

University of Northern Colorado  
THED 540: Directing/Acting for Realism  
3 Credits  
Summer 2019, July 18-20

**PREREQUISITES:**  
THED 600 and 670

**DIRECTING/ACTING FOR REALISM**

Instructor: Mary Schuttler, PhD  
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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to instruct effective directing and coaching strategies for the field of theater arts and secondary drama. Through discussion and activities (including in class direction/coaching of scenes) students will participate in hands-on, tactical methods of how directors can integrate good staging techniques with superior coaching processes.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To examine and participate in proven approaches of directing and coaching techniques from the point of view of the Actor and Director for effective performance
2. To strengthen skills in actor/director vocabulary and communication
3. To enlarge the number of successful communication techniques in directing
4. To learn to distinguish between and thrive at both coaching and directing
5. To learn how to apply the best practices from pre-production through opening night

**Texts:**

There are no required text books for this course. Supplemental materials will be provided by the instructor. The following books, while not required, are highly recommended additions to a theatre educator's library, and will be helpful resources for this course:

*Audition*, by Michael Shurtleff

*A Practical Handbook for the Actor*, by Bruder et.al.

*Play Directing in the School: A Drama Director's Survival Guide*, by David Grote

*Directing Actors*, by Judith Weston

*Directing Plays Directing People*, by Mary B. Robinson

*Notes on Directing*, by Frank Hauser and Russell Reich

*Tips: Ideas for Directors*, by Jon Jory

*Play Directing; Analysis, Communication and Style*, by Francis Hodge

**Grading**

You will be graded on your work and progress, not your perceived level of talent. Assignments are based on a 100-point scale

<b>A</b>	95-100	consistent excellence in the work
<b>A-</b>	90-94	good work with excellent effort
<b>B+</b>	87-89	above average work with good effort
<b>B</b>	86-84	average work with good effort
<b>B-</b>	83-80	average work with average effort
<b>C</b>	79- 70	below average work

<b>D</b>	60-69 points	poor work
<b>F</b>	Below 59 points	unacceptable work

**Grading includes:**

**Attendance, Promptness, and Participation**

Attendance and promptness are required for all classes. Please plan on entering the space ten minutes prior to the beginning of class. This will allow time for turning off cell phones, filling water bottles, etc. Due to the intensity of this brief session, attendance, promptness, and participation in classroom activities are absolutely required for all three days of the course.

**Scene Direction/Coaching Exercise**

All students will come prepared with one short scene to direct (approx. 5 minutes), and one short scene to coach in class (approx. 5 minutes). All students must read the play they are directing before the first day of class and have a strong understanding of the scene that they will be directing/coaching. The students abilities to apply the techniques and concepts from class will be evaluated in 2 work sessions over the 3 day course.

**Course Schedule:**

**Thursday, July 18th**

Syllabus/Expectations/Directing Discussion

Topic: Directing-Just Tell the Story

Topic: Directing vs. Coaching

\*Lunch Break\*

Topic: Communication

Topic: Strategies for Effective Audition Procedures, Tablework and Staging

**Friday, July 19th**

1st Work session and evaluation of Directing Scenes

\*Lunch Break\*

Topic: Strategies for effective Design collaboration, Technical rehearsals, Opening night and Beyond

Topic: Strategies and Resources for Younger Artists (College audition prep, Skill building exercises)

**Saturday, July 20th**

2nd Work session and evaluation of Coaching Scenes

\*Lunch Break\*

Topic: Rehearsal Habits and Professional standards (AEA, Warm ups, Critique and Feedback)

Topic: Actor/Director communication and Exercises to strengthen Objective, Obstacle, Tactics, Relationship, Status and Character

Wrap up

### **Student Code of Conduct**

All students are expected to adhere to the University's *Student Code of Conduct*, designed to promote a safe and respectful learning environment. For more information about your rights and responsibilities as a UNC student see <http://www.unco.edu/dss/UNChonorCode.html>.

### **Academic Integrity: Plagiarism / Consequences**

It is expected that members of this class will observe strict policies of academic honesty and will be respectful of each other. Any instances in which cheating, including plagiarism and unauthorized use of copyrighted materials, computer accounts, or someone else's work is determined, will be referred to Student Services and will be investigated to its full extent. Consider providing a definition of plagiarism and examples if desired or referring students to:

<http://www.unco.edu/english/wcenter/academicintegrityindex.html>.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

### **Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Statement**

The University of Northern Colorado prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. UNC is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence). If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UNC's Title IX Coordinator. "Disclosure" may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text message, or through in/out of class assignments. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact the UNC Counseling Center (970-351-2496) or the Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (970-351-4040). If you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, please visit [www.unco.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.unco.edu/sexualmisconduct).

### **Equity and Inclusion Statement**

The University of Northern Colorado embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff, honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews. In this course, people of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, size and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness to each other's individual and intersecting identities.

**The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities** (located in Decker Hall) serves as resource to anyone seeking support or with questions about equity and inclusion at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). If you are a witness to or experience acts of bias at UNC and would like to learn more about bias response or report a bias incident, please visit Bias Response at <http://www.unco.edu/biasresponse/>.