

Course Outline

Code: DRA202

Title: Directing Performance: Contemporary Perspectives

School: Creative Industries
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2020
Course Coordinator: Dr Hannah Banks, hbanks@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Dr Gail Crimmins, gcrimmin@usc.edu.au

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Description

Focusing on the work of pivotal directors, this course provides an overview of the development of modern and contemporary performance practice. Through research and analysis, you will acquire an understanding of a range of directorial approaches. You will apply this understanding to your own creative practice as you assume the role of director and develop your skills in textual analysis, concept development and aesthetic communication. You will identify the significant paradigms of knowledge driving your practice.

1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
Nil	Nil

2. What level is this course?

200 level Developing – Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes	Assessment tasks	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
Communicate your knowledge of pivotal directors and contemporary performance movements in written, multimedia and oral forms.	1 and 3	Knowledgeable. Creative and critical thinkers.
View, analyse and critically reflect on the key dramatic features, audience	2	Knowledgeable.

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to:
impact, developmental influences and knowledge paradigms evident in a selected live performance		
Apply knowledge of the director's role, paradigms, and contemporary performance practice to construct new work	3	Creative and critical thinkers.
Communicate and justify a creative and original directorial concept for a proposed performance context	3	Empowered.

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Nil

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Competent English language skills for oral and written work and foundational skills in textual analysis and aesthetic communication. It is recommended that you have some experience in creating or participating in performance work.

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

In week 3, a plan of your Task 1 assessment (oral presentation) will be reviewed by your tutor. It should include the key components of your presentation and the group members responsible for each section.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Oral	Group	20%	10 minutes	Weeks 4 and 5	In Class
2	Written Piece	Individual	30%	1500 words	Week 8	Online Assignment

						Submission with Plagiarism check
3	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Group	50%	2000 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
			100%			

Assessment 1: Research Presentation

Goal:	Communicate knowledge of one pivotal director and their practice
Product:	Oral
Format:	Academic format. In pairs you will select one pivotal theatre director from the list provided to address the question, 'Who are the most influential directors in modern and contemporary theatre and why are they considered to be ground-breaking? You will apply your information literacy skills to source and analyse information on your chosen director. You will present your research to your peers in tutorial. The presentation must include background information, political/social context, examples of work, the central themes and purpose of their work, and your analysis of their innovation/s and influence on contemporary performance. You will present your research in a 10 minute oral and visual presentation using presentation software via Zoom before uploading your multimedia presentation to Blackboard.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of research to demonstrate knowledge of director's practice, objectives and context Identification and analysis of director's innovation and their influence on performance practice Effective oral, written and visual communication

Assessment Task 2: Performance Critique

Goal:	View, analyse and evaluate performance
Product:	Written Piece
Format:	Academic format. To consider how the contemporary performance maker/director manipulates dramatic form and performance elements to communicate with an audience, you will watch one of the recommended recorded theatre performances, analyse and critique the performance, and write a critique communicating your knowledge of dramatic form and performance practice.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key directorial choices in the performance Critique key directorial choices in relation to cohesion and vision Knowledge of dramatic form and performance practice utilised by the director Effective communication and synthesis of ideas Written communication skills

Assessment Task 3: Director's Workbook

Goal:	This task will give you experience in practical directing skills and developing a directorial concept.
Product:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece

Format:	<p>Academic and creative format. In your Director's Workbook you will develop a director's vision for a selected text and document and reflect on your directing process throughout this course. This workbook can be presented creatively and should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflections on your collaboration with students from DRA301: Devising on their solo processes. - Documentation of your director's vision for a play from the list provided. This will include pre-production documentation, including visual research; research about the play (date, genre, synopsis, production history, sources); a brief discussion of the dramaturgy; initial design concepts; ideas for dream casting; script analysis for one scene (including potential staging); plans for auditions and rehearsal plans for 3 key rehearsals; and aesthetic inspiration images.
Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with the material/subject matter and evidence of independent work • Ability to give direction and work cohesively with peers • Skill development throughout the directing process • Understanding and discussion of the play's dramaturgy and how it is relevant in today's society • Engagement with the developing thematic and aesthetics of your proposed production • Application of directing knowledge throughout early creative development • Ability to identify resources and to make connections between resources • Effective written and creative communication

7. Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. A 12 unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Location:	Directed study hours for location*:
USC Sunshine Coast	Tutorial: 3 hours

**This course will be delivered via technology-enabled learning and teaching. All lectures will remain in this mode for Semester 2 2020. When government guidelines allow, students that elected on-campus study via the class selection process will be advised when on campus tutorials and practical sessions will resume.*

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Nil

8.2 Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also

your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or accessability@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226

10.6 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.7 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** – Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au