



Course Syllabus: Adv Project in Performance

Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts - Department of Theatre

14498 - THEA 4513 - 101

Fall 2026 | August 24 to December 4, 2026

Contact Information

Faculty Advisor: Francisco Rendon

Office: Fain Fine Arts Center, B105

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 12:00 to 12:50 p.m., and by appointment

Office Phone: (940) 397-4908

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Meeting Time: Once weekly, by appointment, until the project is completed or submitted

Meeting Location: Faculty advisor office and/or project-specific rehearsal, performance, or research spaces

Course Description

Advanced Project in Performance allows the advanced theatre student to complete specialized research and/or a substantial creative project involving theatrical performance. The project may extend the student's knowledge and training through performance, directing, production-related performance study, or another approved area of theatre practice. Because this is an individualized course, the specific project, scope, deliverables, deadlines, and methods of evaluation are established in consultation with the faculty advisor and approved through the Department of Theatre.

Prerequisite: Consent of the Chair of Theatre. The course may be repeated once for elective credit, subject to current catalog and departmental requirements.

Course Purpose and Learning Outcomes

1. Develop advanced knowledge and skill in a focused area of theatrical performance or directing.
2. Define a feasible independent project with clear goals, deliverables, deadlines, and criteria for successful completion.
3. Apply appropriate research, script analysis, rehearsal, performance, directing, and/or reflective methods to the approved project.
4. Work independently while maintaining regular communication with the faculty advisor and responding constructively to feedback.
5. Document the development of the project through research materials, rehearsal/process records, drafts, recordings, notes, or other evidence appropriate to the work.

6. Complete and present a substantive final project that demonstrates advanced preparation, artistic growth, professional responsibility, and critical reflection.

Appropriate Project Areas

Projects are individualized and must be approved before work begins. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

1. Performance projects involving advanced acting, musical theatre, role preparation, audition/performance study, solo or ensemble work, or another focused performance practice.
2. Directing projects involving scene, one-act, workshop, or production direction; concept development; script analysis; rehearsal methodology; staging; or assistant/associate directing with clearly defined independent responsibilities.
3. Research-to-practice projects in which scholarly or professional research is applied directly to performance or directing work.
4. Other theatre performance projects approved by the faculty advisor and Chair of Theatre.

Project Proposal and Contract

A completed project proposal is required for enrollment and successful completion of the course. The Department of Theatre proposal form requires the student to identify the supervising professor, describe the project, and establish project deadlines. The proposal must be approved by the faculty supervisor and Chair of Theatre.

Department form: Proposal for THEA 4513 or THEA 4523

At the beginning of the semester, the student and faculty advisor will expand the proposal into a working project plan that identifies:

1. The central question, artistic goal, or area of study.
2. The specific final product or performance deliverable.
3. Required research, scripts, scores, recordings, readings, source materials, or other preparation.
4. A semester timeline identifying weekly advising meetings, major milestones, rehearsals, showings, and submission deadlines.
5. The method by which progress and the final project will be evaluated.
6. Any permissions, collaborators, rehearsal spaces, performance dates, or production approvals required for the work.

The project plan may be revised by mutual agreement when circumstances change, but revisions must be discussed with and approved by the faculty advisor before established deadlines are missed.

Advising Meetings and Independent Work

This is not a regularly scheduled lecture course. The student will meet with the faculty advisor once each instructional week until the project has been completed, presented, or submitted. Weekly meetings may take the form of

advising, coaching, rehearsal observation, review of research or project materials, a working showing, or assessment appropriate to the project. During weeks affected by university holidays, faculty travel, production schedules, or other unavoidable conflicts, the meeting may be rescheduled or completed through an alternate check-in by mutual agreement. The student remains responsible for sustained independent work between meetings.

1. Arrive at each advising meeting prepared with evidence of progress, questions, and materials needed for productive work.
2. Communicate scheduling conflicts or project obstacles before they affect a deadline whenever possible.
3. Maintain a record of project milestones and advisor feedback.
4. Do not assume that independent study means unsupervised study; regular consultation and documentation are essential parts of the course.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

There is no single required textbook. Materials will be determined by the approved project and may include playscripts, scores, scholarly or professional research, production documentation, recordings, rehearsal materials, and other resources appropriate to the field of study. Students are responsible for obtaining legal access to required materials.

Grading

The signed project plan is the primary evaluation document for this individualized course. Unless an approved project contract specifies a different weighting, the following standard evaluation will apply:

Assessment	Weight	Description
Project Proposal, Scope & Timeline	10%	Clear project definition, feasibility, approved goals, and established deadlines.
Milestone Completion & Advisor Meetings	20%	Consistent progress, preparedness for meetings, responsiveness to feedback, and completion of agreed checkpoints.
Research & Process Documentation	20%	Evidence of appropriate research, analysis, rehearsal/process work, notes, documentation, and critical engagement.
Final Project / Performance Deliverable	40%	Quality, completeness, artistic or scholarly rigor, and fulfillment of the approved project goals.
Final Reflection & Presentation	10%	Clear articulation of process, learning, challenges, revisions, and outcomes.
Total	100%	Final course grade.

Letter Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Final Project Requirements

Final requirements will be customized to the approved project. Unless otherwise stated in the signed project plan, the student must submit or present the following by the final course deadline:

1. The completed performance, directing project, presentation, or other approved final product.
2. Supporting project documentation appropriate to the work, such as an annotated script or score, promptbook, rehearsal journal, research bibliography, directing concept materials, recordings, production notes, or other evidence of process.
3. A final written reflection of approximately 750 to 1,000 words describing the project goals, process, significant discoveries, challenges, response to feedback, and assessment of the final outcome. An alternate reflection format may be approved in advance when appropriate to the project.

