



Course: Honors Theater Arts Advanced: Fundamentals of DIRECTING

Fall 2023; 1st block, 9:15-10:45

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Course Description: DIRECTING

This course moves the student to explore the role of theatre artist as DIRECTOR.

The roles of the theatre artist:

DIRECTOR [as . . .]

Interpreter-- analyzing and **constructing meaning** from script.

Storyteller-- **creating pictures** (with actors' bodies in relation to set, costumes, properties, lights) that effectively communicate the story on stage.

Creator-- **choosing elements** (lines, colors, shapes, textures, patterns--movement, sound, levels, sizes, relationships, architecture, materials) to enhance the story (or to tell it).

Communicator--**making known** his intentions to members of the team. This is manifested in relationships with actors, designers, and everyone else involved in the project.

Synthesizer--**synthesizing** the ideas of the creative team and unifying them into a cohesive whole.

Guide--**guiding** members of the creative team to explore avenues they might otherwise not attempt

National Standard for the Arts #4

NC Essential – Culture, Aesthetics

NCSCOS goal 4

Course Credit: one unit

Course Objectives:

- To continue to build self-esteem & confidence
- To continue to learn essential theatre vocabulary
- To explore the role of the director in theatre.
- To develop reading & analysis skills.
- To practically apply knowledge in formal & informal productions.

Teacher office hours: Mr. Taylor will be in the office from 8:30-9:00 AM daily and other times by appointment.

Attendance Requirement: Please see the student handbook for current policies. All work and learning should be made up in a reasonable time (days absent plus 2) or by arrangement with the teacher.

Tardies: (after 3) require WISE PM and documentation.

Academic Performance:

Good grades are required to be eligible to participate in all after-school rehearsals. All cast lists must go through an academic check and be approved by administration.

Performances: You will be acting & directing. Each scene will receive grades for performance, written work, self-evaluation, and peer evaluation project.

Organization:

All written assignments will be submitted on CANVAS. You may take notes on your laptop or in a notebook but should be prepared to present them for review if asked. All assignments and deadlines will be posted on CANVAS.

Class Participation:

Students will be expected to be open learners and demonstrate enthusiasm through fully participating in group discussions at an engaged level. Each student's opinion will be valued and honored.

Journals: We will be keeping a journal of our experiences on the stage, our sensory records, our reactions to various assignments and responses to quotations/ thoughts from leading directors and actors. You may record these on your laptop or in a notebook. Record the date and prompt each day and respond to it with a minimum of five sentences. An entry will be submitted on CANVAS each week by 9am Monday morning.

- journals will be graded using a rubric based on these criteria:

minimum sentence requirement; grasp of ideas; ability to phrase ideas into words; and use of application and illustration. All entries must be complete. All journals should be made up due to absences or tardies.

In-Class work and Homework:

Students will be asked to complete some in-class tasks as well as homework. These assignments will be graded. Homework is due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted.

Texts: There will not be a textbook for this course. You will be given notes and handouts on the various assignments and individual materials will be signed out to you as needed.

Reading Requirement: You will also be asked to do some reading of dramatic texts. Choices should come from the departmental library or be approved by Mr. Taylor.

Peer Evaluation: You will be filling out rubric/comment forms on every performance. Please pay attention and learn from each other.

Course Evaluation:

- Quizzes, journals & homework are averaged into the composite grade once.
- Tests & writing assignments are averaged twice.
- Workshops count as a quiz.
- Performances count as tests.

- Projects are weighted according to length, duration, and difficulty.
- Weekly participation grades count as quizzes.

