



EAST TEXAS A&M
— UNIVERSITY —

THE 540: Directing Theory to Practice
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2026

Instructor:	Jackie Rosenfeld, MFA
Office Location:	PAC 128
Office Hours:	Immediately after class
Office Phone:	903-886-5337
University Email Address:	Jackie.Rosenfeld@etamu.edu
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:

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

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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 components of the theory along with its historical/societal impact and students experience with theory if any.

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- (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 East Texas A&M University 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.

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

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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

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

If at any time during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or its outcomes, please reach out to me. I am always available by email. Please communicate, I can't help if I don't know there's an issue or a question.

Email Policy:

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check myLeo Online/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 your question does not exist, please feel free to email me.

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

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Extra Credit:

Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Each satisfactorily completed assignment will be one point added to the student's grade at the end of the semester.

Late Work: I will not accept late work without prior approval.

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

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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

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences during the course of the semester. After that every unexcused will drop your final grade by one full letter.

For more information about the attendance policy and what counts as an excused absence 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 East Texas A&M University 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](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 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](#)

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

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Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation"\)](#).

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Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

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: 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.

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