STAGE DIRECTION 2
THEA 4361.001 / Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-10:45 a.m. / CA-102
THEA 4361.002 / Tuesday-Thursday 11:00-12:15 p.m. / ECDC-219B
Spring 2020

“A stage space has two rules: (1) Anything can happen and (2) Something must happen.”
—Peter Brook

Instructor: Alison Frost
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30-2:30 & Wed 12:30-1:30.
Office Location: BH 3.36
Office Phone: 361.825.2500
Instructors’ E-mail: alison.frost@tamucc.edu
Recommended Readings: The Empty Space, Peter Brook
The Dramatic Imagination by Robert Edmond Jones
A Sense of Direction: Some Observations on the Art of Directing by William Ball

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Stage Direction II is an advanced study in directing with actual experience in organization, interpretation, casting, and producing a play. The student will direct a play for public performance. Prerequisite: THEA 4360.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The student will:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the theory and practice of directing including: preparing the script, planning and executing rehearsals, and collaborating with actors, designers, and a production team.
• Demonstrate the organizational skills necessary to mount a theatrical play.
• Direct and act in a variety of in-class directing scenes
• Direct a play.

COURSE GUIDELINES:
1. Bring your binder/journal/handouts/textbook with pencil to every class meeting.
2. Be respectful. Bodies, voices, and talent are different and will vary from person to person.
3. Due dates will be strictly observed. Assignments are due even if you are absent. If you know you will miss a class, it is your responsibility to turn your work in early. There will be no make-up work unless you have a verified medical emergency.
4. Students must keep duplicate copies of all work submitted.
5. It is the responsibility of each student to let the instructor know of any injury or illness that could in any way impact him/her in classes or in performance. Doctor’s documentation may be asked for verification.
6. Your participation in all discussion and exercises is necessary to the success of the class and to your personal growth.
7. Technology: This is a participation-oriented class. There will be no need for laptops or cell phones. Please leave them in a stored/off position for the duration of the semester.
8. Web and Blackboard Access. Students must have a TAMUCC e-mail account, a preferred email account, and access to the Web as well as TAMUCC’s Blackboard. Students should check their email and Blackboard daily.
GRADED EXERCISES:
A. Reading/written assignments and quizzes: (25%) You will be required to read handouts, book chapters, scripts and articles. In addition to participation in class discussions, you will also take periodic quizzes to determine your comprehension of the material.
B. Festival Script Analysis: (15%)
C. In-class Directing Projects and Corresponding Assignments: (10%)
D. Play Project: (30%)
E. Final Exam: Directing Book: (20%)

All papers and presentations will be graded on originality, demonstration of analysis, and attention to detail. ‘A’ grades are reserved for those presentations/papers that demonstrate forethought, research, creativity, and follow-through. Hard work doesn’t guarantee an ‘A’.

GRADING SCALE: The final course grade will be based on the student’s earned percentage of total points available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDANCE
All Theatre and Dance courses use the same absence policy, which is as follows:
Attendance in all courses is critical to every student’s academic success. For the purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in immediate family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions.) A student’s absence affects not only their progress, but the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of two will lower the average a full letter grade. More than four absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Each student must consult with the instructor immediately to make such an exemption viable BEFORE each absence.

Sample Attendance Policy:
0-2 Absences: A (No change to overall grade)
3 Absences: lowers final grade from A – B, B – C, C – D, D – F
4 Absences: lowers final grade from B – C, C – D, D – F
5 or more Absences: failure of the course and/or the request to withdraw from the course

Being on time: means being in the classroom ready to work and discuss the coursework.

Lateness: Two late arrivals constitute one absence. If you arrive more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

Missed Assignments: No make-up work for quizzes or missed in-class activities. Assignments are due on the assigned deadlines and will not be accepted late. If you know you will be absent, turn the assignment in early. An unexcused absence on the date of an assignment will result in a zero.

SAFE ZONES AND PERSONAL SPACE
It may be necessary for your instructor or fellow classmates to make physical contact with you to determine breathing, muscle tension, alignment, or perhaps in the form of interactive role play. If this ever makes you feel uncomfortable, please let the instructor know immediately.

CLASSROOM / PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR
Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. This institution’s goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. It is expected that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin,
religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated by TAMUCC.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any student found guilty of academic misconduct or dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating will receive an “F” for the assignment, and, if the situation warrants it, for the entire course.

Definition of Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct is engaging in an act that violates the standards of the academic integrity policy as described in the Student Code of Conduct and Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases. In addition, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct.

a. CHEATING:

Cheating is intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.

