



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Course Number and Title: DRAM 413 Directing I
Session: Winter 2024

Instructor Email Office Hours	Vanessa Porteous 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):	Tues 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 approximately four contemporary plays, 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>In this foundational, practice-led class, we explore the fundamentals of directing. As directors, we are the leaders of the storytelling. We work from our fullest selves. Our work is in dialogue with our context. We make the most of the parameters we are given. Our task: with our collaborators, we activate all available means of theatrical expression to tell a story and make meaning for an audience.</p> <p>In this class we investigate six directorial fundamentals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of place and space; 2. Narrative; 3. Physical score; 4. Language, text, and silence; 5. Working with performers, and 6. Design <p>Students will study, observe, and put these fundamentals into practice in both non-text and text-based work, as they begin to forge their own <i>directorial mindset</i>.</p> <p>Mandatory: Attend and debrief about one theatre production, observed either live or on Digital Theatre +, prior to assignment deadline. Participate in two working sessions of your Collaborative Project outside class-times, prior to presentation day. Lead two working sessions of your text-based scene outside class-times with your performer-collaborators, prior to presentation day. Schedule these sessions with your group.</p>
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the following directorial fundamentals: use of place and space; narrative; physical score; language, text, and silence; working with performers; basics of theatrical design. 2. Observe and analyze these directorial fundamentals in work you witness.

	3. Show growth in oral and written fluency about techniques of storytelling and meaning-making in live performance. 4. Begin to apply that learning in your own work. 5. Demonstrate increased awareness of and articulacy about your own artistic development. Metacognition is a key contributor to growth and learning. 6. Model the directorial skills of accountability, leadership, and respect for the work of your collaborators.		
Course schedule	Will be listed on D2L site		
Components (Assignment, Paper, Project, Quiz, or Test)	Description	Due Date	Worth (%)
<i>Collaborative project</i>	<u>Assignment 1: Site-Responsive, Non-verbal, Collaborative storytelling project ("Colpro.")</u> Description: Students will work collaboratively in groups to select a non-traditional performance site located near the classroom. During working sessions in class and two working sessions outside class time, together they will devise and rehearse a very brief story told without words, which will be presented in class.	Thurs Feb 15, 2024	20%
<i>Paper, video, or audio presentation</i>	<u>Assignment 2: Observation/analysis of the use of physical score to help tell a story in a production.</u> Description: You will select a theatrical performance either live or on Digital Theatre +, approved by instructor, and analyze the use of physical score to communicate the story in a 500-750 word paper. Alternatively, with instructor's permission, you may submit a prepared, structured 3 to 5 minute video or audio presentation.	Tues February 27, 2024	20%
<i>Written document: Director's prep book</i>	<u>Assignment 3: Director's Prep book</u> Description: You will provide written documentation of your directorial prep work on the scene you direct according to an outline provided by the instructor.	Tues March 26, 2024	20%
<i>Project</i>	<u>Assignment 4: Directing a scene</u> Description: You will direct and present one scene approximately 5 min long with two to three performers. Your cast will be assigned by the instructor, and will be classmates or other available students (TBC). Scheduled working sessions in class and two working sessions outside class time will lead to an in class scene presentation.	Thurs April 4, 2024 & Tues April 9, 2024	30%

<i>Contributions</i>	<p><u>Assignment 5: Contribution to artistic discussions, accountability, leadership, and collaboration.</u> Description: A director must exercise fluency in the fruitful exchange of artistic ideas with others, as well as model accountability, leadership, and collaboration. Participation in class discussion, contributions to the projects led by others, and attendance and support of classmates will all contribute to this grade.</p>	Tues April 9, 2024	10%
Assessment expectations	<p>A good director demonstrates accountability, leadership, and respect for their collaborators' work and time. In this class, students are expected to meet these standards.</p> <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 Written Assignments:</u> A director is accountable for deadlines. Late written assignments, without prior permission, will be subject to a 10% per day penalty on the original grade they receive.</p> <p><u>Attendance and Participation Expectations:</u> The defining characteristic of theatre is presence. Your presence in class is a major part of your learning in this course and cannot properly be replicated in readings or at home. You are expected to come to class on time, having carefully read and considered the assigned readings and resources, and ready to work.</p> <p>Certain classes are designated as <i>working sessions</i> and <i>presentation days</i>. Attendance is mandatory on all those days. See course schedule. Attendance is also mandatory for the four scheduled working sessions for assignments 1 and 4 outside class hours.</p> <p>If, without notice or a valid explanation, you are absent or unworkably late to a <i>working session</i> during or outside class, you will automatically receive 0 on Assignment 6. If it happens a second time, during class or outside, you will lose 5% from your grade for Assignment 1 or 4 for that occasion and any subsequent ones, in addition to 0 in Assignment 6. If, without notice or a valid explanation you are absent or unworkably late on a <i>presentation day</i> for assignments 1 or 4, you will receive 0 on that assignment.</p> <p>At the instructor's discretion, you may be required to provide supporting documentation in a timely manner to explain an absence. For more information, please consult the Student FAQs on use of Statutory Declarations/medical notes.</p> <p><u>Recourse</u> Mental and physical health are key to learning and creativity. The University of Calgary takes them very seriously. We cannot predict everything. Life happens. How we handle it is how we demonstrate accountability, leadership, and respect for our collaborators.</p>		

	<p>If you get sick or an emergency arises necessitating your absence from a class in which a working session or presentation is scheduled, you are expected to communicate as soon as possible with the instructor via email, and with your collaborators via your usual channels of communication.</p> <p>As your situation permits, you are then expected to make all reasonable efforts to problem-solve the missed session with your collaborators, who rely on you for the success of their own projects. In those instances, communicating clearly, showing respect for others' time and work, responding proactively, and taking responsibility will be rewarded.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
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.
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	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 .
Intellectual Property	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.
Copyright	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 .
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	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.
Student Support	Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	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 . You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938. Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/