Grading Scale:

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



rationale: the studio environment will be used to create a serious and supportive environment to pursue personal creativity and growth in the dramatic arts. Each day will involve warm-up, movement, and project-oriented theatre tasks.

this is how it works:

- Dress out in black movement clothes daily (loose fitting, comfortable and modest).
 - You will be expected to work barefooted or with rubber-soled socks.
- A student will sweep the workspace each day.
- Rehearsal clothing should be brought daily. Please keep it fresh!
 - Students must be laying on stage in “constructive rest” by 5 minutes after the class start time.
- Each class will begin with a warm up— participation is expected every day.
- Eventually each student will establish their own personal warm-up routine for voice and body.
- The last five minutes of each class will be for changing back into appropriate school attire.

rules:

- No one, but the teacher, watches or pays attention to anyone else during personal warm-up.
- Everyone attempts every exercise.
- Each exercise may be modified to fit personal health & fitness level.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments.
- Students are to demonstrate respect for the space, the craft, the director/coach and their fellow theatre artists (classmates).
 - Notebooks, scripts, shoes, and other materials should be kept handy in the appropriate stage areas until needed.
- Students will keep an actor’s journal as instructed each week.
 - No excuses; no alibis; no divas!

Orchestra seating or the best seat in the house or *What do I need to survive this class and keep Mr. Taylor clapping!*



- You will need to bring your laptop to every class.
- You will also want a notebook and folder for various tasks.
- Journals may be housed on your laptop or in a notebook.
- All written assignments will be submitted through CANVAS. All tests, quizzes, & writing assignments should be completed on CANVAS.
- You should maintain an assignment pad or calendar. All assignments should be recorded daily. Use the CANVAS calendar to review all tasks.
- Materials for special projects will be discussed at the introduction to each unit.
- ***All work will be submitted on CANVAS if possible. If you have a problem, send it to my email instead.***

House Rules: or What can I do to stay out of trouble, keep the class on track and make Mr. Taylor smile?

