

# THTR 7: INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTING

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
<b>Units:</b>	4
<b>Hours:</b>	3 lecture, 3 laboratory per week (72 total per quarter)
<b>Advisory:</b>	THTR 20A or equivalent beginning-level acting course; not open to students with credit in DRAM 7 or 52.
<b>Degree &amp; Credit Status:</b>	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
<b>Foothill GE:</b>	Non-GE
<b>Transferable:</b>	CSU/UC
<b>Grade Type:</b>	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
<b>Repeatability:</b>	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- A successful student can demonstrate an understanding of the relationship of the director to the total theatrical production.
- A successful student will analyze and prepare a script for production.
- A successful student will assemble actors for production through the audition and casting process.
- A successful student will dramatize a theatrical scene utilizing the fundamentals of composition, movement, business and characterization.

## Description

The qualifications of the director; the choice of plays for production; auditions and methods of casting; preparation of the play script; building the rehearsal schedule; fundamentals of composition, movement, stage business and characterization, as applied to the directing of plays.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- compare and contrast the role and responsibilities of the director to the other production members, including actors, designers and technicians, offering guidance and insight, and effective stage direction.
- survey and identify plays to direct that are appropriate for a given space and a multicultural world.
- develop and prepare a script for the direction of a production.
- organize an audition and assemble the cast of a play.
- demonstrate the direction of a play through recognizing and applying all necessary procedures and requirements from rehearsal to production.

## Course Content

- Identify and define the role of a director in a theatrical production.
  - Study the historical development of the director, analyzing how the role has changed from past to present.
  - Interpretation and vision.
  - Responsibilities to the production team in the overall process.
  - Communication tactics and effective, constructive collaboration.
  - Individuality of style.

- Develop criteria for choosing a play for production.
  - Analyze elements of technical complications.
  - Casting demands and community standards.
  - Emphasis in the importance of selecting scripts that represent a wide range of cultural, social, racial and sexual backgrounds.
- Study script analysis and develop the process of script preparation for rehearsal and performance.
  - Structure, plot, theme interpretation.
  - Character.
  - Language and dialogue structure.
  - Notation and building a prompt book.
- Understand efficient audition and casting processes.
  - Casting of type vs. talent.
  - Process of auditioning, callbacks and final casting.
  - Awareness of non-traditional casting (multi-ethnic, cross-age, etc.).
- Direct scenes with a focus on the communication of script elements.
  - Communicate cohesive directorial concept and how it translates into production.
  - Stage composition.
  - Stage movement and business.
  - Unity and style.
  - Characterization.
  - Develop and use rehearsal schedules.
  - Rehearse from a prompt book.
  - Acquire production experience.

## Lab Content

- Field research through attending live performance.
- Development and rehearsal of student performance presentation projects.

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- Large flat rehearsal area such as the auditorium stage.
- Appropriate rehearsal furniture, including chairs and tables.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

- Directing projects will be observed and graded.
- Auditions, casting, blocking, laboratory rehearsals, performances will be observed and graded.
- Lighting, settings, costumes, sound and other technical aspects will be observed and graded.
- A midterm and final examination will also be given.

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Cooperative learning exercises
- Oral presentations
- Laboratory
- Demonstration
- Field trips

## Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Vaughan, Stuart. *The Art and Craft of Directing Plays*. New York: Vaughan Press, 2015.

Hodge, Francis, and Michael Mclain. *Play Directing: Analysis, Communication and Style*. 7th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2009.

Although one or more of these texts are older than the suggested "5 years or newer" standard, they remain seminal texts in this area of study.

## **Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments**

- A. Noted director research oral presentations with supporting written analysis.
- B. Reading quizzes and discussion presentations.
- C. Post performance analysis and summation.
- D. Live performance critique.

## **Discipline(s)**

Theater Arts