



UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Extended Campus

College of Performing & Visual Arts
School of Theatre Arts & Dance

THEA 513-601: Teaching Theatre Strategies
Fall 2025 (1, 2, or 3 credit hours)

Instructor: Professor John Leonard, john.leonard@unco.edu

Instructor's assistant: Dr. Mary Schuttler, mary.schuttler@unco.edu

Note: This class is on Canvas for the syllabus, announcements, paper submission, course materials, and grade book access.

TUITION: \$455 per credit. You will be billed for the cost of your registration.

PRE-REQUISITE: BA or BS Degree, Teaching Certification recommended.

LOCATION: (pick one of the following locations for 1 credit, or two for 2 credits)

New Mexico Thespian Festival (October 2025)

Kentucky Thespian Festival (November 2025)

Indiana Thespian Festival (November 2025)

Iowa Thespian Festival (November 2025)

Texas Thespian Festival (November 2025)

Pennsylvania Thespian Festival (November 2025)

Michigan Thespian Festival (December 2025)

State or National Theatre Conference approved by Professor

PRE-REQUISITE: BA or BS Degree, Teaching Certification recommended

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Apply state and national standards to theatre curriculum created through workshops attended at state, national, and international conferences (37.5 contact hours minimum per credit hour, which includes workshops, performances, keynote speeches, seminars, business meetings, and awards ceremonies).

Note: For 2 credit hours, the student must also take a PDI (Professional Development Institute) if applicable at your event, and complete two unit plans as described below in Assignments #1 and #2. For 3 credit hours, student must complete all the above and Assignment #3.

Additional Activities	Hours
Becoming Familiar with Canvas	5
Reading Content Specific Journal Articles and State/National Standards Documents	15
Preparing/Writing Lesson Plan	10
Aligning Lesson Plan with State and/or National	10

Standards	
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS:

PDI's allow attendees to experience in-depth learning from experts in many theatrical fields. All PDIs offer the opportunity earn credit for graduate level credit through the University of Northern Colorado. If interested, teachers can reserve a spot in a PDI when registering for the Festival.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Curriculum development through the implementation of theatre standards. The student will learn:

- 1) How to create an effective unit plan
- 2) How to enhance a quality theatre curriculum
- 3) How to plan a quality theatre assessment
- 4) How to effectively implement state or national theatre standards

COURSE CONTENT:

1. Unit Plan
2. Theatre Curriculum
3. Assessment
4. Standards

Students must provide the professor with the link (or a copy) of their state theatre standards. If none are available, the student may use another state's, or the national theatre standards.

METHOD OF EVALUATION: Letter grade. The final grade will be determined from the creation of a theatre unit plan supported by state or national standards and assessment.

ASSIGNMENT #1

Once students have attended the conference workshops, they will choose one topic of interest from which to create an outline for a unit by completing Stage 1 of the Understanding by Design (UbD) template. (20 points each; TOTAL: 100 points).

- 1) **Content and Learning Outcomes:** Students will identify specific learning outcomes
- 2) **Lesson Goals:** Students will create goals for the unit
- 3) **Lesson Objectives:** Students will clarify objectives for the unit
- 4) **Supporting Materials:** Students will identify any applicable supporting materials needed to teach the unit
- 5) **Assessment:** Students will justify a quality assessment for their lesson and/or unit

ASSIGNMENT #2

Standards: Students will align their unit plan with their state or national theatre standards. (50 points)

ASSIGNMENT #3 (required only for 3 credits)

Assessment: Students will create a Model Cornerstone Assessment (from the National Standards model) that aligns with their UbD lesson plan.

ASSIGNMENTS DUE: This is a self-paced semester long course. You will not receive a transcript with a grade until you have completed all your assignments. Deadline to submit assignments is 12/11/25. See #7 below for more information on requesting a transcript.

GRADING:

A = 150-135 points; B = 134-120 points; C = 119-105 points; D = 104 – 90 points; F = 89 points and below.

DISCUSSION BOARD:

Students will use the Discussion Board to share their work, and if they choose to communicate with the other students in the class.

REQUIRED “TEXT”: State or national theatre standards.

Note: All necessary materials and examples will be provided on Canvas.

