Recover from camp

Schedule Final Oral Defense with instructor (via Google form sent by instructor)

**WEEK FOUR (8/1-5)**

M Aug 1

**Final Process Journal Entry due** by 5 p.m. via email to instructor

**WEEK FIVE (8/8-12)**

**Oral Defense via Zoom** scheduled individually with instructor (via Google form)