EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
THEATRE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Theatre
FA / THEA 4070 3.0 SECTION A
PERFORMANCE PRACTICUM III
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 08/21/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Intended for final-year students in acting, or in assistant directing mounted department productions in the fall term. This course gives students an intensive opportunity to develop advanced skills in the creation of a fully mounted production. Prerequisites: FA/THEA 3021 3.00 or FA/THEA 3050 3.00, and/or permission of the Theatre Department. For assistant directors, it is recommended to take FA/THEA 4485 3.00. Open to Theatre majors only.

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

TBD

SPECIAL FEATURES

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3. Course Consultation Hours: by appointment

1. Topics and Concepts

2. Required Reading

Scripts will be available from Mary Pecchia, Administrative Assistant, in CFT 320.

Recommended Reading

Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Detailed rehearsal and performance schedules will be distributed on the first day of rehearsal for each Department production. Students may also be required to attend audition sessions before each production, details to be announced in advance of these dates.

For details of each production’s schedule, please see the department’s production calendar:
http://www.yorku.ca/theaschd

• Learning Outcomes with Examples
1. **Course Goals** The purpose of this course is to simulate a professional rehearsal and production theatre situation

**Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will:

* have experienced a full rehearsal process.
* have contributed to the organization and mounting of a play.
* have performed in a public venue.
* have applied various skills acquired over the past 3 years.

THEA 4070 3.0 Performance Practicum III is intended for final-year students working in assistant directing mounted department productions in the Fall term. This course offers students an intensive opportunity to develop and perfect advanced skills in the realizing of a fully mounted production.

Students are assigned to assistant direct particular productions of Department shows produced in this term. They are required to fulfill all the duties of an assistant director and hand in an archival document at the end of the production.

The course allows students a full practical experience of rehearsal from start to finish. They should gain practical knowledge of the workings of the real theatre.

1. **Graded Assessment**

2. **For assistant directing students:**

   **Rehearsal Process** 50%

   * Assessed by the director of the Department production:
     * Interest, commitment, effort: 10%
     * Collaborative ability: 10%
     * Initiative: 10%
     * Ability to carry out assigned tasks: 10%
     * Professionalism in practice and discussion: 10%

   **Archival Document** 50%

   * Assessed by the course director of the Performance Practicum:
     * Clarity, thoroughness and organization of required materials: 10%
     * Specificity, applicability and depth of visual research: 10%
     * Specificity, applicability and depth of textual research: 10%
     * Diligence, discipline and specificity of rehearsal note entries: 10%
     * Writing fundamentals including grammar, spelling, and clarity of thought: 10%

   **Archival Document (worth 50% of practicum grade for assistant directing students)**

   Each assistant directing team must keep an archival document of the mounted department production to which they are assigned. Past examples are available for viewing. A three-inch binder with inside pockets,
clearly (and creatively) labeled on the spine and on the front, is highly recommended to contain the following information, with title pages for each section:

- Table of Contents.
- The Script, with edits and/or any additional text.
- Act, Scene and/or Unit Divisions (and Titles) if utilized by the director.
- A short description of the plot line of each scene – who does what to whom?
- A Scene Breakdown in table form listing what characters are in what scenes.
- Rehearsal Schedules.
- Rehearsal Notes – what happened at each rehearsal (point form is fine). This need not be typewritten, but MUST be legible. Rotate the duties of recording this significant section.
- Visual Research – images pertaining to the director’s vision of the play or the production itself.
- Script Research – text materials relating to the play, the period, the playwright, influences on the playwright, other works of the author, the ideas and themes, elucidation of unfamiliar words and concepts, the style or genre, previous productions and reviews, critical commentary, related works by others, the sociopolitical/religious/historical context—the sky is the limit.
- Production Notes – General, Set, Props, Sound, Wardrobe, Lights, etc.
- The Program, Reviews.
- Set and/or Costume Renderings and/or Photographs (with permission of the designers and the Department)
- Audition Format and Notes

Your task is to record clearly and compellingly the creative process of this production for posterity. Your overriding duty in rehearsal is to anticipate and creatively fulfill the research needs of the director, cast and production team. In short: inform and inspire. This archival document will be graded by the course director for the performance practicum, and constitutes 50% of your practicum grade. Criteria will include:

- clarity, thoroughness and organization of required materials; specificity, applicability and depth of visual research; specificity, applicability and depth of textual research; diligence, discipline and specificity of rehearsal note entries; and writing fundamentals including grammar, spelling, and clarity of thought.

NOTE: The archival document for Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet is to be submitted to the course director by noon on Monday, December 9. 10% per day will be deducted for late submission.

1. Additional Information

Last date to drop this course without receiving a grade: November 8, 2019.