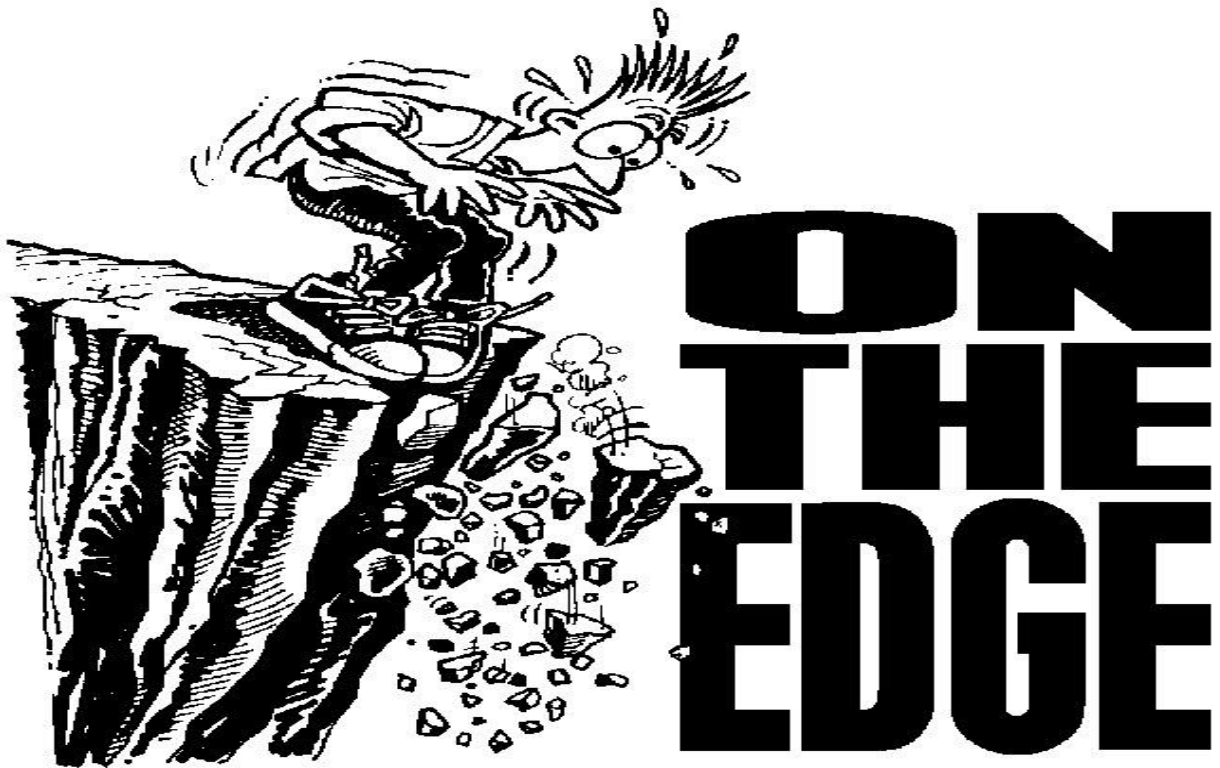


- To be on time for class, you must in constructive rest by 5 minutes after the class start time. If we are remote, you must be “in the room” on time.
- Class time is important, so it is imperative that we keep on task and avoid distractions:
 - Be in class on time.
 - Be prepared with notebook, pens and GCS laptop.
 - Please do NOT talk unless recognized by the teacher
 - Please leave the room only in an emergency
 - The bells are a signal for the teacher; students should not pack up or exit until dismissed by Mr. Taylor.
 - Water only will be permitted in this class. Please finish other food and drink before coming into the class.
 - DO NOT leave food or drink in the cubbies or dressing rooms.
 - Clear out ALL items from the cubbies, theatre, and dressing rooms after class each day.
 - Store all valuables in your lockers.
 - All students are expected to keep up with assignments. Check CANVAS daily and keep a calendar or *to do* list as needed.
- ***When you are absent:***
 - You have the number of days absent *plus 2*.
 - If you feel swamped, special extension arrangements may be made with Mr. T.
 - Performance days require your attendance; please don't leave your partners in a dilemma.
 - It is advisable to see the teacher for assignments; do not depend on your peers. Everything will be recorded in CANVAS.
 - Make sure to plan to make up tests & quizzes.
 - Late Work Policy: if present when work is assigned its due the day you return. May turn in late work for reduced credit.
 - Extra credit is available any time *except during the last week of a grading period*.
 - Tutoring and help sessions are available upon request.

We want to make sure we come off as a professional looking and acting troop in every way—it takes everyone doing their part in order to make that happen! We want to be a cut above what is normally expected from high school theatre.

AN ACTOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- A professional actor recognizes that theatre demands compromise: everyone and everything about the production will not always be to his own personal taste or satisfaction.
- A professional actor knows when to keep his mouth shut.
- A professional actor never demeans or downgrades another cast or crew member; he recognizes how each person is important to the whole.
- A professional actor is never seen in his costume before he is supposed to be seen. Once in costume an actor should not be seen by the audience until the appropriate moment. He does not wear his costume out of the theatre.
- A professional actor takes care of his costume and sees that it is hung up neatly with all its pieces after each rehearsal or performance.
- A professional actor recognizes that costume and make-up are an element of character and are the responsibility of the director; they are not a personal choice or subject to the whim of the individual actor.
- A professional actor makes sure to check all properties before and replace all properties after each performance.
- A professional actor does not whine or complain about the show, the cast, the crew, or any element of the overall production.
- A professional actor does nothing that would detract from the show: does not talk or make noise backstage; does not brake character regardless of what happens; does not ever clue the audience that a mistake has been made.
- A professional actor always behaves himself in a professional manner: his mouth, conduct, and actions will always be above reproach.
- A professional actor abides by all sightlines—always being careful not to be seen until the appropriate time.
- A professional actor always remembers his responsibilities—both on and off stage. He will remember all props, costume pieces, and set change responsibilities.
- A professional actor recognizes that he is “onstage” throughout the entire evening—that people are watching him before, during, and after a performance.
- A professional actor recognizes that his actions cast a reflection on the entire troop and will not risk diminishing the reputation of the ensemble.
- A professional actor will always be gracious to other casts and crews and will reserve any critique for the privacy of his own ensemble.