OPTIONAL TEXT: *Understanding by Design*, by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

1. Review the syllabus and course information, technological and course requirements and deadlines. Any questions or concerns about your capability to complete the course requirements should be addressed with the instructor’s assistant: Mary Schuttler at mary.schuttler@unco.edu.
2. Follow online registration instructions to create/reactivate an account and register for the course: <https://extended.unco.edu/courses/courses-workshops/>.
3. You must have an active student account to register. Student Account set-up can take up to 72 hours—do not wait until the course add date to start the registration process.
4. You will register by submitting the CRN number on Ursa, not the course name. You may need to edit the number of credits, the system defaults to one. To increase the credits, click on the drop-down arrow by the credit hours and increase to 2.
5. You will receive a billing notification email (at your UNC student email) from the Bursar’s Office (Bear Central). There will be information on how payment can be made on the billing statement.
6. There are support resources and tutorials on the Canvas site at <http://www.unco.edu/canvas/canvas-support/>.
7. The course will close at midnight on the last day of the course and no further work will be permitted. Grades will be submitted to the University and you will be able to order an official transcript of this course. <http://www.unco.edu/registrar/etranscripts.aspx>.

Library Services for Distance Education and Off-Campus Students: Obtaining Materials from UNC Libraries

Off-campus students residing within 50 miles of the UNC campus are required to come to the library and borrow materials in person. Students residing more than 50 miles from campus may request that materials be delivered to them. All requests must include complete citations. We will supply materials from the UNC Libraries, as well as materials from other libraries obtained via Interlibrary Loan. Articles will be delivered via email. Books will be mailed first class. Delivery time by U.S. postal service is approximately 1 week. It is the responsibility of the student to return books by the date due. UNC does not pay return postage on books. For information on document delivery, call (970) 351-1446. Requests for materials may be made through the following methods: Online:

http://www.unco.edu/library/services/distance_students.aspx.

By email: library.ocp@unco.edu

By fax: (970) 351-2540

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Support Services (DSS) to request accommodations. Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80. Students can learn more about the accommodation process at <http://www.unco.edu/disability-support-services/>.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a

foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

UNC's Policies

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dean-of-students/pdf/student-Code-of-conduct.pdf>.

Special Term/Short Course

Special Term Courses may not have the same add, drop and withdrawal dates as regular term courses. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of these dates. Please refer to "special term/short course deadlines" from this link: <http://www.unco.edu/registrar/current-students/course-add-drop.aspx>, to learn the dates for this course. To drop or withdraw, you must contact the Registrar's Office (Bear Central) at 970-351-4862.

Technology Requirements

All participants will be required to log in and access Canvas (our online Learning Management System) and will need an internet connected computer for this purpose. Below are UNC's minimum suggested computer requirements:

Minimum Computer Equipment and Software

If your computer is close to these minimums, we strongly recommend you save your work on your computer before submitting it to prevent losing any work—though this is good advice for all users.

- Use a computer 5 years old or newer when possible
- 1GB of RAM *
- 2GHz processor
- Network card and reliable internet connection: 512kbps minimum, but high speed recommended
- Flash 23 and after (used for recording or viewing audio/video and uploading files)
- Javascript must be enabled to run Canvas
- Sound Card and Speakers

PC

OS: Windows 7 and newer

Browser:

- Internet Explorer 11 and Edge
- Firefox 50 and after (extended releases not supported)
- Chrome 55 and after
- *Safari not supported for Windows*

Word Processor**: Microsoft Word 2003 or above recommended

PDFs: Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat

Mac

OS: 10.6 and newer

Browser:

- Safari 9 and after
- Firefox 50 and after (extended releases not supported)
- Chrome 55 and after
- *Internet Explorer and Edge not supported for Mac*

Word Processor**: Microsoft Word 2003 or above recommended

PDFs: Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat

Linux ChromeOS is also supported.

* If you have minimal RAM you may want to avoid having many other programs open at the same time you are using Canvas.

**** If you are not using Microsoft Word, we recommend saving documents as .rtf files for compatibility.**

Mobile Device Requirements and Tips

You can access Canvas from any browser on your Android/iOS device. However, mobile browsers are not specifically supported, and features may not function as expected compared to viewing Canvas in a fully supported desktop browser. On mobile devices, Canvas is designed to be used within the Canvas mobile applications.

Mobile Applications

Canvas by Instructure (for iOS and Android). Search for the application in your App Store / Play Store. The applications provide access to Canvas for both instructors and students while on the go. Depending on your device, not all Canvas features may be available on the app at this time. View [Canvas mobile features](#) by version and device.

Instructure, who develops Canvas, is actively updating their native mobile applications to support as many Canvas features as possible. Instructure has four native mobile applications free for download on both phones and tablets. Please note that mobile applications are only supported in English at this time.

Technical Tips

- Allow pop-ups from the Canvas and Ursa websites
- Spreadsheet software (such as Microsoft Excel) and media player software (such as Windows Media Player, iTunes, or VLC) may be needed for some courses.
- You may be asked to download the most current versions of Java, Flash or Shockwave to support various course or research tasks.
- Anti-virus software: anyone interacting on the internet should strongly consider installing active anti-virus and anti-malware protection. There are many good programs available (for purchase or for free). You will want to choose the right solution for your needs.