

DRA202 Directing Performance: Contemporary Perspectives

School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2024 | Semester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

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

Please go to usc.edu.au 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

This course explores the theatre director's craft as both an interpretative and creative artist. You will acquire an understanding of contemporary theatre direction techniques through course readings, experiential learning in workshop sessions, research and analysis. Throughout the semester, you will develop your performance skills in collaboration, textual analysis, concept development and aesthetic communication as you assume the role of director. As part of the course, you will explore influential theatre directors and their creative practices.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous Online Delivery of Learning Material	1hr	Week 1	10 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled On-Campus Workshops	2hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Throughout DRA202 students will:

- Explore the role of the theatre director throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- Analyse live performance and directing choices through script analysis.
- Engage in a directing process and develop your practical skills including: collaboration, leadership, auditioning, developing directorial concepts, rehearsal planning and production processes.
- Demonstrate these skills through the realisation of a short dramatic work/scene. *Note: Depending on the text selection for the semester, it may contain adult themes, coarse language, drug references, sexual references*
- Document and reflect on a practical directing process in an industry standard workbook

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 knowledge of pivotal directors and contemporary performance movements in written, multimedia and oral forms	Creative and critical thinker
2 Analyse and critically reflect on the key dramatic features, directorial choices, audience impact, and developmental influences evident in a selected live performance	Knowledgeable
3 Apply knowledge of the director's role as an interpretative artist to construct a production process and present a performance	Ethical
4 Justify an original directorial concept and reflect on the directorial process	Engaged

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

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

5.1. Pre-requisites

DRA100

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

An early draft of your first three pages of blocking charts for assessment task #1 can be reviewed by your tutor in Week 4. There is an opportunity to receive rehearsal feedback during the the second task's rehearsal process in Week 8 or Week 9.

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	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	30%	1000 Words & Blocking Charts	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual and Group	50%	10 minutes & 1500 words	Week 11	In Class
All	3	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	20%	6 minutes	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class

All - Assessment Task 1: Pre-Production Director's Workbook

GOAL:	Using the provided one-act play, students will create a director's pre-production workbook containing a director's statement, composition diagrams (blocking), and dramatic analysis.																
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece																
FORMAT:	Academic & Professional format. You will consider how the contemporary performance maker/director manipulates dramatic form and performance elements to communicate with an audience through compositional choices in blocking. You will provide a short script analysis for the provided dramatic work (750 words) and write a director's statement communicating your knowledge of key themes as they relate to your potential audience (250 words).																
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Create directorial compositional choices for a hypothetical performance in relation to script analysis and vision</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Analyse and critically reflect on the key dramatic features of a performed script.</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Communicate your vision for the dramatic work's impact on your audience based on the play's themes.</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Effective written and creative communication</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Create directorial compositional choices for a hypothetical performance in relation to script analysis and vision	2	2	Analyse and critically reflect on the key dramatic features of a performed script.	2	3	Communicate your vision for the dramatic work's impact on your audience based on the play's themes.	4	4	Effective written and creative communication	2	
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4	Effective written and creative communication	2															

All - Assessment Task 2: Creative Performance and Workbook

GOAL:	This task will give you experience in practical directing skills while developing, collaborating and then executing a directorial concept for production.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
FORMAT:	<p>Academic and creative format. In pairs (as co-directors) you will plan and produce a 10-minute play/scene for production. This process will include play selection, auditions, rehearsals, technical preparation and performance. The performances will take place in Week 10. You will record this process in your Director's Workbook, where you will document and reflect on your directing process throughout this course. The director's workbook will be handed in Week 11 and consist of 1500 words.</p> <p>This workbook can be presented creatively and should include: a production prompt book (floor plan, rehearsal plan, and rehearsal reflections), script analysis, discussion of dramaturgy, research, casting decisions, and a summary reflection on rehearsal process.</p> <p>As part of the learning process, you will also collaborate with your DRA 202 peers in either a performance or production role. Additional details will be provided in Canvas and in course workshops.</p>

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Ability to give direction and work cohesively with peers 3
	2	Skill development throughout the directing process 3
	3	Understanding and realising the play's dramaturgy with original creative vision 2 3
	4	Ability to identify resources and to make connections between resources that offer nuance and complexity to the production 3 4
	5	Effective written and creative communication 4
	6	Collaboration with other directors supporting their work through acting or production role. 3

All - Assessment Task 3: Research Presentation

GOAL:	Communicate knowledge of one pivotal director and their practice.	
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece	
FORMAT:	<p>Academic format. You will select one pivotal theatre director from the list provided to address the question, 'Why is your theatre director considered to be ground-breaking when compared to other twentieth and twenty-first century theatre practitioners?' 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.</p> <p>The presentation focuses on the director's theoretical approaches towards theatre and performance, highlights key professional productions, and examines significant innovations. You will present your research in a 6 minute oral and visual presentation using presentation software, before uploading your presentation to Canvas.</p>	
CRITERIA:	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

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. 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 Canvas 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

For assessment task #2, students will be expected to be available for autonomous group rehearsals and peer workgroup sessions in addition to your timetabled workshops. Additionally, students will be expected to either perform in another group's public-facing directing scene or, in the case where all roles have been cast by a combination of enrolled DRA 202 students and other Theatre & Performance students, support the process in a significant production role. Students will be expected to hold rehearsals at the Sippy Downs campus. Due to rehearsals for the directing scenes, students must therefore consider their availability on evenings and weekends as well as normal working hours when enrolling in this course.

There will be evening technical rehearsals and performances scheduled throughout Week 10. Specific performance dates will be announced at the start of semester. Per higher education practice within theatre and performance programs, DRA 202 students will be required to attend all technical rehearsals and performances. This is a common expectation in the theatre industry.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all studio and laboratory classes and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risk concerns may include equipment, instruments, and tools; as well as manual handling items within the laboratory. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the 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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

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. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. 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.

10.6. 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.

10.7. 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.

10.8. 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au