

Theatre Practicum Syllabus
THR 101, 201, 301, & 401
Effective Fall 2015
Updated Spring 2017

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theatre is an endeavor that is best learned through practice. The University Theatre offers students a number of opportunities to act in and crew productions. Practicum allows students to earn required class credit while engaged in these activities. Earning four points completes each practicum. Crewing a production is worth two points. Acting is worth two points. However, you can only earn two points by acting per practicum credit. The other two points must be earned by crewing.

EARNING PRACTICUM POINTS:

To pass a practicum course, a student must accumulate a total of four (4) points. No more than two (2) points per practicum course may be earned by acting.

- 4 points** = One stage management or assistant directing position in a University Theatre production (students who stage manage should receive their credit through 401).
- 2 points** = One acting role in a University Theatre production.
- 2 points** = One crew assignment in a University Theatre production, from crew view to the final performance.

Additionally, special production projects, such as fundraisers, staged readings etc., may offer practicum points, as will assistant stage managing, designing, dramaturgy, and voice/dialect coaching. Credit for these activities will be determined in consultation with the Artistic Director *in advance*.

Please note: not all activities are eligible or appropriate for practicum credit. Non-credit activities include: directing projects, non-University Theatre projects (whether or not guided or advised by faculty or staff), activities for which credit is already being earned for another course, activities for the University Theatre for which you are receiving pay and activities deemed inappropriate for meeting the purposes of theatre practicum. If you have any questions, please contact the Artistic Director.

ENROLLING IN PRACTICUM

To be cast in a University Theatre production you must attend auditions. For Information on Auditions and Casting go to the University Theatre website > Links > Inside the University Theatre > Auditions and Casting

To apply for a crew assignment, you must complete and turn in the attached Practicum Assignment Application form. Turn the form into Dennis Christilles in Murphy 356 or Alex Weston in 317.

PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITIES

Crew Assignments: to be determined by the Technical Director and Artistic Director. You must submit the attached application form.

Stage Managing or Assistant Directing: fill out an application and submit it in 317 Murphy. Applications may be found online at the University Theatre website > Links > Inside the University Theatre > Stage Management

Acting: to be determined as a result of the audition process by each production's director in consultation with the Artistic Director.

Students interested in other practical activities such as dramaturgy, design, voice coaching, etc. should contact the appropriate faculty member as there is no formal application process for these positions. Decisions are based on the student's interests, abilities, and academic standing. The Artistic Director is responsible for decisions about the practicum points these assignments may carry.

EXPECTATIONS & GRADING

All students enrolled in any practicum must attend a mandatory introductory meeting. There will be several opportunities to attend this meeting at the beginning of each semester. In addition, students will be asked to attend one other session in order to be trained in basic necessary skills prior to their crewing assignment. These sessions will also be held several times so that everyone will have the opportunity to attend.

If you don't complete your Required Technical Skills test before the beginning of your crew assignment, your grade will be affected.

A student commits to a practicum activity by accepting an acting role, accepting a crew position, or agreeing to a stage management or assistant directing position. If a student then withdraws from that commitment, he or she has effectively *failed* that activity.

Here is how grades for each practicum are assigned:

Two successfully completed activities = **A**

One successfully completed activity and one failed activity = **F**

(The successfully completed activity may be used toward the completion of another practicum)

Two failed activities = **F**

Please *do not* accept a role or a crew position unless you are *absolutely certain* that you can fulfill it. If you drop a crew assignment, you have effectively failed that activity. If you must drop a crew, contact Technical Director, Alex Weston immediately so that he can find a replacement. Finding someone to take your place is helpful, but does not lessen the penalty.

If you are a Theatre major, you must complete three practicums (101, 201 and 301). If you are a Theatre minor, you need to complete only one theatre practicum.

CREW REQUIREMENTS

You are normally required to be on the production from the final run-through rehearsal (FRT or "crew-view") to the final performance. This usually involves 12 to 14 evenings and one weekend afternoon. To find the exact dates you will be needed, please look carefully at the attached production grid. This grid can be found on the University Theatre website.

The nature of training a crew and performing crew duties means you must be available for *every* rehearsal and performance from the final run-through (FRT) through final performance.

ACTING REQUIREMENTS

If you are cast in a show, you must be available for all rehearsals. Each director sets the rehearsal schedule differently, but they are generally three-hour evening sessions beginning after 6:30 or 7:00, Monday through

Friday or Sunday through Thursday. Rehearsals usually start six weeks before opening. Weekends may be required.

STAGE MANAGING

Students may earn a total of 4 points (an entire practicum credit) by stage-managing a production. The practicum to enroll in is THR 401. The Artistic Director and the Technical Director in consultation with each production's director make Stage Management, Assistant Directing and Assistant Stage Managing assignments.

For more information about the department and policies, go to <http://www.theatre.ku.edu>.

Disability Resources:

"The Academic Achievement and Access Center (AAAC) coordinates academic accommodations and services for all eligible KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. They are located in 22 Strong Hall and can be reached at 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://www.access.ku.edu>. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course."

Department of Theatre Diversity Statement

The Department of Theatre at the University of Kansas is an educational community comprised of individuals from different ethnic, racial, and religious groups and of different genders, political beliefs, ages, abilities, and sexual identities. In light of this diversity, the Department of Theatre at KU is dedicated to contribute to the development of an integrated, pluralistic society in which individuals model and support humaneness and respect for the individual. The Department is committed to providing quality education which is enhanced by the perspectives provided by individuals and groups with varying backgrounds and views. Racism, sexism, and other discriminatory attitudes and behaviors impede learning and working. Conversely, respect for differences enhances educational and work experiences. KU Theatre is determined to create an environment that cherishes and nourishes this diversity.

Classroom Conduct

The scope and content of the material included in this course are defined by the instructor in consultation with the responsible academic unit. While the orderly exchange of ideas, including questions and discussions prompted by lectures, discussion sessions and laboratories, is viewed as a normal part of the educational environment, the instructor has the right to limit the scope and duration of these interactions. Students who engage in disruptive behavior, including persistent refusal to observe boundaries defined by the instructor regarding inappropriate talking, discussions, and questions in the classroom or laboratory may be subject to discipline for non-academic misconduct for disruption of teaching or academic misconduct, as defined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (CSRR), Article 22, Section C, and the University Senate Rules and Regulations, Section 2.4.6. Article 22 of CSRR also defines potential sanctions for these types of infractions. If an instructor believed that student's behavior is disrupting the class and interfering with normal instruction, the faculty member may direct the student to leave the class for the remainder of the class time. In such circumstances the professor is the sole judge that student's behavior is sufficiently disruptive to warrant a temporary dismissal from the classroom.