Failure to submit or complete the approved final project by the end of the semester may result in an incomplete or failing grade according to university policy and the circumstances of the individual project.

Project Timeline

Fall 2026 contains 15 instructional weeks. The timeline below provides a broad developmental framework for the project rather than a fixed day-by-day schedule. The student and faculty advisor will meet once each week and may adjust the sequence or emphasis of milestones to fit the approved project. Any project-specific deadlines established in the signed project plan take precedence when they are earlier.

Week	Milestone Focus
Week 1	Project definition and initial planning: confirm the central question or artistic goal, scope, feasibility, final product, and recurring weekly advisor meeting.
Week 2	Proposal and project map: finalize the project proposal/contract, deliverables, evaluation criteria, research or rehearsal needs, and semester milestones.
Week 3	Research and preparation: establish foundational sources, script/score/text analysis, concept work, and a process-documentation system.

Week	Milestone Focus
Week 4	Development Phase I: begin substantive rehearsal, directing, research-to-practice, or other approved project work and bring initial evidence of progress to the advising meeting.
Week 5	Early progress review: assess the first phase of work, identify obstacles or gaps, and adjust the scope or working timeline if needed.
Week 6	Independent development: continue project work and documentation. If the regular advising meeting is affected by faculty travel, complete the agreed independent checkpoint or alternate check-in.
Week 7	Development Phase II: deepen practical work, integrate research, test artistic choices, and continue building the final project.
Week 8	Midpoint review: present substantial progress, a working draft, or a showing; compare progress to the approved project plan and revise the remaining timeline as needed.
Week 9	Revision and expansion: respond to midpoint feedback, address identified weaknesses or gaps, and continue documenting process and decision-making.
Week 10	Advanced development: continue focused rehearsal, coaching, directing, research, or project construction with increasing specificity and independence.
Week 11	Working showing or draft: present a substantial version of the project for focused faculty feedback and identify the revisions necessary for completion.
Week 12	Revision and refinement: implement feedback, strengthen artistic or research choices, and organize supporting project documentation.
Week 13	Pre-final review: present a near-complete project, identify any remaining needs, and confirm the final presentation/submission plan and reflection requirements.
Week 14	Final development and polish: complete remaining project work, refine presentation materials, and assemble documentation. Weekly advising may be adjusted around the Thanksgiving holiday.

Week	Milestone Focus
Week 15	Completion and assessment: present or submit the completed project, supporting documentation, and final reflection; complete the final advisor assessment.

Important University and Advisor Dates

These dates affect university operations, advising availability, or final project completion. Weekly project milestones remain governed by the timeline above and the individual project plan.

Date	University / Advising Note
August 24-27, 2026	Change of Schedule and Late Registration period.
September 7, 2026	Labor Day - no classes; university offices closed.
September 21, 2026	University deadline for December graduates to file for graduation.
September 28-October 4, 2026	Faculty advisor unavailable for regular meetings due to university recruiting travel. The weekly checkpoint will be rescheduled or completed through an agreed alternate check-in.
October 5, 2026	University priority deadline for May 2027 graduates to file for graduation.
November 13 and November 16, 2026	Faculty advisor unavailable for regular meetings due to university travel. Weekly advising will be adjusted as needed.
November 23, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.	Last day to withdraw from the long semester with a grade of W.
November 25-29, 2026	Thanksgiving Holidays.
December 4, 2026	Last day of classes and final course deadline. The completed project, supporting documentation, and final reflection are due unless an earlier project-specific deadline is established in the signed project plan.

Attendance and Professional Responsibility

Attendance in this course is measured through required advising meetings, rehearsals, project observations, presentations, and other scheduled project commitments rather than through a recurring class period.

1. Students are expected to attend all scheduled advising meetings and project commitments established in the approved project plan.
2. If a meeting must be missed, communicate with the faculty advisor before the scheduled time whenever possible. Repeated missed meetings or missed milestones may lower the course grade because they interfere with supervision and project completion.

3. Performance and directing projects connected to an MSU Theatre production remain subject to the rehearsal, performance, production, and attendance policies of that production in addition to this syllabus.
4. Late project work is not automatically accepted. Extensions or revised deadlines must be approved by the faculty advisor before the deadline except in documented emergencies.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L) and Project Documentation

D2L and university email may be used for announcements, project documentation, written submissions, feedback, and final materials. Students are responsible for checking university email and D2L regularly and maintaining access to their own project files throughout the semester.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion, plagiarism, fabrication of research or process documentation, and the submission of work that is not the student's own. Creative and performance projects must properly credit source material, collaborators, adaptations, translations, recordings, and other intellectual or artistic contributions when applicable.

Refer to: [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [MSU Student Handbook](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, media resources, research assistance, and study spaces that may support project research and documentation.

Refer to: [Moffett Library](#)

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in university educational programs and activities. Students seeking accommodations should contact Disability Support Services and communicate approved accommodations to the faculty advisor as early as possible.

Refer to: [Disability Support Services](#)

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Students experiencing challenges related to housing, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, course materials, or other basic needs are encouraged to use university support resources.

Refer to: [Student Support Resources](#)

Campus Carry

University policies regarding concealed carry and prohibited locations apply to all meetings, rehearsals, performances, and project spaces associated with this course. Students are responsible for following current Midwestern State University campus carry rules and applicable law.

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Active Shooter and Emergency Preparedness

The safety and security of the campus community is a shared responsibility. Students are encouraged to review current MSU emergency-preparedness information and procedures for responding to campus emergencies.

Refer to: [MSUReady](#)

Student Privacy

Federal privacy law protects student educational records. The faculty advisor will not discuss a student's grades, progress, or project information with outside parties without appropriate student consent except as permitted or required by university policy or law.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a final course grade should consult the current Midwestern State University catalog and applicable academic policies.