



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Course Number and Title: DRAM 413 Directing I
Session: Winter 2023

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Vanessa Porteous TBC Vanessa.porteous@ucalgary.ca Tuesday 2:00pm – 3:00pm; Thursdays 2:00pm – 3:00pm. By appointment only, 24 hours in advance
Day(s), time(s) and location of Class	CHE 107 Tuesday 3:00pm – 4:50pm/Thursday 3:00pm – 4:50pm
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Reading and resource package available on D2L. You will read four contemporary plays minimum over the course of the semester, selected by you or your peers, as preparation for scene work. You will attend or view one theatrical performance either live or on Digital Theatre +.
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). This course is intended to be delivered entirely in person.
Prerequisites	DRAM 411 (or permission from the Drama Division Lead)
Course description	<p>There is no single way to direct. We bring ourselves to the work: our individuality, identity, and life experiences. We operate in response to our context and engage with the prompts and parameters we are given. We guide our collaborators to use all modes of theatrical expression available to us, to tell a story for an audience.</p> <p>Every time, a director answers the questions: Who am I? Where, when, and how am I? Who is my team? What story are we telling? To whom, and why? What is the task at hand?</p> <p>In this class, we look at directing as a creative process. We focus on exploring the fundamental storytelling tools of live performance. Students begin to forge their own <i>directorial identity</i>: skill and technique, leadership style, increasing self-knowledge, and the use of instincts, analytical skills, and craft to make meaning for an audience.</p> <p>Together, we explore some fundamentals of directing text-based work for the stage. We investigate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use of place and space; 2. physical score; 3. language, text, and silence; 4. working with performers, and 5. design <p>Participants study, observe, analyze, and put their ideas into practice as they direct one short scene from the contemporary repertoire.</p>

	<p>Mandatory: You will attend and write about one theatre production, either live or on Digital Theatre +, prior to assignment deadline, see below.</p> <p>Mandatory: You will lead two rehearsals of your text-based scene outside class hours with your performer-collaborators. To be scheduled with your group.</p>
Course learning outcomes	<p>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observe and analyze directorial fundamentals in work you witness; begin to apply that learning in your own work. 2. Increase your awareness, knowledge, and understanding of, and begin to apply, the following tools for telling a story in live performance: place, space, and configuration; physical score; performers' interpretation; language, text, and silence; and some fundamentals of theatrical design. 3. Show growth in observational skills, verbal and written fluency, and awareness of your own artistic development. 4. Manifest the beginnings of a directorial identity that is yours alone, including an ethic of practice, a sense of process, some developing tools and techniques, and an evolving, original point of view.
Course schedule	Will be available on D2L site
Assessment components	<p><u>Assignment 1</u>: five in-class quizzes on sector knowledge learned from readings and resources. Assessment Method: graded by a peer in class; grade confirmed by instructor. Description: five quizzes, written during the first 10 minutes of class time Weight: 10% Due date: On assigned days, first thing. See course schedule. If you are absent or late without clearly communicating a valid health reason or personal emergency to the instructor in a timely fashion, you score 0% on that quiz. No exceptions.</p> <p><u>Assignment 2</u>: Written analysis of place and space and/or physical score in a theatrical performance Assessment: Graded by instructor Description: You will select a theatrical performance either live or on Digital Theatre +, approved by instructor, and write a 750-word paper analyzing how use of place and space and/or physical score contribute to the story-telling. Weight: 20% Due date: See course schedule</p> <p><u>Assignment 3: Director's Prep book</u> Assessment: Graded by instructor. Description: You will provide written documentation of your directorial prep work on the scene you direct, and your discoveries, according to an outline provided by the instructor. The assignment is approximately 1500 words long. Weight: 30% Due date: See course schedule</p> <p><u>Assignment 4: Directing a scene</u> You will direct one scene under ten minutes for two to three people, observing all physical distancing protocols and guidelines in effect at the time. Your cast will be assigned by the instructor, and will be two or three classmates, or other available students (TBC). Three in-class rehearsals and two out of class rehearsals plus two preliminary exploration sessions and a dress rehearsal, in class, will lead to an in-class scene presentation. Weight: 30% Due date: See course schedule</p>

	<p>Note: Leadership and collaboration are essential skills for effective directing. Leadership means modeling a high professional standard. Collaboration means supporting the work of your colleagues. In theatre, showing up on time is the minimum requirement. If you miss or are materially late to any of your own rehearsals or any you are cast in, without clearly communicating a valid health reason or personal emergency to the instructor in a timely fashion, and have not made all reasonable efforts to solve your absence for your classmates, you will score 0 in this assignment.</p> <p><u>Assignment 5A:</u> Your contributions to artistic conversation in class, self-assessed. Assessment: 5% self-evaluation Description: A director must develop fluency in communication, and in particular, the ability to contribute to a fruitful exploration of artistic ideas with others. After every class, you will fill out a brief survey on D2L provided by instructor, to grade your contributions that day. The average of those daily grades will equal your grade in this assignment Weight: 5% Due date: Ongoing throughout the semester.</p> <p><u>Assignment 5B:</u> Your contributions to artistic conversation in class, assessed by instructor. Assessment: 5% by instructor. At the end of the semester, the instructor will grade your contributions to artistic conversation in class, based on the rubric provided on D2L.</p>
Assessment expectations	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> Please submit assignments in soft copy only, to D2L, by 11:59pm on due date of assignment.</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>Attendance and Participation Expectations:</u> The defining characteristic of theatre is presence. Work in class is a major part of the learning in this course and cannot properly be replicated in readings or at home. A good director demonstrates accountability and respect for others' work and time. For that reason, students are expected to be prompt and come prepared and ready to work. Certain classes are designated in advance as rehearsals. See course schedule. Attendance is mandatory on those days unless the student clearly communicates a valid health reason or personal emergency to the instructor in a timely fashion. For specific sanctions, see above. If an absence is unavoidable, and as their situation permits, students are expected to make all reasonable efforts to problem-solve their absence with their fellow students who rely on them for the success of their own projects. We cannot predict everything. Life happens. In those instances, respect for others' time and work, responding proactively, communicating clearly, and taking responsibility will be rewarded.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, in this class, assessment of writing quality is 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>Undergraduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.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. <p>Graduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
Guidelines for Zoom Sessions	<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>
Academic Accommodation	<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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf).</p>

	<p>Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, 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>
Academic integrity, plagiarism	<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> <p>For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf and https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-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 (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.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>
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	<p>Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca.</p> <p>You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns.</p>
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	<p>For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938.</p> <p>Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/</p>