Examples of Cheating: Copying from another student’s paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during a quiz, test or examination. Using books, notes, note cards, or other devices (e.g., calculators, cell phones, or computers) when these are not authorized. The acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff. Unauthorized collaboration on exams.

b. PLAGIARISM:

The intentionally, knowingly or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own. Exception is made when the ideas, information, etc. are common knowledge.

Examples of Plagiarism: Using another's work from print, web or other sources without acknowledging the source. Quoting from a source without citation. Using facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without acknowledgement of the source.

c. MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS:

The submission of substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from instructors of the class for which the student submits the work.

Examples of Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without instructor permission. Making minor revisions in a credited paper or report (including oral presentations) and submitting it again as if it were new work.

d. COMPLICITY:

Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Examples of Complicity: Knowingly allowing another to copy from one's paper during an examination or test. Distributing test questions or substantive information about the material to be tested before a scheduled exercise. Deliberately furnishing false information.

e. FABRICATION, FALSIFICATION, OR FORGERY:

The intentional and unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation that is used in assessing academic work.

Examples of Fabrication, Falsification, or Forgery: Inventing, counterfeiting or omitting data and/or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record. Falsely citing the source of information. Altering the record of or reporting false information about practicum or clinical experiences. Altering grade reports or other academic records.

Adapted from Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, used with permission of and our thanks to Dr. Jennifer Buchanan, Associate Dean of the Faculties Reference: Florida State University, Academic Honor Policy - http://academiconor.fsu.edu/policy/policy.html
**Disabilities Accommodations**
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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Spring 2019: The last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term is April 10th, 2020.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: [http://academicaffairs.tamu-cc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamu-cc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf)

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
## STAGE DIRECTION 2

### TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

*(Subject to change at instructor's discretion and depending upon the progress of the students in the class.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>FOCUS</th>
<th>IN CLASS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT DUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>Syllabus, 40-Minute Handbook</td>
<td>Take home quiz: THE SEAGULL by Chekhov</td>
<td>DUE: Join Facebook Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>TOPIC: Preparation</td>
<td>DUE: Mitchell: Chapter 1</td>
<td>DUE: THE SEAGULL quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>TOPIC: Cutting a Play</td>
<td>In-Class Quiz: A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE By Tennessee Williams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>TOPIC: Cutting a Play</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Ground plans, Balance, &amp; 40-Minute Tech Specs.</td>
<td>Kevin Loeffler, Guest</td>
<td>DUE: 40-Minute Play Submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>TOPIC: Cutting a Play</td>
<td></td>
<td>DUE: Cutting Of STREETCAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>TOPIC: Hodge Analysis</td>
<td>Title Approvals Returned</td>
<td>Read: Hodge chapters (See Blackboard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>TOPIC: Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>TOPIC: Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td>DUE: Mitchell: Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>TOPIC: The Arena vs. The Proscenium</td>
<td>Groups A, B, C STREETCAR</td>
<td>DUE: Deadline to submit Royalty Form to Greg Ramos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>TOPIC: Collaboration &amp; Concept</td>
<td>Groups D, E, F STREETCAR</td>
<td>DUE: Mitchell: Chapters 6 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>TOPIC: Auditions, Casting, Actor Relations, Table Work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues-Sat</td>
<td>3.2-3.7</td>
<td>Thurs-Sat@ 7:30</td>
<td>GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER</td>
<td>Warren Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>The Ground Plan</td>
<td>With Kevin Loeffler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Turning the Light Plot into Light Cues</td>
<td>With Phil Johnson</td>
<td>DUE: Director’s Analysis &amp; Ground Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>2:00 P.M.</td>
<td>ACTING 2 AUDITIONS</td>
<td>Warren Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>One-Act Casting Session</td>
<td>Wilson Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>12:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Additional Casting Day for none Acting 2 actors.</td>
<td>Wilson Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK 3.9-3.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK 3.9-3.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>TOPIC: The Whole Experience: Pre-Show through Post-Show</td>
<td>DUE: Complete casting</td>
<td>DUE: Mitchell: Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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5 | Page | STAGE DIRECTION 2 | SPRING 2020
| DAY     | DATE   | TOPIC: Improvising during Rehearsals | DUE: Mitchell: Chapters 10-11  
|---------|--------|-------------------------------------| Begin: Online rehearsal journal  
|         |        |                                     | Casting Posted. Rehearsals may begin. | 16 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<th>IN CLASS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT DUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>TOPIC: Blocking</td>
<td></td>
<td>DUE: Submit Week 1 Rehearsal Journal Sunday night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>TOPIC: The Golden Key &amp; How to Speak to Actors</td>
<td>Production Manager visits class regarding Tech Packets.</td>
<td>DUE: The Golden Key (See Blackboard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>TOPIC: Blackouts, Transitions &amp;Underscoring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>TOPIC: Directing Challenges</td>
<td></td>
<td>Directing Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>TOPIC: Directing Today</td>
<td>In class scene rehearsal for in-class Directing Scenes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Thurs | 4.9    | TOPIC: Directing Today  | Directing Scenes 1-5 (8 Min)  
5 Students | DUE: Directors 1-5 Paper  
DUE: Submit Week 2 Rehearsal Journal Sunday night | 22 |
| Tues  | 4.14   | TOPIC: Directing Today  | Directing Scenes 6-10 (8 Min)  
5 Students | DUE: Directors 6-10 Paper  
DUE: Submit Week 3 Rehearsal Journal Sunday night | 23 |
| Thurs | 4.16   | TOPIC: Directing Challenges |                                               | DUE: Mitchell: Chapter 12 | 24 |
| Fri-Sat | 4.17-4.18 | Regional Academic Meet on Campus | No rehearsal spaces available until approximately Saturday 7 p.m. |                                       | |
| Mon-Sun | 4.14-4.19 | Mon-Sat 7:30  
Sun 2:00 | MARIE ANTOINETTE | Wilson Theatre | |
| Tues  | 4.21   | TOPIC: Directing Today  | Directing Scenes 10-15 (8 Min)  
5 Students | DUE: Directors 11-15 Paper  
DUE: Submit Week 4 Rehearsal Journal Sunday night  
DUE: Tech Packet | 25 |
| Thurs | 4.23   | TOPIC: Directing Today  | Directing Scenes 15-19 (8 Min)  
4 Students | DUE: Directors 16-20 Paper  
DUE: Submit Week 5 Rehearsal Journal Sunday night | 26 |
| Thurs | 4.24   |                          | 40-Minute Tech Rehearsals Begin Today (Tentative) |                                       | |
| Tues  | 4.28   | TOPIC: Directing Challenges |                                               | DUE: Mitchell: Chapter 13  
Draw names for festival critique. | 27 |
| Thurs | 4.30   | TOPIC: Directing Challenges | Last class | Receive armbands for cast  
DUE: Submit Week 6 Rehearsal Journal Sunday night | 28 |
| Thurs-Tues | 4.30-5.4 | 40-Minute Play Festival | Warren Theatre  
Attendance Mandatory  
Talk Backs following  
Mandatory Strike: Tues. 5.7 |                                       | 29 |
| Wed   | 5.13   | TBA                     | Directing Book Due By 5:00 P.M.               |                                       |
HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN STAGE DIRECTION 2
THEA 4361

