

Instructor: Marion McCorry

Text: On Directing by Harold Clurman

Tues. / 1pm – 3:30pm

Office Hours: 10am-Noon / Tues. and Wed.

Description:

This basic directing course focuses on unearthing, exploring, defining and manifesting the student's visceral experience of dramatic literature. Exercises and games are used to help the student see, accept, invent and define their particular, unique response to and perception of different material. The specific directorial ideas, skills, talents and information needed to manifest that perception are then discussed, investigated and performed. They include such elements as concept, the spine of the play, physicalizing the emotional life, defining individual character in relationship to the whole, working with actors and designers, as well as blocking, casting, scheduling and rehearsal. Students will examine and explore contemporary playwrights, American and European Realists and, time permitting, some Shaw and Shakespeare.

Objectives:

- 1) To open in the student the innate skills, talent and ideas that she brings to the directing table as well as identify and explore the areas that need attention.
- 2) To introduce the student to a variety of playwrights, styles and genres.
- 3) To give the student a working knowledge of the director's task and the establishment of their process and form.

Course Outcome:

- 1) The student will complete the course with a deeper sense of responsibility and the confidence to bring her individual visions and ideas to actualized performance.
- 2) The student will gain a greater knowledge of theatrical literature.

Written Work:

A written analysis and breakdown of a play and scene will follow two of the projects in the term. The form will follow the outline and examples given in the Clurman text On Directing.

Grading and Evaluation:

Grading is based on participation as well as performance work (70% - 75%) and on the written analysis (25% - 30%). It includes the effort and preparation put into the work, responsibility to the class and to your actors and demonstrated growth in process and form.

Absences:

After two absences grade will be dropped one half level for each additional absence (ex. B to B-). Coming late counts as half an absence.

Make-up Policy:

Students missing rehearsals and particularly, performances without explanation and sufficient notice to make alternative arrangements are immediately dropped one grade level.

Classroom Protocol:

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.

Honor Code Pledge:

We who accept the honor of membership in the Cedar Crest College Community recognize our obligation to act and encourage others to act, with honor.

The Honor Philosophy exists to promote an atmosphere in which the individual makes her own decisions, develops a regard for the system under which she lives and achieves a sense of integrity and judgment in all aspects of her life.

It is with faith in such a system that I have accepted membership into this community.

Representative of such, I hereby pledge to uphold the spirit and letter of the Honor Philosophy.

Disabilities:

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

Schedule:

Tues. 1/20 - Introductions, Syllabus, Interviews/A-B Scenes

Tues. 1/27 - Group Work with A/B Scenes

Contemporary Scenes Chosen

Tues. 2/3 - A/B Scenes performed

Tues. 2/10 - First Showing/ Contemporary Scenes

Tues. 2/17 - Second Showing / Contemporary Scenes

Tues. 2/24 - Review/ Historical Scenes Chosen

Tues. 3/3 - Historical Scene Analysis /Discussion/ Rehearsal

Tues. 3/10 - SPRING BREAK

Tues. 3/17 - First Showing/ Historical Scenes

Tues. 3/24 - Second Showing/ Historical Scenes

Tues. 3/31 - One – Acts Discussed and Chosen

Tues. 3/27 - Rehearsal / Sections Examined

Tues. 4/7 - First Showing

Tues. 4/14 - Rehearsal/ Sections Examined

Tues. 4/21 - Second Showing

Tues. 4/28 - Performance/ One Acts

Tues. 5/5 - Follow Friday Schedule