



**Course Syllabus: Fall 2023**  
**THE 415 Stage Directing I**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.; PAC 100**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Carrie Klypchak, Professor of Theatre

**Office:** PAC 129

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 (and by appointment)

**Email Address:** Carrie.Klypchak@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** Under normal circumstances, response time will be within 24 hours.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials: Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

#### **Readings:**

All primary reading materials will be provided in this class via D2L, links to Open Educational Resources, etc. Additionally, I encourage you to put money aside to order scripts in conjunction with this class. You will need to review *many* scripts in order to select the script that you will use during this course. There are a number of reputable publishers and avenues to locate and acquire scripts. Please ask if you need some guidance in your search. This will be a good opportunity for you to begin (or continue) building your own script library as well.

#### **Special Supplies:**

Special supplies for the student to acquire consist of a three-ring binder, colored pencils or pins, and typing paper (three-hole punched).

#### **Catalog Course Description:**

The procedure and the problems involved in directing a play from selection of the script, auditions, and conducting rehearsals to the final production.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, the participant will be able to

1. understand fundamental directorial principles.
2. apply quality directorial principles and concepts.
3. analyze and document choices and growth as a director.

*\*This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.*

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments *(tentative as of the posting of this syllabus)*

#### Participation and Growth (25%):

*Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Participation is vital in this class. This is an interactive environment and students must not only attend, but must also actively contribute to each class. You will not only be directing scenes, but you will be participating as actors in other class members' scenes, as well as engaging in daily in-class activities "up on your feet" based on required readings, etc.

Furthermore, the completion of miscellaneous homework assignments will also be considered part of your participation grade. There may be quite a few of these short assignments and they are all important in the development of your skills as a director. As well, participation in any ungraded quizzes to keep track of your level of understanding of directorial principles and concepts will also count toward this grade. Further, each student is required to attend at least one of the University Playhouse's season production this semester and scan in and out of the performance as evidence of attendance/successful audience member participation.

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 myself with that same respectful attitude.* If I believe that a student is disrespectful, I will ask that person to leave the classroom. In this event, the student will receive a zero for any activities conducted that day in class and receive a zero for their participation grade for the day (no matter how long the student has been in class). Disrespect, rudeness, or negative attitudes will *substantially* lower the student's participation grade. The following are other reasons you would be asked to leave the class and receive a zero for the day's activities: sleeping in class, listening to headphones, reading the newspaper, working on other assignments, coming to class under the influence of any mind-altering substance not prescribed to you by a physician, or otherwise causing disruption or distraction during class (this includes cell phones going off and texting in class – turn them off when you come into the classroom and don't turn them on again until you leave). Finally, it should go without saying that missing a class and/or refusal to participate in any activity or part of an activity during class will result in a substantial and appropriate loss of participation points for the student.

Previous directing experience will not guarantee you a good grade in this course. Significant growth and a genuine attempt within the class will. This is a class that regards self-competition as a goal. You and your peers will arrive at various levels, and you will leave at different levels. However, growth from the beginning to the end of the semester can be evaluated. I challenge you to push yourself to grow and succeed. This class is concerned with developing *your* skills to the best of *your* ability. The community of the class is here to help all of us grow and expand our abilities.

Participation will be calculated daily and Growth reflected upon/tabulated at the end of the semester. Under normal circumstances, if you are scheduled to work with a partner(s) on a day you are absent, your participation grade will be reduced double the amount it normally would for an absence. Responsibility to the people you are working with is essential for success in this class. *Each student will begin with a mid-passing Participation and Growth grade of an 80.* Strong effort or lack of effort during each class and over the course of the semester as a whole.

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*Measures Student Learning Outcomes #1, #2, and #3.*

### **Directing Exercise Scene Presentations (50%):**

You will direct and present three realistic scenes in this class, applying the fundamental principles studied. Scene Exercise #1 will be worth 15% of your final grade; Scene Exercise #2 will be worth 15% of your final grade; and the Final Scene Presentation will be worth 20% of your grade. More description will be offered in class at a later date.

*Measures Student Learning Outcomes #1 and #2.*

### **Final Class Portfolio (25%):**

Your Final Class Portfolio will include, but not be limited to: Production Book elements, including directorial research, elements of analysis, elements of directorial planning and organization, documentation, etc. and a final self-reflection addressing individualized goals. These Final Class Portfolios will have elements developed and revised throughout the semester and will count as your Final Examination in this class. More description will be offered in class at a later date.

