



THST*3170 Special Topics

Fall 2020

Section(s): 01

School of English and Theatre Studies

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 08, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course provides students with the opportunity to work intensively in an area of theatre work in a project defined by faculty research. The material and topic will vary but the course will consistently engage with an area of creative practice, such as scenography and design, directing, acting studio or playwriting. This course may be offered as a performance-centered studio, a design studio workshop, or a playwriting seminar, depending on the instructor. Consult the Theatre Studies website for more information on a specific iteration of the course.

Pre-Requisites:

7.50 credits, including THST*2270

Restrictions:

THST*3540, THST*3550, THST*3620, THST*3650, THST*3660, THST*3850 Restricted to students in a Theatre Studies specialization.

1.2 Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Fundamentals of Directing will provide students with an opportunity to direct students in monologues in front of other students during the zoom class, and direct monologues outside of class that will be shown on video in class and discussed in zoom class. The goal will be to learn the fundamentals of directing, which include: auditioning, play analysis, blocking, improvisation, design/tech, and dealing with actors in working rehearsals. Much time will be taken up in watching fellow students do working rehearsals in class; but students must also set aside time outside of class towards the end to the semester to rehearse a student in a final monologue for class. Also, the professor will present special lecture sections on directing Shakespeare.

1.3 Timetable

The class schedule will be available on the course outline (online) distributed the first day of class.

1.4 Final Exam

There will be no final exam

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Sky Gilbert
Email:	sky@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53237

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Recommended Resources

Texts (Textbook)
TEXTS

Ball, William. A Sense of Direction. W. Hollywood: Quite Specific Media, 1984. (excerpts available on Ares)

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Successful students will have learned to:
 - gain a basic knowledge of the practical challenges involved in directing a play
 - gain knowledge in and practice of co-operation and group work
 - understand directing theory and the basic principles of dramaturgical analysis
 - apply effective communications skills for oral, visual and written communication
 - analyze and interpret primary source materials and synthesize research findings to

present argument, in oral and written form

2. THST LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To develop artists who thrive on intellectual curiosity, openness to ideas and take measured risk through creative experiences.
2. To develop informed and creative citizens, empowered to contribute to the world through writing and performance.
3. To apply critical sensibilities through a familiarity and understanding of a range of significant performance and media work past and present.
4. To develop well-rounded performance artists, who possess the research tools and disciplinary skills to model their own productive performance practices.
5. To develop meaningful ways to integrate theory, technology and practice where critical thinking and creativity are equally embraced.
6. To learn techniques for communication and collaboration, build relationships and to listen and respect different thought processes.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Seminar

Mon Sept 17

Topics:

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6 Assessments

1. Participation 15%

Involves participation in discussions, as well as preparation of an audition piece.

2. In-class Directing Scene Work 15%

Students can schedule themselves — on a first come first served basis — to direct the first rehearsal of a 3-5 monologue from contemporary material of their own choice in class, utilising another student in the class as an actor (someone who will be assigned by me). The director will direct the actor in front of us, that is direct the monologue for the first time during a zoom synchronous live class. The director must have prepared a short lecture on the director's concept: the 'why' of the monologue, play analysis, and the world of the play (The actor should have read the play, and discussed the concept with the director, but should not yet have been directed in the scene.) We will then listen to the actor read the monologue without direction from the director, and then the director can do whatever they wish to begin

directing the actor in the scene. The director will be marked on their understanding of the scene, their ability to explain their vision, their communication with actors, as well as the imagination in their blocking, composition, and picturization. Students are also asked to read the entire play of which the monologue they are directing is a small part.

3. Critiques of In-class Directing Scene work 15% (600 words)

Students will pick two of the days when they are not directing a scene in class, and write, for each day, a critique of the directing done in that class (they will thus be critiquing 3 monologues from each day, for two days, for a total of 6 monologues).

4. Shakespeare monologues 10%

Students will prepare their own version of a Shakespeare monologue, and download them on to youtube. We will watch them in class and discuss – 6 per class. Students will sign up on a first come first served basis to be scheduled.

4. Final Scenes 25%

Students will be asked to schedule themselves – on a first come first served basis – to show a final video version of a second 3-5 minute monologue they will be assigned to work on (with another student of their choice from either in our outside the class – students in the class can only be in ONE final project). The monologue can either be contemporary or from Shakespeare. Students will download the final version of the video of their monologue on youtube and it will be shown and critiqued in class. In the post scene discussion the director will be asked to speak for 10 minutes about the approach to the play and the experience of directing the scene. Then the whole class will discuss the scene.

5. Final Paper 20% (2100 words)

Students will be asked to write a paper in MLA style that includes analysis of the play from which their final monologue was taken, as well as a summary of what they learned from the experience of directing the final monologue for class. Due on Monday December 7 (no late papers accepted.)

LATE POLICY:

Students have two weeks to hand in assignments late. The mark on late assignments will be reduced by 2 marks out of 100 per day the assignment is late. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FINAL ESSAY, AS NO LATE FINAL ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6.1 Assessment Details

Responses (4) (32%)

Mid-term essay (15%)

Final essay (15%)

Participation (20%)

Co-operation with others in scene work (8%)

Quizzes (10%)

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.
