



**THE 415 – STAGE DIRECTION
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026
T/TR 2-3:15 p.m.
PERFORMING ARTS #126**

Instructor: Rebecca Worley, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #105
Office Hours: MW 11 a.m.-1 p.m., T/R 11 a.m.-noon or by appointment
University Email Address: Rebecca.worley@etamu.edu
Communication Response Time: M-F within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Thinking Like a Director by Michael Bloom
 Scenes from open scenes & realistic plays (provided for you by your instructor)
 Various handouts

Additional Readings:

I encourage you to put money aside to order new scripts. This will be a good opportunity for you to begin (or continue) building your own script library. Most scripts cost around \$10 plus shipping. Since the book for this course costs very little, I would suggest putting some money aside for this expense now and begin budgeting that regularly in semesters to come. Searching for and buying new scripts will help you as a director remain aware of what is happening in the theatre world and expand your knowledge of theatrical works.

Required Viewing:

The Aliens

Directed by Rebecca Worley
 Produced in the Studio Theatre
 October 13-17 at 7:30 p.m. and October 18 at 3 p.m.

Honorable Mention

Directed by Jackie Rosenfeld
 Produced in the Studio Theatre
 November 17-21 at 7:30 p.m. and November 22 at 3 p.m.

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. The principle focus of the course is on practical work and discussion and criticism of ongoing projects. Aside from discussions of the

practical work, classroom discussions will focus on readings and events selected according to the interests and expressed needs of the students, and at the discretion of the instructor.

Prerequisite:

THE 1351: Fundamentals of Acting & THE 2355: Play Analysis with a minimum grade of C or permission of instructor

Course Introduction:

Welcome! This course provides a practical introduction to directing techniques. This class will be challenging, invigorating, and participatory. Please consider yourself part of a production rather than a classroom as it is usually understood.

Although there is a lecture/discussion component to this course, the nature of our work as directors requires substantial outside work – both inside and outside of the classroom. Please consider yourself part of a learning community where members support one another with suggestions and constructive criticism. Learning, observing, and sharing are central to this course. *Active participation in discussion and presentation of projects within the class is not only welcome; it is an essential requirement. Positive, helpful and constructive attitudes are also required!* Presentations must be well prepared and shared with the understanding that questions and discussion will follow. The ongoing critique of our work as directors is crucial to everyone's learning process.

In this course, I will serve as your teacher, director, guide, and outside eyes/ears as we work very specifically on your individual directorial efforts. I ask that you trust me and approach the work with an open mind, an open heart, discipline and commitment, and a willingness to try new things.

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

1. Define, analyze, and demonstrate the role and responsibilities of the director in a live performance
2. Understand and demonstrate the range of approaches to stage direction in the contemporary theatre.
3. Apply concepts explored and discussed in class to the execution of direction in a variety of production opportunities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING TBD

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.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 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 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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

My Personal Policy:

Please keep in mind that I am a human. I have a family. As such, please see below for my boundaries so that I may maintain my own self-care yet still be available for you as my student:

- You may email me at any point for guidance, questions, etc. I will respond within 24-48 hours between the hours of **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday**
 - General course-specific questions: **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check D2L/ask a classmate first**. If your question has already been addressed, then you will have the answer you need.
 - **When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise. 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 (ie: "Stage Directing I class question,")
 - Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor Worley" or "Hi Becca" or just "Becca")
 - Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, schedule an appointment (see below)
 - **Sign your name**
- I will **NOT** check email on the weekends, which means I will respond Monday morning.

Office Hours & Appointments:

If I am in my office & the door is open, feel free to visit me during my office hours. Scheduling an in-person or Zoom appointment in advance, however, is preferred. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code below or go to

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Attendance Policy:

You may accumulate two (2) absences before any penalty occurs. **There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Grades will be dropped in ½ letter grade increments for every class absence beyond the first two absences.** Of course, if you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor ASAP. **Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness.** Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. I will work to support you getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Late Arrivals:

The class will begin promptly at 2 p.m. If you arrive after 2:10 p.m., you will be marked absent. If you arrive within the ten-minute grace period, please do so discretely to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. **Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.**

Cell Phones and Laptops:

Please turn off all cell phones while in class. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. Laptops should only be used for class purposes.

Late Work:

Under normal circumstances, I do not accept late work.

Extra Credit:

The instructor reserves the right to offer extra-credit to all students, and to gauge its application appropriately and uniformly for all.

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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

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

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

ETAMU; Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

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 ETAMU 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.

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

Mental Health

Please make sure that you are taking care of yourself, not just with the work in this class, but also balancing what is happening in your life. Know that there are people willing to listen and help if needed. If you or someone you care about is in need of any assistance, please reach out to me or use the following resources:

- The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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.etamu.edu/counsel

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to **Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar**. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



- Crisis Text Line: Text "MHFA" to 741741
- Lifeline Crisis Chat: www.crisischat.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, call, text, or chat **988**

AI Use in Courses

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

TBD