☐ Attend class

☐ Keep up with your syllabus—and work ahead. (There’s always a copy on Blackboard.)

☐ Read the assigned material in advance—and not 30 minutes before class.

☐ Use highlighters and make notes in the margins of everything you read, cut, rehearse...

☐ Contribute to class discussions.

☐ Meet with your professor early and often.

☐ Journal your rehearsals.

☐ Get someone to watch your scene—even if it’s you. (Use a smartphone and film your run-throughs.)

☐ Volunteer to Assistant Direct a production.

☐ Watch directors directing. Sit in on rehearsals for The Seed Project, GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE, MARIE ANTOINETTE, and your colleagues.

☐ Go watch one-act play contests...especially if you’re in the Teacher Certification track.

☐ Go watch theatre and analyze what you SEE.

☐ Communicate with your groups / partners—exchange phone numbers, emails, and collaborate.

☐ Meet with your instructor during office hours if you need advice, assistance, etc... Alison.frost@tamucc.edu / Alison.frost@gmail.com
“All good ideas start as bad ideas. That's why it takes so long.”

Steven Spielberg on the creative process

Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter
Kindle Location 1270

“I REALLY DO BELIEVE THAT IF YOU DON’T CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND RISK FAILING, THAT IT’S NOT INTERESTING.”

JULIE TAYMOR
I have read the entire syllabus for THEA 4361 STAGE DIRECTION 2, Spring 2020. I have read and understand the policies and requirements of the course particularly in regard to attendance, readings, exams, cheating, and assignments. I understand the fluidity of the syllabus and that all changes, updates and additions will be posted on Blackboard. I understand that any special provisions or accommodations must be presented in advance of any deadlines and that these accommodations will not be granted retroactively.

____________________________  _______________________
Signature of Student               Date

Student Name (PRINTED)       ________________________________

Student TAMUCC Email       ________________________________

Student Preferred Phone     ________________________________

This sheet must be returned to Alison Frost at the end of the first class day.