CLASS RULES

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Stay on task.
3. Follow all class procedures.
4. Follow all school rules.
5. Demonstrate respect and courtesy for peers and adults.

The roles of the Theatre Artist

The roles of the theatre artist:

ACTOR [as . . .]

Communicator-- **using body and voice** to effectively transmit the story

Sleuth-- **going underneath the words** of the text to find the intentions behind the words -- the meaning behind the manifestation.

Data analyzer -- **compiling a reality** and a truth for a character from all the clues in the text -- putting it all together and constructing a hypothesis from the data.

National Standard for the Arts #2

NCSCOS goal 2

The roles of the theatre artist:

DIRECTOR [as . . .]

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National Standard for the Arts #4

NCSCOS goal 4

The roles of the theatre artist:

DRAMATURG [as . . .]

Editor-- or "hole finder" --**searching the text** and the constructed world of the play for holes and pieces of the puzzle that don't fit.

Researcher-- **looking again** (re-searching) for any inconsistencies or incongruent elements that are structural, historical, or factual.

National Standard for the Arts #5,6,7

NCSCOS goal 5,6,7

The roles of the theatre artist:

AUDIENCE [as . . .]

Co-creator -- meeting the piece and **creating/constructing meaning** from the story told -- collectively constructing meaning with the artistic team.

Participant-- **actively participating** in the piece imaginatively, verbally (laughter, snickers, snores, coughs, applause), intellectually, emotionally (empathetic and sympathetic experiences with character on stage), and physically.

National Standard for the Arts #7,8

NCSCOS goal 7,8

The roles of the theatre artist:

DESIGNER [as . . .]

Creator-- **choosing elements** (lines, colors, shapes, textures, patterns--sound, levels, sizes, relationships, architecture, material) to tell the story visually, aurally, olfactorily, and tactilely.

Architect-- **creating the blueprint** off which other members of the team work.

National Standard for the Arts #3

NCSCOS goal 3

The roles of the theatre artist:

PLAYWRIGHT [as . . .]

Creator-- **devising the framework** within which all the other collaborators work. Creating the given circumstances of the play, the inhabitants of the world of the play, the environment of the play, and the dynamic tension that drives the piece forward or upward or inward.

Architect-- **creating the floorplan** from which the structure is built

National Standard for the Arts #1

NCSCOS goal 1

WEAVER HONOR CODE

Weaver students are expected to demonstrate exceptional character. As a reminder about the importance of integrity, students must agree to abide by our code of honor:

"I will abide by the Weaver Honor Code. I will not give or receive unpermitted assistance in the preparation of any work or assessment that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of grading."

Student signature _____

Circle course:

Freshmen Theater

Sophomore Theater

Junior Theater

Directing

Tech Theater

Script Writing & Analysis

Print Student Name: _____

Email: _____ circle one: student or parent email

Student phone: _____ parent phone: _____

By signing below, I confirm:

- That I have received the syllabus and policies for the course indicated above
- That I understand the requirements and expectations of the course
- That I recognize that it is a privilege to be a member of the school of theatre @weaver and will strive to do my best on all assigned tasks
- That I understand that I must audition a minimum of two times each year and must be available to fully participate in the shows for which I audition
- That I understand that I must participate in a minimum of TWO mainstage productions each year (either onstage or behind the scenes)
- That I understand that I must participate in at least one musical in my time as a student at Weaver.
- That I understand the expectation to earn only B's and above in my program courses and such a grade is necessary to achieve the *Curriculum Achievement Medal* (CAMY) awarded at graduation.
- That I understand that *as a Senior* I am required to perform in a Senior Showcase.
- That I understand that if I fail to be fully engaged in my program at Weaver Academy that I could forfeit my right to attend said program.

Student signature: _____

As the parent or guardian, I understand my student's responsibility to all the above

Parent/guardian signature: _____