Students will receive graded feedback on work totalling at least 15% of the course grade before the deadline for withdrawing from the course so they can make an informed decision on whether to withdraw.

If you have any unanswered questions or are unsure of your marks/progress during the course, please make an appointment with the course director. The responsibility is yours.

Note: Restrictions apply to grade reappraisal. See applicable information in the 2018/19 York University Undergraduate Calendar at http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2018-2019/programs/theatre.

Important: the live performance component of any course is excluded from grade reappraisal.

Minimum Grade Policy for Acting Area Students:

Students in the Acting Conservatory must maintain a “B” or higher in each course of Voice, Movement and Acting classes each term in order to be allowed to advance to the next term. Anyone leaving the Acting Area for a period of one year or more, for whatever reason, even if in good academic standing, will be expected to re-audition to re-enter the Area unless a statement to the contrary has been received in writing from the Area at the time of withdrawal.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests Grading:

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ - 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade.
Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, written assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment, as indicated in the class schedule. If hardcopy assignments are required, emailed submissions are not permitted; if email or online submissions are required, hardcopy will not be accepted.

Late Submission Policy: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one-half letter grade per day. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the course director but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

Attendance Policy:
Absent and Late Penalty: Students are reminded that Department of Theatre rules require attendance at all classes, rehearsals and performances. There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences—an absence is an absence and will affect your chances of success in this course.

All classes, rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Failure to attend all classes, rehearsals and performances will result in either academic penalty or a request that the student withdraw from the class or production. Any student in the Acting Area who is absent or late without prior arrangement with the course director or production director for an excused absence or late (at the course director or production director’s discretion) may have 3% deducted from their final grade for each unexcused absence or lateness.

If a student is going to miss a class, rehearsal or performance due to illness, or be considerably late, the student must contact the course director or production director prior to the beginning of that class, rehearsal or performance. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence or lateness.

It is the responsibility of each student to follow up on any unexcused absence in person with the course director or production director. If a student is late for class, it is his or her responsibility to follow up on that lateness with the course director in person on the class break or after class.

Part-time jobs or outside employment in theatre-related endeavors do not count as excused absences for Acting Conservatory classes, rehearsals or performances.

Exceptions to the absence and/or lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the course director or production director but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

Notwithstanding conflicts with rehearsals/performances of the production in which they are engaged, all students must attend all studio shows and Theatre@York productions. Failure to do may result in a 2% reduction of the final grade in your Acting class.

Class Presentations: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. In the discipline of acting for the stage, absences have a profound effect on scene partners and class members. Accordingly, class presentations for this course must be performed on the due dates specified for the assignment, as indicated in the class schedule.

Missed Class Presentation Penalty: Missed class presentations on the due date will be penalized with a grade of zero for the absent student. Exceptions to the missed class presentation penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the course director but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter). The course director will attempt to reschedule the missed class presentation to facilitate scene partners affected by an excused absence. Any student with an unexcused absence necessitating a rescheduled presentation will continue to receive a grade of zero for the presentation in question. Assigning an alternate scene partner may be implemented. Due to the collaborative nature of this studio course, make-up assignments will not be scheduled.

Note on Challenging Content:
One of the central educational goals of the Theatre Department is to produce socially conscious artists—artists who are aware of and capable of participating in challenging dialogues about social injustice and inequality. This means that our courses, public events, and productions often grapple with difficult subject matter, including sex, violence, terror, and illness (among other topics). While these presentations
will no doubt provoke strong emotions and cause discomfort, we feel that the diverse experiences they bring about are also essential to the development of our students’ critical faculties, empathy, and understanding of the world. Rather than warning our students in advance about every potentially uncomfortable topic that they might encounter in the course of their studies, we instead encourage students to meet them head on in the classroom, in rehearsals, and performances, and to engage in civil and compassionate debate about the possibilities and effects of staging difficult knowledge.

**Dress Requirement:**

Comfortable clothing suitable for active movement. No jewelry. Bare feet. Hair tied back from face.

**Note Regarding Piercings:**

It has been our experience that some students join the program with various piercings. Some piercings can have a direct and negative affect on your training. Tongue and lip piercings in particular have the potential to affect your voice and speech considerably. As the Acting Conservatory is designed to assist you to become as proficient and flexible as possible, we require you to remove such piercings for class. We understand the importance of self-expression and do not want to discourage this—however, when it has a direct effect on your training, health or safety, we hope that you will understand that we have your best interests in mind.

**Mobile Device Use:**

All devices must be silenced or turned off prior to the start of class. Use of mobile devices is limited to note taking, calendar, to-do and similar productivity apps. Texting, messaging, and other social media usage is not permitted in class. Please note that in many classes, use of paper scripts and texts is not only preferred but required, as they allow students to take notes more rapidly.

