TH 4321.12770: Directing I – Fall 2021

Class Day/Time/Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, CARR 241A (Studio)

All dates, times, and assignments subject to change.

Instructor: Daniel Anderson

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Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:00 pm M/W By Appointment Only.

Required Texts: A Sense of Direction by William Ball, Thinking Like a Director by Michael Bloom

Course Syllabus Statement on Covid-19: As of now there are no requirements for masks or vaccines. However, we highly encourage the use of masks and vaccinations. These are our best defenses against the Covid-19 virus. More information can be found at: https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/

ALL STUDENTS STAFF AND FACULTY ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THEIR DAILY WELLNESS SCREENING BEFORE COMING TO CAMPUS. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO DISPLAY YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS SCREENING.

Shannon On-Demand

Shannon Medical Center is providing Concho Valley residents free online coronavirus screenings through its telehealth program, Shannon On-Demand. The service is for people who are worried they may have been exposed to the virus, and are suffering from mild to moderate flu-like symptoms. • Access is private, secure, fast, and easy – all from your mobile device or computer. • To start a screening, employees can go to http://www.ShannonOnDemand.com. • To utilize the service on a mobile device, download the free Shannon On Demand app from the Apple or Google Play app stores. • Patients then must create an account by following the prompts to set up their screening. Upon reaching the payment screen, enter the code SHANNONCOVID19 and the screening will be free.

Course Description: This course is designed to serve as an exploration into the art and craft of directing. Through lectures, reading and homework assignments, script analysis as well as in-class scene work the student will develop the basic knowledge needed to confidently direct their end of semester 10-minute play. In addition, the student will learn to craft a cohesive concept through careful, studied observation and analysis.

Course Objectives: The goal of this class is to examine the job of the director. It is designed for those with little to no directing experience. Although aspects of this job can be defined in radically different ways, we will adopt one common goal: the director’s responsibility is to express a clear and compelling
story to an audience while honoring both themselves and the playwrights. Most of our time will be spent exploring ways in which a director develops the tools needed to communicate effectively with actors and the audience. We will direct our focus on three main areas: script analysis, visual composition, and rehearsal work with actors. Furthermore, we will examine the importance of the choices we make as directors and our ability to justify them in relation to the story and concept.

Course Content:

Lectures
Discussion
Reading Assignments
Peer Review

Scene Work: Through the course of the semester you will be required to participate in scene work as both actor and director. This means you will need to be prepared to work as actors in your peers’ scenes. Directing is a collaborative art form, one in which we dependent upon the dedication and commitment of others. Your participation in these scenes is expected. If it comes to my attention you are not making an effort to become involved in these scenes your grade will suffer. Due to Covid-19 much of the scene work will be online through Zoom or other digital media.

Observation of Rehearsal: Students will be required to attend 4 hours of rehearsal for a Mod or Studio show and write a short report on their observations. Permission must be granted from director before attending.

Late Assignments: Every effort should be made to complete assignments on time. All late assignments will receive reduced grades. Written assignments turned in 1 to 7 days after the due date will receive an automatic 10% point reduction. No written assignment will be accepted more than one week after the due date. Scene assignments must be completed on the day assigned. DO NOT ASK FOR AN EXTENSION, NONE WILL BE GIVEN.

Attendance Policy: Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed three (3) absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. General rule: If you arrive to class after attendance has been taken, you are tardy. Pop quizzes and tests must be made up within one week of the original date of the assignment. Performances and in-class rehearsals cannot be made up barring a medical emergency at the discretion of the instructor. Medical emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Doctor’s appointments subsequent to an illness or injury will NOT count as an excused absence. Please note: The only university-recognized excused absences are participation in official university business or for bona fide religious holy days. Participation in official university business must be documented by written notice from sponsoring faculty or staff member at least one week prior to the event.

Observance of a Religious Holy Day: Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An
institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

**Team Assignments:** You will frequently work in teams of two or three, performing as both actor and codirector. Team assignments will be rotated throughout the semester. Many of your team assignments will involve rehearsals outside of class. Please exchange phone numbers and arrange rehearsal times as soon as you receive an assignment. Theatre is a collaborative art – one in which we all depend on the commitment of others. Your conscientious participation in all teamwork is expected and will have an impact on your final grade.

**Play Selection:** In addition to the more focused “workshop” scenes assigned in class, you will direct a final “ten-minute” play which will be performed in a live, streaming performance. You will be responsible for selecting the play you want to direct, although I will need to approve your choice. The play you select should have two characters, be easy to produce within the constraints of this class (i.e. have simple technical needs), and allow you to demonstrate your ability to move characters around on stage. In most cases, I recommend that the play be realistic in style and have a single setting.

**Rehearsal Hours:** You should begin rehearsal for your 10-minute plays before Thanksgiving break. Please plan to rehearse for no less than 12 and no more than 16 hours.

**Casting:** You are responsible for casting your 10-minute play. If you are not able to find suitable actors, please talk with me. All actors will be asked to attend in-class rehearsals and performances, so they must be available during this time slot. You may not ask actors to skip classes in order to appear in your scene.

