

**Spring 2023
Directing I
(THEA 3325)
Tentative Syllabus**

Meeting Time and Location:

Monday: 12P.M.-2P.M in FFA 071

This class is a hybrid course; it is defined as 50-85% online instruction. This means that we will meet in person once a week (Monday) and you will have work to complete online through Blackboard and on your own time. Please make sure that you complete the assignments by the deadline listed. We want to use the time we are in class together to engage in meaningful and constructive conversations; this can only occur if you complete the work prior to coming to class. The module for each week will open no later than 10a.m. on the Sunday of that week; once a module is open it will stay open for the rest of the semester; all assignments will close at their assigned deadline.

Course Instructor and Contact Information:

Adriana Dominguez (she/ella)

Mailbox: Department of Theatre and Dance, Fox Fine Arts 371D

E-mail: adrianad@utep.edu (best method of communication)

Office: 126 Prospect Hall

Office Hours: Monday: 10a.m.-11:30a.m. (please make an appointment so that I can make sure to set time aside just for you)

Office Phone: 915-747-5231

Text number: 575-265-0687

You can TEXT me any immediate questions about the course Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4p.m. (MST). Do note that I may be in other meetings, rehearsals, events, and/or class sessions when you text; I will respond as soon as I am able.

VIOLATIONS of these time restrictions will result in reduced use of text.

Please note that all deadlines are in Mountain Standard Time (MST).

*I ask that you look over the syllabus and all the module instructions before asking a question.

Course Description

This course is designed to be an introduction to the art and craft of directing for the theatre. We will do this through hands-on activities in class, readings and expert dialogues, discussions, and working with actors. The fundamental concepts and processes of directing will be investigated through practice and reflection. Focus will be on finding a process that works for YOU.

Course Objectives

To direct a monologue.

To direct a short play/scene no longer than 10 minutes.

To present a director's concept and vision for your chosen pieces.

To communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, about your own work and the work of peers.

Learning Outcomes

Discover your own process.

Develop effective methods of communication with theatre artists.

Articulate practical staging.

Demonstrate effective techniques of theatrical direction including analysis, interpretation, and navigation of the rehearsal process.

Important dates

Classes Begin:	1/17
Census Date:	2/1
Last Day for W:	3/30
Spring Break:	3/13-3/17 (I will be unavailable)
Cesar Chavez Day:	3/31 (University Closed)
Final grades:	5/18

Course Policies and Procedures

Blackboard

This course will utilize Blackboard for assignment submissions.

Blackboard is a tool that allows faculty to add resources for students to access online.

Assignment and schedule details as well as assignment grading can be found on Blackboard.

If you need a hard copy of this syllabus, print it.

Your final grade is posted on **BLACKBOARD**.

Uploading and downloading assignments, syllabus and readings will be on **Blackboard**.

How to Login to Blackboard

Blackboard is tied to my.utep.edu. If you are properly registered for the class, you are enrolled in Blackboard as well.

Go to: <https://my.utep.edu>

Log in with your UTEP Username and password. If you have trouble, email me as soon as possible. Blackboard Student Services provides 24/7 help desk and technical support to faculty and students in online courses.

Contacting Blackboard Student Services 24/7 Support

Toll free 1-877-382-0491

*** IMPORTANT: You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard EVERY DAY to make sure you do not miss any important announcements, which will be posted in the Announcement area.

Required Text and Materials:

All reading material will be available on Bb OR through the course instructor.

Access to computer and internet.

All readings and videos are posted on the Blackboard site located in the Learning Module for any particular week.

A UTEP e-mail account; if you don't have one, GET ONE IMMEDIATELY.

Go to <http://getmail.utep.edu>

You may also call the HELP desk at (915) 747-4357 (on campus) or (915) 747-5257 (off-campus)

Required Software

You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course. If you are using a lab on campus, they already have the necessary software. All the needed programs are free downloads and can be downloaded from the URLs I have provided here and on Blackboard, which are located in the Getting Started tab.

