



COURSE OUTLINE

DRA202 Directing Performance: Contemporary Perspectives

Course Coordinator: Hannah Banks (hbanks@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Business and Creative Industries

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

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. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – In-class tutorial	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Directing, Theatre History, Creative Practice, Reflective Practice, Leadership, Collaboration, Stage Management, Theatre Production, Script Analysis, Acting Exercises, Performance Analysis, Performance Critique

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Communicate your knowledge of pivotal directors and contemporary performance movements in written, multimedia and oral forms	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
2	View, analyse and critically reflect on the key dramatic features, audience impact, developmental influences and knowledge paradigms evident in a selected live performance	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
3	Apply knowledge of the director's role, paradigms and contemporary performance practice to construct new work	Creative and critical thinker Empowered
4	Communicate, justify and reflect on a creative and original directorial concept for a proposed performance context	Creative and critical thinker 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. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. 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 Grading (GRD)

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

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Oral	Individual	20%	10 minutes	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	30%	1500 words	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	10 minutes/1500 words	Week 11	In Class

All - Assessment Task 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, followed by 5-minutes of questions, before uploading your presentation to Blackboard.												
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th></th><th>Learning Outcome assessed</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Evidence of research to demonstrate knowledge of director's practice, objectives and context</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Identification and analysis of director's innovation and their influence on performance practice</td><td>1 2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Effective oral, written and visual communication</td><td>1</td></tr></tbody></table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Evidence of research to demonstrate knowledge of director's practice, objectives and context	1	2	Identification and analysis of director's innovation and their influence on performance practice	1 2	3	Effective oral, written and visual communication	1
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2	Identification and analysis of director's innovation and their influence on performance practice	1 2											
3	Effective oral, written and visual communication	1											

All - 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 the recommended recorded theatre performance, analyse and critique the performance, and write a critique communicating your knowledge of dramatic form and performance practice.															
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No.		Learning Outcome assessed														
1	Identify and analyse key directorial choices in the performance in relation to cohesion and vision	2														
2	Knowledge of dramatic form and performance practice utilised by the director	2														
3	Insightful analysis and synthesis of ideas	2														
4	Effective written and creative communication	2														

All - Assessment Task 3: Creative Performance and Workbook

GOAL:	This task will give you experience in practical directing skills while developing and executing a directorial concept for production.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
FORMAT:	Academic and creative format. In pairs (co-directors) you will select, plan and produce a 10-minute play/scene for production. This process will include auditions, rehearsals, technical preparation and performance. The performances will take place in Week 11. You will record this process in your Director's Workbook where you will document and reflect on your directing process throughout this course. This will be handed in Week 12 and be 1500 words. This workbook can be presented creatively and should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- production prompt book (floor plan, rehearsal plan, and daily journal)- detailed script analysis, discussion of dramaturgy, research, casting decisions- reflection on performance season

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Ability to give direction and work independently and cohesively with peers	3
2	Skill development throughout the directing process	3
3	Understanding and realising the play's dramaturgy with original creative vision	3 4
4	Engagement with the thematic and aesthetics of your production	3 4
5	Ability to identify resources and to make connections between resources that offer nuance and complexity to the production	3 4
6	Effective written and creative communication	4

7. Directed study hours

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.

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

Please note: 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

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Students are expected to make themselves available for autonomous group rehearsals. Students must therefore consider their availability on evenings and weekends as well as normal working hours.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility 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 and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training 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

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

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may 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 to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. 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>

10.8. 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