



THE 540: Directing Theory to Practice
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2024

Instructor:	Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA
Office Location:	PAC 128
Office Hours:	Immediately after class
Office Phone:	903-886-5337
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Preferred Form of Communication:	E-mail or D2L e-mail Communication Response Time: Mon-Fri within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

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

Course Description:

Through reading, discussion, and practice students will explore the theories, vocabularies, and techniques needed to direct actors from differing backgrounds and levels of training. Attention is given to creating the director/actor relationship, director/actor communication, problem solving, rehearsal techniques, and the directorial styles of specific master directors of the twentieth century. Special attention will be given to creating working texts to aid in the rehearsal process.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in directing different styles of theatre
2. Create a working text to aid in the rehearsal process.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of directing theory through practical application.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Grading:

Grades will be awarded on the following scale:

A – Exceptional Work of the highest quality	90-100
B – Solid, well thought out effort	80-89
C – Average work reflecting adequate effort	70-79
D – Below average reflecting minimal effort	60-69
F – Inadequate and unacceptable amount of effort	0-59

Note: Numerical correlation for individual assignments receiving awarded letter grades in this class may be calculated as follows: A 95%, A-90%, B 85%, B-80%, C 75%, C-70%, D 65%, D- 60%

Measurable Assignments:

(1) Active Participation	20%
(2) Directing Theory Presentation	20%
(3) Director's Concept	20% (2 @ 10% each)
(4) Directing Scenes	20% (2 @ 10% each)
(5) Evaluation Essay	20%

- (1) Active Participation (20%): Active Participation in this class is absolutely essential. Reading assignments in a timely fashion, participating in class discussions, rehearsals and performances for others' scenes, and meeting the due dates of course assignments will be evaluated and graded daily.
- (2) Directing Theory Presentation (20%): Students are responsible for a short 15-20 minute presentation on a directing theory of their choosing. Presentations should outline the key
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components of the theory along with its historical/societal impact and students experience with theory if any.

- (3) Director's Concepts (20%): Students will direct a scene assigned by the professor twice, utilizing both Brechtian/Epic Theatre Theory and the one chosen for presentation. The student will write a concept for directing the entire play with each theory.
- (4) Directing Scenes (20%): These short scenes will be directed, rehearsed, performed, and discussed in class.
- (5) Evaluation Essay (20%): The student will write an essay comparing and contrasting their experience directing with the two Directing Theories. The student should discuss how the process differed per theory and evaluate what worked, what did not work, and what learned tools they expect to use in the future.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I welcome visits during my office hours and am always happy to make appointments during a time that works best for both the student and I. I don't believe in dumb questions, though I do believe often times the syllabus has not been checked before some questions are asked. If you think it might be on there (a due date or a class policy) check there first. Otherwise feel free to e-mail me or stop by my office and/or Zoom Office Hours. Monday through Friday I will respond to e-mails with 24 hours.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these 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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

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

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

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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:

[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>

[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>

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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

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<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

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Tentative Schedule: (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Week 1

Morning: Course orientation and discussion of requirements, introductions, actor/director collaboration

Afternoon: Basic script analysis, Epic Theatre and Brechtian Directing Theory. Instructions for Presentations.

Week 2

Morning: Discussion of assigned play. Instructions for Director's Concepts.

Afternoon: Directing Theory Presentations

Week 3

Morning: Director's Concepts Rough Drafts Due. Rehearsals begin.

Afternoon: Rehearsals Continue with observation/feedback

Week 4

Morning: Rehearsals

Afternoon: Scene Presentations and Discussion

Week 5

Final concepts and Evaluation Essay due by 4pm.