



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Course Number and Title: DRAM 413 Directing I
Session: Winter 2021

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| Instructor Office Email Office Hours | Vanessa Porteous On line Vanessa.porteous@ucalgary.ca By appointment, made during previous working day. Office hours will take place on zoom, Tues & Thurs 2:20-3:20. |
| Day(s),time(s) and location of Class | Tues 3:30 – 5:20, on Zoom Thurs 3:30 – 5:20, main classroom: The Matthews; two break out rooms E107 and E004, meet in The Matthews |
| Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials | Reading package to be found on D2L Students will select a short list of two scenes from full length contemporary plays that they and their cast of fellow students can access |
| Learning Technologies and Requirements | There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates; • A current and updated web browser; • Webcam (built-in or external); • Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone; • Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled; • Broadband internet connection. Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone. |
| Prerequisites | DRAM 411 |
| Course description | In this in-depth exploration of the art of directing for the stage, we will investigate some of the tools directors use to tell stories in the theatre, both in theory and practice. We will focus on: the use of place and space; creating the physical score; language, text, and silence; and working with performers. Students will study, observe, learn, and put these tools into practice as directors, in a short scene and a monologue from the contemporary repertoire. Mandatory: Viewing of an on-line performance of one professional theatre production, between January 12 and February 22, 2021 (ticket price may apply) Mandatory: Three ninety-minute rehearsals of text-based scenes outside class hours with cohort scene partners, between February 11 and March 25, 2021. To be scheduled by the students. |
| Course learning outcomes | By the successful completion of this course, you will be able to: 1. Observe and analyze the director’s fundamental tools of expression in work they witness; begin to use those tools yourself. 2. Demonstrate basic familiarity with the roles and functions of the director, and awareness of the various approaches of some contemporary directors. |

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| | <p>3. Identify and respond creatively to the expressive qualities of a space as a site for performance.</p> <p>4. Work with collaborators to apply elementary knowledge of visual composition, physical relationship, blocking, and theatrical movement to create a physical score that tells a story to an audience.</p> <p>5. Guide your collaborators in basic acting choices and interpretation, with increasing specificity, in a scene and in a monologue</p> <p>6. Articulate awareness of your own artistic development; demonstrate the ability to apply theoretical learning to your creative practice; show evidence of growth in observational skills, and verbal and written articulacy about the process.</p> |
| Course schedule | Will be distributed on first day of class |
| Assessment components | <p><u>Assignment 1:</u> Four in-class quizzes on discipline knowledge learned from readings. Assessment Method: self-graded; grade confirmed by instructor Description: Four fill in the blank quizzes taking 10 minutes of on-line class time Weight: 4% Due Date: January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2021. If student is absent, they score 0% on that quiz.</p> <p><u>Assignment 2:</u> Written analysis of how some of the directorial tools studied in class help tell the story in a professional theatrical performance viewable on-line. Assessment: Graded by instructor Description: You will select a professional theatrical performance, approved by instructor, and write a 750 word paper analyzing the use of the directorial tools of place and space and/or physical score and how those directorial choices contribute to the story-telling. Weight: 15% Due date: February 23, 2021</p> <p><u>Assignment 3:</u> Directing a scene Assessment: Scene presentation graded by instructor on March 25, 2021; written scene preparation document graded by instructor upon submission. Description: You will direct one five-minute scene for two people, observing all physical distancing protocols and guidelines. Your cast will be two (or three) classmates and you will work within that cohort. Three in-class rehearsals and three out of class rehearsals will lead to an in-class scene presentation. You will submit a written document recording your preparation to direct the scene, your process through rehearsals, and a summary of discoveries you made. Weight: 35%, combined scene and written document. Due date: Scene presentation March 25, 2021; written document April 1, 2021. Note: if you miss any of your own rehearsals or any you are cast in you without a valid health reason you will score 0 in the scene presentation component of this grade.</p> <p><u>Assignment 4:</u> Directing a monologue on Zoom Assessment: Graded by instructor based on watching two sessions between director and actor on March 30 and April 3, 2021 Description: You will coach an acting student in a monologue of their choice, over Zoom, over the course of two sessions. You will need to read the play and prepare to direct. You will be assessed based on your ability to apply what we have learned and discussed in class about working with performers, and especially, on your responsiveness to the performer and growth from session to session. Weight: 20%</p> |

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| | <p>Due date: March 30 (25 min appointment on Zoom) and April 3, 2021 (15 min appointment on Zoom)</p> <p>Note: If you miss either of these two appointments without a valid health reason you will score 0% on this assignment.</p> <p><u>Assignment 5:</u> A final paper on your choice of several topics. Assessment: Graded by instructor upon submission Description: You will write a 1000 word paper on your choice of several topics to be assigned in class. Weight: 20% Due date: Monday April 20, 2021 (Monday after last day of class)</p> <p><u>Assignment 6:</u> Your contributions to artistic discussion and the exploration of ideas in class. Assessment: Graded by the student; grade reviewed and approved/adjusted by instructor. Description: based on a grading rubric distributed in class, assess your own contributions to artistic discussion and the exploration of ideas in class. Did you bring in new approaches and expand upon or deviate from consensus? Did you support and expand upon the good ideas of your classmates, when they were in danger of being overlooked? Draw links to other sources or previous discussions? Express or demonstrate originality and creativity? Offer telling examples to make the ideas under discussion vivid for the group? And so on. Weight: 6% Due date: Monday April 20, 2021. Fill out rubric and hand it in as an appendix to your final paper.</p> |
| Assessment expectations | <p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> Submit assignments in soft copy only please via email by 6pm on due date.</p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> Late assignments will be subject to a 10% per day penalty on the grade they receive. Other penalties for missing key working sessions are outlined above.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p> |
| Grading scale | <p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System of the Calendar: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations. • The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy. |

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| <p>Guidelines for Zoom Sessions</p> | <p>Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.</p> <p>To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.</p> <p>The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/.</p> <p>If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).</p> <p>The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.</p> |
| <p>Academic Accommodation</p> | <p>It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.</p> <p>Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <p>SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/ .</p> |
| <p>Academic integrity, plagiarism</p> | <p>Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> |

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| | <p>For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf and https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.</p> |
| Internet and electronic communication device | <p>The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf</p> |
| Intellectual Property | <p>Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.</p> |
| Copyright | <p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.</p> |
| Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy | <p>Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.</p> |
| Student Support | <p>Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</p> |