- **Adobe Acrobat Reader:** You can get the program by going to www.adobe.com and then clicking on the icon on the left side of the screen which says “Get Adobe Reader. Follow instructions to install the reader.
- **Microsoft Office:** I recommend buying this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. It is available at the UTEP bookstore to students at a discounted price. If you cannot purchase it you can access it at any of the computer labs on campus. All assignment documents must be submitted as Word .doc OR PDF files. If I cannot open your documents, they WILL NOT be graded.

Respect

All students are in this class to learn. Should a student disrupt that process, the instructor will take the appropriate steps to ensure that all students interact in a safe space that is conducive to the learning process.

Remember that your instructor is also a human being. She has many other responsibilities outside of this class, just as the student has several responsibilities outside of this one class. Read the syllabus, stick to class/university policies, utilize common etiquette and respect, and know that your instructor wants you to succeed in this course, but she is not responsible for that, you are.

I do not drop students from class; that is your choice and responsibility.

Work will be graded in a timely manner as listed in the explanation of assignments.

As this is a hybrid classroom, it is essential that online communication is effective and reflects appropriate behavior.

Class Attendance

The student is expected to maintain a consistent presence in this course. Do note that we have several activities IN class; connect with the professor if there are barriers to you being in class. Do note that **only** UTEP sanctioned events (with a verified excused letter) and genuine emergencies will warrant make up work.

IF you are late to class please WAIT outside the classroom until the person speaking is done. This is about respect.

Deadline Policy

All due dates are listed for each requirements; late submissions will not be graded. Please ensure that you carefully read all instructions. Reading the instructions is your responsibility

and you should not assume due dates or times. Work can be submitted before the deadline time/date. Note that all assignments are due at 11:59a.m. on the stated deadline.

Letter grade scale

90+ points = A

89–77 points = B

76--65 points = C

65 – 55 points = D

54 – 0 points = F

TOTAL POINTS: 107

Please note that there is a HUGE point spread. Life happens, so there is a nice cushion. Because there is that cushion, do not ask for any extra credit, extensions, or exceptions.

Generalizations, unoriginal thoughts, and vague references will result in a deduction of points. The focus is informed, critical, and well-supported work.

Do note that there are rubrics for all individual assignments; this is to solidify expectations and equity.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Class Activities: 47 points

There will be several class activities to help further develop your skills as a director. It is essential that you have done the work prior to coming to class. You will receive a grade on Blackboard after class. Each class activity will be different and there will be opportunities for all with a variety of skills to succeed. Class activities will include:

Class Discussions on Assigned Reading/Watching

In Class Rehearsals

Concept Presentations

Directorial Exercises

Performances of Directed Pieces

Your first directed piece will:

Be a monologue of your choice from *Sonnets For An Old Century*

This piece will not need to be memorized

Have an actor from our Directing Class

Your second directed piece will:

Be a 10 minute scene of your choosing (I will provide options)

This piece will be memorized

Have actors from our Directing Class

Blackboard Assignments: 60 points

There will be several assignments due on Blackboard outside of in person class sessions.

These include:

Syllabus Quiz

Responses to Assigned Reading/Watching

Reflections

Concepts

Show Attendance and Response

Students must attend the UTEP productions of *Heroes and Saints* and *The Prom*. You MUST sign in at the end of the show and I will receive a copy of attendance. There are no cost opportunities to see the shows; please be proactive and discuss your options early. You will receive 5 points per show attendance and will then choose ONE of the productions on which to write a reflection.

Total Points Available: 107

Upload Instructions

Upload written work as either a **DOC** or **PDF** file. **Do not upload Text files**. Name them as follows: your last name_play1(no spaces)_date(mmddyy)

example: lopez_play1_041518

Deadlines are listed for each submission and are in the course calendar; please note that I do not accept late work, you need to keep track of the assignment schedule. If you are having an issue with an assignment, make sure that you connect with me with plenty of time.

I have the ability to track your participation in Blackboard and I am able to see what date and time you accessed all links. Do not wait until the last minute to do your work. Technology has a way of tripping you up when you are racing against the clock.

You will receive full credit for your posts that are quality and consist of critical analysis and contribute to the discussion and that meet deadlines. You will need to use the course readings and/or other verified sources to support your arguments. I do not want a summary (recap of the material) of the readings. I have read the material; I know what it is about.

Subject Matter

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable reading. If you have concerns about reading or discussing specific subjects, please contact me soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. Requests for substitutions of readings must be made no later than 72 hours prior to the original assignment due date.

