

THTR 4550 **Directing** – Fall 2021
TR 9:50 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Classroom – DSC 66
Office Hours: TR 8:30-9:30, MWF 2:40-3:40

Instructor: Herschel Kruger
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MATERIALS AND TEXT:

The Director as Collaborator, 2nd Edition – Robert Knopf
Three-ring binder, spiral notebook, folder
Instructor will provide electronic copies of the following texts:
THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams
LONDON SUITE by Neil Simon
PHOENIX by Scott Organ

"The librarians at Hedberg Library are available to assist you with any research questions you may have. The librarian for this class is Jennifer Kawakami. You can access all the library's resources at <https://carthage.libguides.com> . The subject guide is located at <http://carthage.libguides.com/theatre>"

COURSE OUTLINE:

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of directing plays for the stage. We will carefully examine play structure and analysis, interpretation, communication with the actor and designers, as well as the rehearsal process and performance.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The ability to interpret, analyze, and assess dramatic texts for directing.
2. To expand and demonstrate the communication skills between the director and actor.
3. To describe and demonstrate the communication skills between director and designers/technicians.
4. To interpret, create, communicate, and implement dramatic choices within a play.
5. To create, prepare, and apply a methodology for working as a theatre director.
6. To expand and engage the use of specific directorial vocabulary.
7. To conduct research that informs directorial choices.

STANDARDS:

Demonstrate knowledge of and skill in...

- The interpretation, analysis, and assessment of dramatic texts for directing
- Directing through the creative and collaborative process leading to performance
- Advocacy for theatre and other arts programs
- Arts management and development for theatrical productions or other programming

SAFETY:

Your safety and well-being is more important than anything in this class. Please feel free to reach out to me if you are struggling for any reason – including issues securing food, housing, or personal safety. In addition to any support I can provide, I will work hard to help you find every resource available to you at Carthage.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. During class, we will have experiences that will be impossible for you to duplicate. *See attached document regarding attendance policy.
 - Classes will not be repeated for those who have missed.
Therefore... -Get lecture notes from another student
 -Get information about studio projects and due dates from another student, or from the instructor during office hours
 -Ask someone else to collect handouts for you
 - DO NOT BE LATE. Excessive tardiness will reduce your final grade.
2. This class will deal with mature themes, subject matter, and situations. Trust must be earned and honored at all times in this class. Any student who exploits or breaks the boundaries of trust will undermine the whole class and could result in that student's dismissal from the class. This includes insensitive language, unwarranted or inappropriate touching, and other harmful behavior.
3. Participation in class discussions, exercises, readings, and projects.
4. No food or drink in the classroom. You may bring bottled water to class.
5. Completion of all course work. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in the failure of the course.
6. No late homework or assignments will be given a passing grade. Late work will still need to be completed in order to pass the course.
7. Attendance of BETRAYAL and PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE is mandatory, and journal assignments will be based off of attendance at one or more of these productions.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grades are based on the percentage of points you earn out of 500 during the semester.

Assignments: You will be expected to direct two scenes this term, a scene from Gruesome Playground Injuries at mid-term and a SDC scene for the final. Some guidelines include:

You must participate in class auditions to cast your scene.

Scenes must rehearse outside of class.

Avoid emphasis on technical aspects of productions, i.e. lights, costumes, props, set, etc.

The scenes must come from the plays supplied by the instructor.

- You may use rehearsal props and furniture as provided.
- You may not borrow items from the costume stock
- You may use items from the props storage only by request and approval of the instructor.
- You must clear all properties, furniture etc. after every rehearsal, and strike after scene performs
- A light board operator and a sound operator will run every scene.
- All directors should prepare a cue sheet for their scene.
- Lighting cues will minimal, but can consist of cue levels, general areas, up/downs, and fades.
- Lighting will be general lighting areas for studio or Wartburg use based on current configuration for productions.
- You may use sound effects and music for your scene.

Scenes will be graded as follows:

25% of grade

Prompt Script

The complete script in a loose-leaf binder either re-typed or photo copied. It must be turned in on the day of performance.

