

Theater: Directing Seminar

Instructor - Doug Finlayson
Fall 2018
Class: Wed. 1-2

Office: Theatre 39
Office Phone: 968-6935
E-Mail: finlaydo@webster.edu

Course Syllabus

Learning Outcomes:

The student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of professional theatre events through weekly reading of trade papers;
- Construct a staged reading for public presentation, utilizing skills in analysis, staging and rehearsal technique;
- Develop a ground plan by thoroughly reading a play and applying tools of drafting and staging technique;
- Demonstrate critical thinking and public speaking through assignments in reading plays, museum visits, and the creation of a Directing Ideas Book.

READING AND VIEWING ASSIGNMENTS:

Plays Selected, Civilization Episode, Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened

ATTENDANCE:

ALL directors are REQUIRED to attend class and outside projects (staged readings, staging exercised) unless a prior excused absence has been arranged with the teacher.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. DIRECTING IDEAS BOOK Grade 10%
2. WEEKLY ARTICLES – **Post articles on FB page** Grade 10%
NY Times (any major newspaper), American Theatre, etc.
3. STAGED READING Grade 10%
To be scheduled when possible. NO USE OF LIGHTS IN STAGED READINGS
4. CREATE A GROUNDPLAN Grade 10%
Choose a play with a single interior setting and create a ground plan
5. STAGING EXERCISE Grade 10%
To be scheduled when possible.
6. WATCH CIVILIZATION/BEST WORST THING THAT EVER COULD HAVE HAPPENED Grade 10%
Each student will watch one episode of Civilization and share.
7. RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORS Grade 10%
Use Michael Fling's list or propose another. Consider directors outside the U.S.
8. ATTEND THREE NON-THEATER EVENTS ON CAMPUS Grade 10%
These can be a Webster sporting event, gallery opening, lecture, dance or music concert
9. SELECTION AND PLAY READING Grade 10%
One play from the Reading List/One exciting new play. Look for plays related to the Vietnam War.
10. PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION in class discussions and activities Grade - 10%

CALENDAR - DIRECTING SEMINAR
(Calendar subject to change)

AUGUST

Wed. 29

WEEK ONE

Discuss Directing Idea Books, Schedule Events for the Semester, Discuss what it means to be an Assistant Director

ASSIGNMENT: Begin reading

SEPTEMBER

Wed. 5

WEEK TWO

Discuss Casting Week/Share Articles for Discussion

ASSIGNMENT – Select and schedule Directing Exercises
Update your Resume and Cover letter

Wed. 12

WEEK THREE

Discuss Play #1/Share Articles for Discussion

ASSIGNMENT: Select a play for which you will create a ground plan

Wed. 19

WEEK FOUR

Discuss Play #2

Wed. 26

WEEK FIVE

Discuss Play #3/Resumes and Cover Letters

OCTOBER

Wed. 3

WEEK SIX

NO CLASS/WEBSTER WORKS WORLDWIDE

THE FANTASTICKS - Wednesday October 3 in Stage Three

Wed. 10

WEEK SEVEN

Bring a first draft of your ground plan – Use a Computer or ruler

Wed. 17

WEEK EIGHT

Discuss Play #4/Articles for Discussion

MID SEMESTER BREAK OCTOBER 22-26

Wed. 31

WEEK NINE

Discuss *Civilization* episode you watched

NOVEMBER

Wed. 7

WEEK TEN

Play #5/Articles for Discussion

Wed. 14

WEEK ELEVEN

Final Ground plans/Present professional director you researched

FAHRENHEIT 451 - Wednesday November 14

Wed. 21

WEEK TWELVE

No Class/Thanksgiving

Wed. 28

WEEK THIRTEEN

Discuss Play #6/Share Articles for Discussion

THE THREE SISTERS - Wednesday November 28

DECEMBER

Wed. 5

WEEK FOURTEEN

Discuss Play #7/Share your 3 events attended

Wed. 12

WEEK FIFTEEN

Discuss *Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened*