

THEATER 492 SECTION 001

THE STUDIO PROJECT

SPRING, 2011

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:30 - 12:30, or by appointment

Text: None

Credits: 1 - 3

Prerequisite: Directing I, Scene Design, Costume Design, Sound Design, or Lighting Design,
depending on the project

Co-requisite: Studio show assignment

The Studio Project is for Directors, the various Designers, Dramaturges, and Stage Managers of Studio Productions. The purpose of the class is to build and gain insights into their personal aesthetic when producing theater. *Mentorship* is the key behind developing this aesthetic. A Mentor will be assigned to the student. With the supervision and guidance of the mentor, the student will present a plan, discuss the execution of that plan, evolve the plan with the evolution of the production, execute the plan, and be evaluated on the final product.

Concepts to be covered and requirements for evaluation:

1) Directorial or design concepts from the inception of the work to be done. This may include written proposals, research, renderings and/or models, or other materials asked of the student relevant to the discipline of the project.

2) The student must outline the plan by which the project will be executed.

- 3) During the natural course of the evolution of the production, changes to the plan are inevitable. The student must present the changes to the plan to the mentor for evaluation and discussion and evaluation.
- 4) The student must relate the director to designer and/or the designer to the designer relationship and how it affects the project.
- 5) The student will elaborate about the execution phase. The student may seek advice on how to achieve the various goals put forth in the proposal or with needed changes to the plan.
- 6) Feedback will be given to the student concerning a rehearsal.
- 7) Feedback will be given concerning the final product as a means of evaluation.
- 8) The student will document the product by the creation of portfolio material.

A letter grade will be assigned by the mentor after the end the production and when all materials are submitted.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

Interruption due to cell phones, pagers, or other outside communication devices is deemed unacceptable. This is true not only in the classroom but in the theatres you attend while seeing productions. Such interruptions will result in additional assignments, usually in the form of a paper, to the offending party and be graded on a pass/fail basis. I emphatically recommend you turn these devices *off* before entering classroom or the theatre!

INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE UNIVERSITY:

ETHICS, UNIVERSITY POLICIES, HONOR CODE:

As a courtesy to others in the class, and in accordance with George Mason University policy, please turn off all beepers, cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. Also, please refrain from using Instant Messenger or email during class.

Copyright Law

Each student is individually responsible for his or her own work on assignments and creative projects. A willingness to learn from and share ideas with other students is important and equally important is that students do their own work. The use of other artists' images, videos, sounds, music is allowed as long as your inclusion of these creative works falls within the realm of "fair use" as described by copyright law. Students should always cite their sources. Try to use original source material as often as possible.

Honor Code

The Honor Code, as stated in the George Mason University Undergraduate Catalog, applies to all students in this class. The Honor Code requires that the work you do be your own. As a university faculty member, I have an obligation to refer the names of students who may have violated the Honor Code to the Student Honor Council, which treats such cases very seriously. Using someone else's words, ideas, music or art without giving them credit is plagiarism, a very serious Honor Code offense. It is crucial to understand how to avoid plagiarism when using material from other sources. No grade is important enough to justify cheating, for which there are serious consequences. If you feel unusual pressure about your grade in this or any other course, please talk to me or a member of the Counseling Center staff.

GRADING:

Letter grades will be assigned based on the George Mason University undergraduate grading system in which a letter grade of "A" is equal to 4.00 grade points, "A-" equals 3.67 grade points, etc. See the Academic Policies section of the *University Catalog* (available online at www.gmu.edu) for more information.

Grading Standards: What makes a project or other assignment an "A"? (B, C, D, F)

Grading Standards:

- A grade of "A" is given for superlative work that demonstrates a profound commitment to the course material, and further, employs this material as a springboard for independent thought and work.
- A grade of "B" is given for very good work that completely fulfills all the requirements of the course in a conscientious and dedicated manner, and that demonstrates mastery of the course content.
- A grade of "C" is given for work that fulfills all the requirements of the course in a satisfactory manner, but that falls short of demonstrating rigor and mastery.
- A grade of "D" is given for work that is unsatisfactory in content, but meets the standards of submission.
- A grade of "F" is given for work that fails to fulfill the requirements of the course.

All communications regarding this course must occur via Mason email accounts.

GMU Add/Drop Policy: The last day to drop this class with no tuition liability is **2/8/2011**. The last day to drop this class without Dean's permission is **2/25/2011, by 5pm**. The selective withdrawal period is 2/28/2011 – 4/1/2011. It is the student's responsibility to check to verify that they are properly enrolled as no credit will be awarded

Honor Code, Copyright, & Computing Policies: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:* Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

You are expected to adhere to all University policies and guidelines during your participation in this course. All work must be your own. Inappropriate use of the work of others is a George Mason University Honor Code violation. Please review the University's website for information on the following: Honor Code and Judicial Procedures; Copyright/Fair Use; and Responsible Use of Computing.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Students must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester, and the specific accommodation will be arranged through the Disability Resource Center.

GMU Email Accounts

Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. The GMU email accounts are the official accounts for this class.

Writing Center: Students in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should make use of the services of the Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). These services are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis.

Other Mason resources: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/freshman/resources.html>

University Policies: University Catalog can be accessed catalog.gmu.edu
University Libraries "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) caps.gmu.edu or (703) 993-2380

University Policies

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

You are encouraged to sign up for the Mason Alert System by visiting the website <https://alert.gmu.edu>. Emergency information is posted in each classroom explaining what to do

in the event of crises. Further information about emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert>.

NOTE: Cell phones, pagers and alarms must be turned off in class. Exceptions will only be made in advance or in case of emergency.

Important Dates Revised

Dates listed on this page are for full semester courses only. For add/drop deadlines for courses that meet less than a full semester, see [Non-standard Sections Dates](#).

<i>January 1 Day of Week</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Martin Luther King Day (no classes)	Mon Jan 16
First day of classes ; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed	Mon Jan 23
Summer 2012 Graduation Intent Available via Patriot Web	Mon Jan 30
Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	Tues Jan 31
Last day to add classes —all individualized section forms due	Tues Jan 31
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	Tues Feb 14
Last day to drop with a 67% tuition penalty	Fri Feb 24
Last day to drop	Fri Feb 24
Last day to file your Spring 2012 Graduation Intent	Fri Feb 24
Immunization Record Deadline	Tue Mar 1
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	Mon Feb 20 - Fri Mar 23
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	Mon Feb 27 - Fri Mar 30
Spring Break	Mon Mar 12 - Sun Mar 18
Incomplete work from Fall 2011 due to instructor**	Fri Mar 30

Incomplete grade changes from fall 2011 due to registrar**	Fri Apr 6
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline**	Fri May 4
Last day of classes	Sat May 5
Reading Days	Mon May 7 & Tue May 8
Exam Period (beginning at 7:30 a.m.)	Wed May 9 - Wed May 16
Commencement and Degree Conferral Date	May 19, 2012

** These dates will not change.