

## THEA 4820: DIRECTING I

T/TH 2:45-4:00 p.m.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Rebecca Hilliker  
Hilliker@uwoyo.edu  
205 Fine Arts

**OFFICE HOURS:** TTH 9:30-12:00

**TEXT:** There is no text required but you will need to give me \$5.00 for handouts. You will also need to purchase two play tickets about \$6.00 each.

**RULES FOR THE CLASSROOM—NO FOOD OR DRINK EXCEPT FOR SCENE WORK. YOU MAY HAVE WATER BOTTLES.** Use only water for drinks and do not use dyes or tea. All Food must be thrown away or removed at the end of the class period and all spills or food problems must be cleaned up at the end of the scene work. No actual smoking is allowed unless you use herbal cigarettes. Cabinets have been provided for you to store you props if you choose to leave them in the space. They must be returned to the prop cabinet at the end of each rehearsal. These cabinets are not locked so that you can access props in the evening. You leave them in the cabinets at your own risk. Any props left in the studio that are not placed in the cabinets will be thrown away at the beginning of the next class. ALL black boxes, sofas and chairs must be returned to the back wall or the closet at the end of each class and at the end of each rehearsal period. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING OTHER FURNITURE INTO THE SPACE!**

**METHODOLOGY AND GRADING:** Beginning Directing is primarily a participation course and so attendance in class is essential. You can miss two class periods during the course of the semester. After that you will receive a lower grade for each absence. If you miss a third day you lose 1/2 a grade point. For example if you are getting a 4.0 for the course it will go to a 3.5. If you miss a fourth day your grade will go to a 3.0. You will note that 20% of your grade is classroom participation in addition to the attendance policy!

Beginning Directing is a tools course and focuses on basic pictorial and blocking skills of the director. The course begins with basic exercises aimed at developing visual perception. This includes developing ground plans, creating compositions with emphasis, focus and balance, projecting basic relationships through pictures, and employing movement as a dynamic tool. The class will then spend time analyzing a play script and the author's intentions and how to use Aristotle's principles to develop scene dynamics. The course will consist of a number of blocking and directing exercises and three projects (one neutral scene, and two seven minute scenes) from **MODERN DRAMA**. There is no written final exam in this class but you will have written assignments in conjunction with your projects. Your final project and paperwork serve as you final examination for the course. Final scenes will be done the last two days of class. All of your assignments with the exception of ground plans and movement sketches must be typed. You will also write a play review of *Frequency 98.6*.

If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability that requires accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services in SEO, Room 330 Knight Hall.

**GRADING:** 15% paper work/projects  
05% play review  
20% class participation  
15% Neutral Scene  
20% Project 1  
25% Project 2

Aug. 29	Introduction to the Class
Sept. 01	Exercises 1 & 2
Sept. 06	Exercises 1 & 2
Sept. 08	Exercises 3 & 4
Sept. 13	Exercises 3 & 4
Sept. 15	Ground Plans. Reading assignment on how to develop a ground plan. Develop a ground plan for <i>Rainbow Bar and Grill</i> . We will select one for use on classroom blocking assignments.
Sept. 20	Play Analysis and Beats (reading assignment on analysis)
Sept. 22	Exercise 5—entire class blocking project of the first scenes of <i>Rainbow</i>
Sept. 27	Exercise 5 Continued
Sept. 29	Exercise 5 Continued
Oct. 04	Exercise 5, Continued
Oct. 06	IN CLASS WORK ON NEUTRAL SCENES
Oct. 11	NEUTRAL SCENES
Oct. 13	NEUTRAL SCENES
Oct. 18	NEUTRAL SCENES

- Oct. 20        ROUND 2 NEUTRAL SCENES
- Oct. 25        ROUND 2 NEUTRAL SCENES: ASSIGN PROJECT 2  
Draw numbers for who goes each day for both the presentation & the project.
- Oct. 27        In Class presentation—analysis of your scene for Project 2.
- Nov. 01        In Class presentation—analysis of your scene for Project 2
- Nov. 03        PROJECT 1
- Nov. 08        PROJECT 1
- Nov. 10        ROUND 2, PROJECT 1
- Nov. 15        ROUND 2, PROJECT 1
- Nov. 17        Staging Arena—Project 3 must be blocked for ARENA
- Nov. 22        Staging Arena
- Nov. 24        THANKSGIVING
- Nov. 29        Staging Arena
- Dec. 01        HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL—In Class Work on Project 2
- Dec. 06        PROJECT 2
- Dec. 08        PROJECT 2
- Dec. 12-16    We won't do anything this week unless we haven't finished our project  
(Finals)        work. Then we will meet during the final exam period.

***Frequency 98.6* REVIEW. I want you to look at Aristotle's 6 principles and see how effectively they have been used in this production. Focus particularly on Plot. I also want you to take a general look at the director's vision that is brought to the play or his world-view. The dates of the production are Oct. 8-13. Get tickets EARLY!!!! THIS IS DUE OCT. 22.**