



Course Syllabus: Play Production

College of Fine Arts

THEA 4483

Spring 2023 9:30-10:50AM

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Grace Edgar

Office: 105

Office hours: MTWRF 11:00AM-12:00PM and by appointment

Office phone: (940)397-4908

E-mail: grace.edgar@msutexas.edu

Course Description

Continued exploration of the techniques and aesthetics of directing. Practice in translating analysis into performance and production through the co-direction of two vignette plays. Executing of the role of the director in production conception, design, casting, rehearsing, and staging.

Students will read vignette plays, select scenes, perform script analysis and research, recruit actors, cast and rehearse scenes, and collaborate with designers. This work will cumulate in two vignette play performances. Basic principles of Intimacy Choreography will be incorporated and directors will be expected to create brave spaces for their actors. Additionally, students will be assigned technical and design positions for their classmates as suits their skill sets and area(s) of study. Students will work in groups to create lesson plans for local teachers as promotion for next season's plays and musicals.

Course Objectives

- Read plays analytically and expand knowledge of the canon.
- Understand the role of the director in a production process.
- Through extensive research and imagination, create the "world of the play" with classmates as a co-director.
- Communicate effectively, efficiently and kindly with actors and designers.
- Apply the basic principles of Intimacy Choreography.

- Create lesson plans for local teachers to promote next season’s plays and musicals.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- *Almost, Maine* and *Love/Sick* by John Cariani on D2L
- Notebook

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Grades will be comprised of the student’s preparation and performance as director, designer, technician and/or actor in productions of *Almost, Maine* and *Love/Sick* (15% each for a total of 30%), presentations of their work in production meetings in the assigned role(s) (15% each for a total of 30%), a group project that creates lesson plans for local teachers (20%), and two reflective papers two to three pages long double spaced in a 12 point font on the performances (10% each for a total of 20%).

The student is allowed three absences per semester. Three late arrivals equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

90% or above=A, 80% or above =B, 70% or above=C, 60% or above=D and 59% or below=F.

Table 1: Percentages allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Production Meeting Presentations #1	15%
<i>Almost, Maine</i> Performance	15%
Reflective Paper #1	10%
Lesson Plans	20%
Production Meeting Presentations #2	15%
<i>Love/Sick</i> Performance	15%
Reflective Paper #2	10%
Total Percentage	100%

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90% or above
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	Less than 60%

Producing the Plays

Student directors, designers, technicians and actors will be expected to read *Almost, Maine* and *Love/Sick*, and do extensive research. Research areas include but are not limited to the playwright, the time period when the play is set and the time period when the play was written, the style of the play, historical productions of the play, and technical elements including set, props, lights and costumes. Student directors and designers will present their research through a PowerPoint presentation or renderings in Production Meetings.

There will be an invited performance of *Almost, Maine* and *Love/Sick*. Each scene will be graded on the student's preparation and the successful performance of the plays. Each performance will count as 15% of your final grade.

Reflective Papers

After the plays' performance, the student director, designer and/or technician will write a self-evaluating reflective paper on the successful and less successful aspects of the rehearsal process and performance. This is an opportunity to reflect on one's work and make improvements in the next directing project. There will be two reflective papers and each will count as 10% of your final grade. Papers can be uploaded into [D2L](#), emailed or turned in as a hard copy.

Group Project; Lessons Plans

Students will work in groups to create lesson plans for local teachers to be distributed by the Publicity Office regarding next season's plays and musicals. These lesson plans will include information about the playwright, the time period when the play is set and the time period when the play was written, the style of the play, historical productions of the play, and technical elements including set, props, lights and costumes as well as an optional test over the play and provided information. This group project will count towards 20% of your final grade. Scripts will be available through [D2L](#).

MSU Productions and Extra Credit

Attend both Midwestern plays this semester *Moonlight and Magnolias* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID. Seating may be limited for these productions, please ensure you reserve your tickets early. An analysis bonus paper (additional 5% added to your final grade) can be submitted one week after the production closes.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted with the exception of an emergency.

Make Up Work

No make-up work or tests will be accepted with the exception of an emergency.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 20, 2023

Deadline to file for graduation: February 20, 2023

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 27, 2023 by 4pm

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by Dr. Edgar. The student is allowed three absences per semester. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

Instructor Class Policies

Course Requirements

1. Participation: Daily participation in class activities and discussions.
2. Reading: This course requires a great deal of reading and research outside of class.

3. Rehearsals: Each student director will be responsible for booking spaces and having rehearsals outside of class times.

General Notes

Cell phones need to be turned off or to airplane mode during all classes. Dedicate class time to being present and learning your craft.

No gum or food. Please always bring water to drink.

Content warnings will be given for strong language and/or mature material.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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 all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of Dr. Edgar.

Course Schedule:

Week	Subject	Assigned Reading
Week 1 1/17-1/20	Syllabus Read <i>Almost, Maine</i>	<i>Almost, Maine</i> on D2L
Week 2 1/23-1/27	Assign Creative Team Positions Choose Scenes Cast Scenes	
Week 3 1/30-2/3	Production Meeting Director Presentation #1 Designer Presentation #1	
Week 4 2/6-2/10	Production Meeting Rehearse Build	
Week 5 2/13-2/17	Production Meeting Rehearse Build	

Week	Subject	Assigned Reading
Week 6 2/20-2/24	Production Meeting Rehearse Build Crew Watch	
Week 7 2/27-3/3	Group Project; Create Lesson Plans for Local Teachers Rehearse Build	
Week 8 3/7-3/10	Dress Rehearsals Performance of <i>Almost, Maine</i>	
3/13-3/17	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9 3/20-3/24	Read <i>Love/Sick</i> Assign Creative Team Positions Choose Scenes Cast Scenes Reflective Paper #1 Due	<i>Love/Sick</i> on D2L
Week 10 3/27-3/31	Production Meeting Director Presentation #2 Designer Presentation #2	
Week 11 4/3-4/5	Production Meeting Rehearse Build	
Week 12 4/10-4/14	Production Meeting Rehearse Build	
Week 13 4/17-4/21	Production Meeting Rehearse Build	
Week 14 4/24-4/28	Production Meeting Rehearse Build Crew Watch	
Week 15 5/1-5/5	Dress Rehearsals Performance of <i>Love/Sick</i>	
Week 16 5/9	Reflective Paper Due by 10:00AM	

Important Dates

Assignment Due	Date	Percentage of Final Grace
Director Presentation #1	January 31, 2023	15%
Designer Presentation #1	February 2, 2023	15%
<i>Almost, Maine</i> Performance	March 9, 2023 at 7:30PM	15%
Lesson Plans	March 21, 2023	20%
Reflective Paper #1	March 23, 2023	10%
Director Presentation #2	March 28, 2023	15%
Designer Presentation #2	March 30, 2023	15%
<i>Love/Sick</i> Performance	May 5, 2023 at 7:30PM	15%
Reflective Paper #2	May 9, 2023 by 10:00AM	10%