Objectives and actions	Clearly labeled and defined within script
Units and Beats	Clear markings indicating unit and beat identification
Blocking	Complete blocking notes in the prompt script with business and character notes as well as ground plan mapping.
Rehearsal Schedule	A complete published and detailed rehearsal schedule
Ground plan	A 1/4 " scale ground plan showing and labeling all furniture, windows, doors, etc.
Rehearsal Notes/Journal	A day-by-day account of the rehearsals. It should include goals for each rehearsal, A report on how those goals were/were not accomplished; comments on the work of the actors; notes for the next rehearsal; personal reflections. (A template for journal entries is available on eLearning)
Applied Research	Rehearsal notes must also include three to four rehearsals with integrated applied research that is documented in the journal entry notes for that date.
<u>75 % of grade</u>	
Performance Aspects	Elements of performance as demonstrated by the play in performance. (Actions, objectives, vocal dynamics)
Character development and status of the play	Clearly established characters and interpretation of character changes in dramatic action
Blocking - Composition Picturization	Organic and appropriate to the action of the play Establishes and maintains focus and meaning.
Pace and Tempo	Variety of pace and constant movement to the climax of the scene.
Overall communication of idea	How does the scene work, does it fulfill the dramatic function of the play and the ideas set forth by the playwright?

Assignment - Grade Breakdown

Scene #1 THE GLASS MENAGERIE	50 points
Scene #2 PHOENIX	100 points
Attendance/decorum	50 points
Character and scene Analysis paper (as assigned)	50 points
Working Rehearsal and essay #1 (THE NEW RULES)	25 points
Working Rehearsal and essay #2 (LONDON SUITE)	50 points
Poetry and Paintings	10 points
Ground plan exercise	15 points
THE GLASS MENAGERIE Spreadsheet	15 points
Core Action Worksheet (THE GLASS MENAGERIE)	20 points
Core Action Worksheet (PHOENIX)	20 points
Script prep (NEW RULES)	15 points
Shared Research (THE GLASS MENAGERIE)	15 points
Shared research (PHOENIX)	15 points
Online Journals	50 points

Grade Schedule

A+	99-100%	A	94-98%
A-	93-90%	B+	88-89%
B	84-87%	B-	83-80%
C+	78-79%	C	74-77%
C-	70-73%	D+	68-69%
D	64-67%	D-	63-60%
F	Below 60%		

Exams

The final exam for this course will consist of a presentation of a assigned scene work provided by the instructor. Other written tests may be given during the semester. Attendance requirements for examinations strictly follow official college procedures. No make-up exams are given. You are responsible for understanding Carthage's *Student Community Code*.

Performance Dates

All scheduled performance dates are strictly adhered to. Unexcused performance dates will not be made up and only in the direst of circumstances should you miss. As stated on the attendance policy you must have documentation to explain your absence.

Written Assignments

All assignments are due on scheduled due dates. Any late assignments will result in a zero grade for the project. Any missing assignments, or missing parts of any assignment will result in an incomplete for the course, or a will result in a failing grade for the course. All papers must be word-processed. Revisions may be accepted if the paper is turned in on the due date.

The Writing Center, located on the upper level of the library (HL 213B), is a free resource for student writers. The center is staffed by undergraduate Writing Fellows who have been recommended by Carthage faculty and trained to work with other students on their writing. They can work with you at all stages of the writing process, including understanding the assignment, brainstorming ideas, drafting, revising, and proofreading. For more information and to schedule an appointment, visit carthage.edu/writing-center.

Learning Accessibility Services

Carthage College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to your disability (including mental health, learning disorders and chronic medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, you also need to register with Diane Schowalter in Learning Accessibility Services (dschowalter1@carthage.edu).

Academic Misconduct

Students are subject to disciplinary action for violations of academic integrity, including cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or other academic misconduct, as stated in the student handbook. During the semester, you will have the opportunity to write several papers. Cliffs' Notes may not be used as a source in writing your papers. You are responsible for reading and for understanding Carthage's Student Community Code with respect to citing sources and plagiarism. *A Writer's Reference* by Hacker provides excellent examples of citing sources and discusses plagiarism (331-334).

Health and Counseling Center

The Health and Counseling Center (HCC) supports students by addressing physical, mental, and emotional well-being. All services are free and confidential and are available to currently enrolled, full-time undergraduate students. Health services include the assessment and treatment of minor illness and injury. Diagnostic testing, complimentary over-the-counter medications, and referrals to off-campus providers are all available. Our licensed counselors help students with challenges that can be resolved with short-term, solution-focused counseling. Some topics discussed during counseling include depression and anxiety, traumatic experiences, gender and sexuality, relationship concerns, stress management, and academic challenges. More details - including info about appointments - can be found at carthage.edu/health-counseling.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Writing Guidelines

Papers are required to follow MLA guidelines. Use the link below for MLA rules and guidelines. The link has a helpful and detailed menu on the left hand column of the page that covers every element of the MLA format.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Contributors: Tony Russell, Allen Brizee, Elizabeth Angeli, Russell Keck, Joshua M. Paiz, Purdue OWL Staff

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th ed.) and the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (3rd ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the Works Cited page.