I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter. You can do research about each piece prior to the reading so that you can make the informed decision. I do not know your background and/or experiences. I do not know what impacts which people in which way. We must all advocate for ourselves and also respect the impact that such work can have on others.

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to The Center for Accommodations and Support Services located at Union Building East Room 106 by phone (915) 747-5148 or email cass@utep.edu. If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of The Center for Accommodations and Support Services.

The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment through the UWC's website (uwc.utep.edu). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. Visit the UWC's website to learn more about the services they provide or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please consult the Handbook of Operating Procedures at <http://hoop.utep.edu> for the complete University policy on academic dishonesty.

I do expect all work to be original; I do read all of your work.

Student Agreements

Student agrees to treat fellow students, UTEP faculty and staff, with respect and collaborate with all group members in a professional manner.

Student understands that copyright laws protect the materials used in this class. Student will refrain from any public or private distribution of all materials provided and/or created in this course.

Student understands that any superimposed copyright on materials may not be covered over in any way.

Student will not upload the aforementioned materials to Internet sites, whether public or private, such as YouTube, Facebook, or any other Web Publishing System.

Student will not exhibit any of the materials provided and student work created in this course and shared on Blackboard in any public venue without express and written permission of the copyright holder.

Student Responsibility

You are responsible for seeing that all of your equipment and software are up to date or that you get yourself to a lab, library, etc. where you can meet the requirements of the class. Blackboard works best with Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari. Stay away from Internet Explorer! For some reason Blackboard does not communicate well with Internet Explorer so avoid it.

It is very important that you follow directions carefully. You must submit all of your work correctly. If you fail to properly submit your work you will not receive credit for the assignment. Here is an example of improperly submitting work: Student opens assignment link, copies/pastes their critical response then fails to click the submit button. They then move into another part of Blackboard and the assignment is never submitted. Simple human error, but it will cost you a grade.

You must check Blackboard often for announcements and course messages.

You are provided with a course calendar that clearly defines all due dates and deadlines. Hybrid learning is independent learning and you must be responsible enough to submit all work on time. I will not accept late work.

The only time that I will accept a late quiz or assignment is if the Blackboard System goes down. I have the ability to enter the system as both an administrator and as a student and I will know if there was a system failure. If there was a failure I am provided with a report stating so and then I can extend the deadline.

Security

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

Don't share your password with anyone.

Change your password if you think someone else might know it.

Always logout when you are finished using the system.

Guidelines for Communicating Online:

Have patience; your e-mail is not the only one someone has received.

Treat everyone with respect, even in email or in any other online communication.

Use clear and concise language.

Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar.

Avoid slang terms and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you".

Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 pt. font.

Avoid using the caps lock feature as it can be interpreted as yelling.

Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or ☺.

Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or offensive.

Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).

Do not send confidential patient information via e-mail.

Email Netiquette:

When you send an email to your instructor, teaching assistant, or classmates, you should:
Use a descriptive subject line.

Be brief.

Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them.

Avoid HTML in favor of plain text.

Sign your message with your name and return e-mail address.

Think before you send the e-mail to more than one person.

Please note that aggressive and unprofessional behavior is not acceptable and will be dealt with immediately.

COVID Testing**If You Receive a Positive COVID-19 Test**

Please report a positive COVID-19 test to covidaction@utep.edu so the COVID Action Team can follow up with you.

Instructor Bio:

Adriana is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at UTEP. She has published with *Chicana/Latina Studies*, *The Journal of Latina Critical Feminism*, *Camino Real*, *ETUDES*, and *Theatre Topics*. She has presented at NACCS, MALCS, MALAS, SCOLAS, NEH, and KCACTF. Recent projects include: *Heroes and Saints*, *Zoot Suit*, *And Then Came Tango*, *Real Women Have Curves*, *Luna*, *El Toro y La Nina*, *A Christmas Carol en La Frontera*, and *Cenicienta* which received the Directors' Choice Award at the Regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in 2022. She received her B.A. in Theatre Arts with a Minor in Secondary Education from the University of Texas at El Paso, her M.A. in Performing Arts Administration from New York University, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction from New Mexico State University. Adriana has participated in theatre as an actress, director, producer, designer, and teacher at the elementary school, middle school, high school, and college level for over 25 years and couldn't imagine doing anything else. Adriana's research and scholarship is focused on excluded and underrepresented groups in the performing arts.

