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Fall 9-1-2017

THTR 578.01: Directing V

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DIRECTING V

School of Theatre & Dance – University of Montana
THTR 578 / Fall 2017 / 3 credits / CRN 74354
M / W / F 11:00 – 12:50 pm; Schreiber Gym & Stiehl Office 212 C

<u>Professor</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>	<u>Office / Office Hrs</u>
Dr. Pamyla Stiehl	Email: pamyla.stiehl@umontana.edu General Office: 406-243-4481	McGill 212C T / R 1:00-3:00 or by appointment

COURSE AIM: *To examine and explore the requisite skills for directing through the study, interrogation, conceptualization and staging of a variety of contemporary texts, styles and actor training methods. We will work with Brecht's epic theatre, later interpretations and applications of Stanislavski's System, Michael Chekhov's Psychological Gesture, Grotowski's Poor Theatre and Bogart's body/voice work to expand the director's range of training techniques and textual approaches. We will then work on coaching/directing studio performances of selected scenes and monologues from select contemporary texts using strategies from the methodologies studied.*

COURSE OUTCOMES: *By the end of the semester, you will demonstrate*

- *A knowledge of the techniques covered by the course, how to translate for actors and apply in rehearsal*
- *A knowledge of a variety of directorial approaches to a contemporary text*
- *A fuller understanding of the potentials of these techniques in direction, actor training/coaching, and conceptualization*
- *A fuller experience of directing a group as a performance ensemble*
- *An extension to your range of directorial articulation and documentation*
- *A broadened exposure to contemporary theatre scripts*
- *An ability to directorially envision, interpret and conceptualize a contemporary play for stage production*

REQUIRED TEXTS / VIDEOS:

Actor Training edited by Alison Hodge

Play scripts as listed (provided on Moodle)

Videos:

Mother Courage Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6obtAUsju8> (link also on Moodle);

Douglas Carter Beane *Little Dog Laughed* panel/interview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaMi2jlkRY> (link also on Moodle);

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Mike Nichols film version – DVD provided or can be found in YouTube segments);

"Women in Theatre: Anne Bogart" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbdtvYMXsaI> (link also on Moodle);

Any Broadway spotlight segments regarding **August Osage** or interviews with Tracy Letts (your own research)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS (texts that you will want to add to your directorial library/arsenal):

Bertolt Brecht: "The Modern Theatre Is the Epic Theatre" and "Theatre for Pleasure or Theatre for Instruction"

Grotowski: "The Theatre's New Testament"

Peter Brook: *The Empty Space* ("Holy Theatre," "Rough Theatre," "Immediate Theatre")

Michael Chekhov: *To the Actor: On the Technique of Acting*

Anne Bogart & Tina Landau: *The Viewpoints Book*

OVERALL COURSE ASSIGNMENTS / Criteria Grading Breakdown:

Reading & Video Assignments / Discussions and Applied Knowledge (class warm-ups/exercises)	10 pts
Directorial Journal Accounts per style/scene rehearsal periods (4 @ 5 pts ea)	20 pts
Coaching of Acting V Scenes & Monologues	50 pts
Directorial Conceptualization Essay (5 pages -- play of choice)	10 pts
Final Regie Book and Class Presentation (play of choice)	10 pts

Total Course Points Possible = 100 pts

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change):

SYLLABUS: (always subject to change and variation of dates, if necessary)

Sept 1	Orientation
Sept 6-11	Contemporary monologue work – must have a 21 st -century monologue ready to perform
Sept 13-15	Have read “Brecht” and <i>Mother Courage</i>
Sept 18-27	Work <i>Mother Courage</i> scenes
Sept 29, Oct 2	Perform <i>Mother Courage</i> scenes
Oct 4-6	Have read “Method/Stanslavski (Adler/Meisner)” and “Michael Chekhov”
Oct. 9	Have read <i>Little Dog Laughed</i> and <i>How I Learned to Drive</i>
Oct 11-20	Work <i>Little Dog</i> and <i>How I Learned to Drive</i> scenes
Oct 23, 25	Perform <i>Little Dog</i> and <i>How I Learned to Drive</i> scenes
Oct 27-30	Have read “Grotowski” and <i>Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i>
Nov 1-Nov 10	Work <i>Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i> scenes (and possibly <i>How/Drive</i>)
Nov 13, 15	Perform <i>Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i> (and possibly <i>How/Drive</i>) scenes
Nov 17-20	Have read “Bogart”
Nov 27	Have read <i>August Osage County</i> ; review contemporary monologues
Nov 29-Dec 11	Work <i>August Osage County</i> scenes and contemporary monologues

Dec 18 – FINAL 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Perform *August Osage County* scenes and contemporary monologues
PRODUCTION REGIE BOOK DUE

CRITICAL COURSE POLICIES & PROTOCOL

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE::

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

Risk: There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Class Etiquette: There is **no eating, drinking, or gum chewing** during studio classes. **Water in a capped container** is acceptable. Absolutely **no weapons**, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. When class has ended, we must return studio to its original condition. Lastly, **electronic devices are to be stowed away** during class -- unless we are working on a project that requires the devices.

Guests: Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without the instructor's consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

DISABILITY SERVICES::

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Course Grade % Scale :

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
A	94-100	4.0	C+	77-79	2.3
A-	90-93	3.7	C	73-76	2.0
B+	87-89	3.3	C-	70-72	1.7
B	83-86	3.0	D+	67-69	1.3
B-	80-82	2.7	D	60-66	1.0
			F	0-59	0.0