**Studio Booking Policy:**

ALL requests for studio space must be made in writing by Thursday for the upcoming week to rehearse@yorku.ca. You may not “claim” a space by writing in your name or the course name in an empty slot on the weekly schedules posted outside each studio. Students and faculty are not allowed to rehearse past 10:00pm without special permission from the Production Coordinator.

Theatre@York rehearsals always take precedence when rooms are assigned, followed by faculty-assigned work. Personal projects, including playGround, will only be considered if space allows.

Adopt professional standards by agreeing on a rehearsal schedule in advance with group members and by appointing one group member to do the arranging of the space, in writing by Thursday for the upcoming week to rehearse@yorku.ca.

**Studio Usage:**

Except for water, no beverages or food are permitted in the studios. Please leave outside footwear at the entrance to the studio.

All studios must be neutralized before leaving the space, with all door flats, rehearsal blocks, chairs, and tables moved to the sides of the room. All garbage must be removed. Please ensure that the floors, walls and blackboards are clean.

Please treat the studios with respect.

First-year Theatre majors are not eligible to book studios.

**Site-Specific Projects:**

All site-specific theatre projects anywhere on campus must be cleared by the course director, York University’s Security Services, and the department or governing body of the proposed site. This request should be made in writing at least three weeks in advance of the date required. All public spaces on campus require contact with the Office of Temporary Use of University Space. http://tuus.info.yorku.ca/

The course director will also need to complete a “Temporary Use of University Space Application and Notification Form” online, and submit it two weeks in advance of the date required. (For more information on the TUUS form, see the Online Guidelines.)

For ALL site-specific work, the course director must send the request to security@yorku.ca outlining where and when the work is to take place.

**Please note:** At no time shall any form of replica, prop, or real weapon (handguns, rifles, shotguns, swords, daggers, knives, etc.) be used in any site-specific work.
**Physical Contact:**
The York policy lists "unnecessary touching or patting" as behaviour indicative of sexual harassment. However, in the Department of Theatre, touching routinely happens in Acting/Directing classes and in costume fittings.

In Acting, Voice and Movement classes, students will be touched in the abdomen, diaphragm area, rib cage, chest, spine, back, shoulders, limbs, neck, and head to assist the student in proper breathing, relaxation of tensions, alignment, or similar instruction. At no time should a teacher or classmate, without the student's permission, touch those parts of a student's body that would normally be covered by a two-piece bathing suit. At no time in any class will a student be asked to remove intimate apparel.

**Replicas, Props or Real Weapons:**
At no time shall any form of replica, prop or real weapon (handguns, rifles, shotguns, swords, daggers, knives, etc.) be used in class presentations or in rehearsals outside of class. Please consult the course director if you have any questions in this regard.

**Open Flame:**
No use of open flame, candles, matches, real cigarettes/cigars, etc., is to be used in class presentation or in rehearsals.

**Casting Policy:**
To enable students to focus on the goals and curriculum of the Acting Conservatory training experience, BFA Acting students may not be cast in any student show unless permission is given by the Acting Area. The Acting Area does not permit Conservatory students to participate in theatre, film, radio, or television productions outside of the Conservatory during the academic year, and highly recommends that students do not engage in any productions on the holiday break or during the summer months until fourth-year Conservatory training is completed.

**Degree Status – BA and BFA:**
Students accepted into Theatre are entering as Honours BA Theatre Majors. The first year is a program common to ALL Theatre students. At the end of first-year, there is a selection process (either by audition or interview) to move into the various areas of concentration or students may remain in the program as Performance Creation & Research students. Students who proceed in Production/Design or Acting are required to complete the online Change of Degree request to switch from Honours BA to Honours BFA (available at http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/program-change; Change of Degree requests must be submitted no later than June 30 to take effect the next fall/winter session). All students proceeding into second-year in Theatre will choose and/or seek admission to an area of concentration, which will define the requirements that will govern the selection of courses available to them.

**Policy Regarding Loss, Damage and Theft of Personal Equipment and Belongings:**
The Department of Theatre and the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD) at York University will not be held responsible for the loss, damage or theft of personal equipment or any other personal belongings that are left in studios, classrooms, storage areas or any other space within the AMPD. It is each individual’s responsibility to take care of his or her own property. Under no circumstances will the Department of Theatre or AMPD incur liability for loss, damage or theft of such property.

Please take all reasonable measures to protect your personal belongings. If you do experience loss, damage or theft of personal property, please report it immediately to the Department of Security Services at their general telephone number: (416) 650-8000.

**Academic Policies / Information**

*The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:*

*York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site*

- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct

Additional information:
Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

"20% Rule" No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.