Copyright Statement

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Student Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Loans, Tuition, Financial, Counseling Support:

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students-office/emergencyaid/>

Career Support:

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/careers/students-alumni/student-services.html>

All Other Services:

<http://catalog.utep.edu/student-services/>

ASSIGNMENT TABLE

	Points	Due Date
<u>Week One 1/17-1/20</u>		
NO in person meeting		
Blackboard Work		
Watch Intro Video		
Navigate the Course Site		
Syllabus Quiz	2	1/20
Readings		
Response	3	1/20
Role of the Director		
Start reading <i>Sonnets</i>		
TOTAL POINTS:	5	
<u>Week Two: 1/23-1/27</u>		
In person meeting on 1/23		
Discussion on Director's Role		
In class activity/Text Work	2	1/23
Discuss Project One		
Blackboard Work		
Reading/Watch Resources		
Response	2	1/27
Finish reading <i>Sonnets</i>		
TOTAL POINTS:	4	
<u>Week Three: 1/30-2/3</u>		
In person meeting on 1/30		
Begin Project One		
Director's Concept		
Scheduling		
Intimacy		
Blackboard Work		
Director's Concept (3 mins)	5	2/3
Read Blocking Resources		
TOTAL POINTS:	5	
<u>Week Four: 2/6-2/10</u>		
In person meeting on 2/6		
In class activity	5	2/6
Concepts (3 mins)		
Blocking/Scheduling		
Assign Actors		
Blackboard Work		
Submit Blocking	5	2/9
TOTAL POINTS	10	

Week Five: 2/13-2/17

In person meeting on 2/13		
In class rehearsal	5	2/13
Communicating with actors		
Sign up for additional 20 minute rehearsal session		2/13
Outside class time		
Rehearsal		
TOTAL POINTS	5	

Week Six: 2/20-2/24

In person meeting on 2/20		
Performances	5	2/20
Blackboard Work		
Reflection	5	2/23
TOTAL POINTS	10	

Week Seven: 2/27-3/3

No in class meeting due to KCACTF		
Blackboard Work:		
Select next scene	3	3/2
Actors Assigned		3/3
TOTAL POINTS	3	

Week Eight: 3/6-3/10

In person meeting on 3/6		
In class activity	5	
Working with actors		
Blocking		
Collaborating with Design		
Blackboard Work/Outside class		
Response to show	5	3/9
Director's Concept	5	3/17
Sign Up for Additional Rehearsal		3/10
TOTAL POINTS	15	

Week Nine: 3/13-3/17**NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK****Week Ten: 3/20-3/24**

In person meeting on 3/20		
Director's Concepts (5-7 mins)	5	3/20
Blackboard Work		
Rehearsal Schedule	5	3/23

TOTAL POINTS	10	
<u>Week Eleven: 3/27-3/31</u>		
In person meeting on 3/27		
Group 1 Rehearsal		3/27
TOTAL POINTS	5 (will be updated after 4/10)	
<u>Week Twelve: 4/3-4/7</u>		
In person meeting on 4/3		
Group 2 Rehearsal		4/3
<u>Week Thirteen: 4/10-4/14</u>		
In person meeting on 4/10		
Group 3 Rehearsal		4/10
<u>Week Fourteen: 4/17-4/21</u>		
In person meeting on 4/17		
What is working?	5	
TOTAL POINTS	5	
<u>Week Fifteen: 4/24-4/28</u>		
In person meeting on 4/24		
Final Scene Presentations	10	4/24
Blackboard Work:		
Reflection (those that presented)	5	4/27
TOTAL POINTS	15	
<u>Week Sixteen: 5/1-5/5</u>		
In person meeting on 5/1		
Final Scene Presentations		5/1
Blackboard Work:		
Reflection (those that presented)		5/4
<u>Week Seventeen: 5/8-5/12</u>		
Blackboard Work		
Final Reflection	5	5/10
<u>Play Attendance</u>	10	
TOTAL	107	