**Point Values for Assignments:**

- 1 director’s statement 5 points
- 1 world of the play worksheet 25 points
- 1 action analysis worksheet 25 points
- 1 character analysis 25 points
- Tell Me a Story Project 20 points
- Character Development Scene 30 points
- Storyboard Exercise 30 points
- Two-Minute Scene 30 points
- 1 rehearsal observation 20 points
- 1 ground plan assignment 20 points
- 1 script analysis 50 points
- 1 director’s score 50 points
1 final play/exam 70 points

In-Class Discussion 20 points

**Grading Scale:**

- 360 – 400 points (90 – 100%) A
- 320 – 359 points (80 – 89%) B
- 280 – 319 points (70 – 79%) C
- 240 – 279 points (60 – 69%) D
- 0 – 239 points (0 – 59%) F

**Content Disclosure**

Courses within the Department deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, value judgements, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

**ADA Statement:** Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Office of Student Services at (325) 942-2191, Student Life Office, room 112. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication, Mass Media, or Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU's Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at (325) 942-2710.

**Grade Appeal Process (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances):** A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for
Honor Code Policy: Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

Civility In the Classroom: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers, cellular phones or other text messaging devices, beepers, eating or drinking (except for water bottles), making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom. In instances where a student is proved to be a distraction, the student will lose five points from their grade. Second occurrence will result in ten points removed. On the third occurrence, the student will be removed permanently from the classroom. Additionally, in the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting. In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class. If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Dean of Students office. As mentioned earlier all university policy concerning Covid-19 will be honored in this class. Masks and social distancing will be enforced at all times when in the classroom.

Sexual Harassment: This course will observe the university’s guidelines for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because theatre imitates human living, and because sexuality is part of life, some materials in this course may deal with sexual behaviors, situations and language. Those who are easily offended by such subject matter may want to reconsider taking this course.

Title IX at Angelo State University: Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment,
nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner: Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 Phone: 325-942-2022 E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171). For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

**Class Work and Assignments:**

*All dates tentative and subject to change.*

**Tues. 8/24**: General Introduction of Course

**Thurs. 8/26**: The Job of the Director: Read Bloom, Introduction - page 30.

**Tues. 8/31**: Script Analysis:

- *Action/Structure*, Read Bloom, 31 – 66
  - *That Midnight Rodeo* Assigned

**Thurs. 9/2**: Script Analysis:

- *That Midnight Rodeo* Assigned
  - World of the Play - In Cass Handout. Director’s Statement, Action Worksheet, Character Analysis, Script Analysis, World of the Play worksheet Assigned Posted to Blackboard

**Tues. 9/7**: Discussion of “That Midnight Rodeo”

- Read “That Midnight Rodeo.”
  - *Tell Me A Story Project* Assigned

**Thurs. 9/9**: Discussion of “That Midnight Rodeo”

- Read “That Midnight Rodeo.”
  - Play selection and director’s statement due.

**Tues. 9/14**: Scene #1: *Tell Me A Story* Due

**Thurs. 9/16**: Scene #1: *Tell Me A Story* Due

**Tues. 9/21**: Script Analysis: Characters and Casting

- Read A Sense of Directing, pages 37-43
Read Bloom, pages 104 -116
Character Development Scene Assigned.

Thurs. 9/23 Script Analysis: Characters and Casting
Read A Sense of Directing, pages 37-43
Read Bloom, pages 104 -116

*Tues. 9/28 Experimenting with Bodies in Space/Ground Plan
Read Bloom, pages 81-94

*Thurs. 9/30 Experimenting with Bodies in Space/Ground Plan
Read Bloom, pages 81-94

Tues. 10/5 Character Development Scene due.

Thurs. 10/7 Character Development Scene due.

Tues. 10/12 External Analysis: Structure

Read Bloom 46 – 66
Mosaic Movement Exercise Assigned.

Thurs. 10/14 In Class Rehearsal Time.

Tues. 10/19 Mosaic Movement Exercise Due.

Thurs. 10/21 Mosaic Movement Exercise Due.

Tues. 10/16 Working with Actors: Beats and Intentions
Read Ball, pages 70-93

Action Worksheet Due and Character Analysis Worksheet Due

Thurs. 10/28 Working with Actors: Beats and Intentions

“World of the play” worksheet due.

Tues. 11/2 Working With Designers and Actors
Read Bloom,17-30 & 81-94

Thurs. 11/4 Working With Designers and Actors
Read A Sense of Direction 44-69

Script analysis for 10-minute play due

Tues. 11/9 Scene #4: Two-Minute Scenes due.

Thurs. 11/11 Scene #4: Two-Minute Scenes due.
Tues. 11/16 Director’s Approach/ In-Class Rehearsal

Read Bloom, 69 – 80 & 95-103

Director’s score and Director’s Statement due. (Your director’s score MUST be turned in on this date.)

Thurs. 11/18 In-Class Rehearsal

Tues. 11/23 In-class rehearsal

Thurs. 11/25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Tues. 11/30 In-Class Rehearsal

Thurs. 12/2 In-Class Rehearsal

Tues. 12/6 Last Day of Class

Final 10-Minute Plays Performance Date TBD

During Dead Week