*Measures Student Learning Outcomes #1, #2, and #3.*

## **GRADING**

### **Grading Scale:**

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

A=90%-100% (Exceptional Quality Work); B=80%-89% (Good Quality Work); C=70%-79% (Average Quality Work); D=60%-69% (Below Average Quality Work); F=0%-59% (Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

*Note: Numerical correlations for individual assignments receiving awarded letter grades in this class may be calculated as follows: A 95%; B 85%; C 75%; D 65%.*

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Leomail:**

It is a course expectation that you use your Leomail email address and that you check daily. There will be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

### **Saving of Assignments:**

Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your original and graded assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

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**LMS:**

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).

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT****Interaction with Instructor:**

Please feel free to schedule a meeting with me anytime during the semester. I am here to help! Communicate, communicate, communicate! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. Don't be intimidated. I am here to assist you in success and will do my best to help you achieve it. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Course-Specific Policies and Procedures** (*\*Many additional Course-Specific Policies and Procedures will be developed, agreed to, and distributed via our class Collaborative Community Agreement. Below documents only a very few of the many important Policies for this class as points of departure for additional development. Further policies will be collaboratively developed – primarily regarding elements of time, space, commitment, respect, and theatre etiquette.*)

**Attendance:**

Prompt and regular attendance, preparation, and full participation are expected and required in this class.

**Food, Drink, and Gum:**

Please do not bring food or drink into the theatre space where our class meets. As well, gum is never appropriate when engaging in practical performance work.

**Cell Phones:**

Please turn them off when entering the classroom and leave them off throughout the duration of classes.

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**Grades of Incomplete:**

Under normal circumstances, a grade of Incomplete (X) will not be given in this class.

**Late Work:**

Under normal circumstances, late work is not accepted in this class.

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit will not be offered in this advanced class.

**ChatGPT Use:**

Any writing generated by ChatGPT or any other form of Artificial Intelligence for submission in this class will constitute a violation of Academic Integrity and is not allowed... and it would not even prove useful given the personalized artistic scope of the written elements required in this class.

**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.

**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 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:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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**Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement:**

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:**

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)

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**COURSE OUTLINE** (*tentative as of the posting of this syllabus*)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Due</b>
Week 1 Aug. 29 Aug. 31	Introduction to the course/You Belong Here! and Profile of a Director Collaborative Community Agreement Development and Goal Setting	
Week 2 Sept. 5 and Sept. 7	Individual Goal Setting Conferences	Documentation of Individual Goals
Week 3 Sept. 12 Sept. 14	Directorial Analysis: Given Circumstances and Dialogue Directorial Analysis: Dramatic Action and Character	
Week 4 Sept. 19 Sept. 21	Directorial Analysis: Idea, Rhythmic Beats, and Units The Director's Preparation	
Week 5 Sept. 26 and Sept. 28	Auditions and Casting Approaches	
Week 6 Oct. 3 Oct. 5	Working with Actors, Perception, and Groundplans Blocking	
Week 7 Oct. 10 Oct. 12	Blocking (cont.) Composition	

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Week 8		
Oct. 17	Picturization	
Oct. 19	Working with Actors	
Week 9		
Oct. 24 and Oct. 26	Individualized Goal Progress Conferences and Play Approval	Goal Progress Documentation and Play Selection Report
Week 10		
Oct. 31 and Nov. 2	Directing Exercise Scene #1 Presentations and Practicalities of Rehearsals	Developed Scene #1
Week 11		
Nov. 7	Directing Exercise Scene #1 Presentations and Practicalities of Rehearsals	Developed Scene #1
Nov. 9	Directing Exercise Scene #2 Presentations and Practicalities of Rehearsals	Developed Scene #2
Week 12		
Nov. 14 and Nov. 16	Directing Exercise Scene #2 Presentations and Practicalities of Rehearsals	Developed Scene #2
Week 13		
Nov. 21	Planning, Documentation, and Collaboration	
Nov. 23	No class – Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14		
Nov. 28	Planning, Documentation, and Collaboration (cont.)	
Nov. 30	Final Scene Presentations	Developed Final Scenes
Week 15		

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Dec. 5 and Dec. 7	Final Scene Presentations	Developed Final Scenes
Week 16 (Final Exam Week)		
Wed. Dec. 13 3:15 p.m.	Final Exam	Final Exam: Final Class Portfolio Due by 3:15 p.m.

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