

Careers in Professional Theatre: TH 542

University of Alabama – Department of Theatre and Dance
Fall 2017, Room 236, Rowand-Johnson, 11:00 – 12:15, Tu/Th

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Email: ahetzel@ua.edu this is the best way to reach me.

Office Hours: Mondays 11:00 – 12:00; I am also available by appointment; please contact me before any issues escalate.

Required Texts:

- *The Art and Politics of College Teaching: A Practical Guide for the Beginning Professor*, Second Edition, Edited by Karl D. Hostetler, R. McLaran Sawyer, Keith W. Prichard, Publisher Peter Lang
- *Actors' Workbook: How to Become a Working Actor* by Valorie Hubbarb

Additional Recommended Texts, not in the bookstore just a listing to seek out on your own.

- *Thinking Like a Director: A Practical Guide* by Michael Bloom
- *How to Run Theatre: A Witty Practical Fun Guide to Arts Management* by Jim Volz
- *The Academic Job Search Handbook* by Julia Miller Vick and Jennifer Furlong
- *Ms. Mentor's New and Ever More Impeccable Advice for Women and Men in Academia* by Emily Toth

Online resources

- **TCG.org and Art Search**
- **The Chronicle of Higher Education**
- **Higher Ed Jobs**
- **Academickeys.com**
- **Playbill.org**

TH 542 Careers in the Professional Theatre. Three hours. A course focusing on audition and interview techniques, unions, résumé writing, and other skills required to apply for positions in the academic and professional theatre.

Course Objectives/ Learner Centered Outcomes:

- To become familiar with the application process of the academic job search for a theatre practitioner.
- The student will research the theatre job market and gain an understanding of opportunities in teaching and professional theatre.
- Students will practice and demonstrate writing effective, cover letters, statement of teaching philosophies and curriculum vitas.
- Students will perform and present audition material in preparation for professional auditions or present professional style business plans/ presentations as it relates to theatre job market.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory! After **one** unexcused absences. *Each, additional absence with lower your final letter grade, by one letter grade.* Absences will not be excused without documentation and verifiable cause. My preference as an instructor is to be contacted **prior** to any absence, via phone or email. You must also contact your acting partner if you must be absent. Please consider the penalties of absences in relation to the class grade, before missing class. In this acting class your attendance and participation is mandatory, class exercises and projects are essential for your artistic enrichment.

Late or Missed work will not be accepted without prior notification and arrangements.

Performances are an important part of this class if you are not prepared to perform on a date that you are scheduled to perform, your final grade will be lessen each class period afterwards until present the acting project is presented.

Tardiness: Three instances of lateness equal one absence. Please be on time this is crucial! Very Crucial!

Disabilities: To request disability accommodations, please contact Disabilities Services at phone Number 348 – 4285. After initial arrangements are made with this office, please set up an appointment to see me.

Academic Misconduct: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of the above. The Academic Misconduct Policy will be followed in any such case. This policy is outlined in the student affairs handbook, which can be obtained from the Student Life office in the Ferguson Center.

Class Projects and Requirements:

- Curriculum Vitae **100 pts**
- Cover Letter **100pts**
- Statement of Teaching Philosophy **100 pts**
- Application Submission **225 pts**
- Reading and discussion during the semester **50 pts**
- Audition package: for a professional auditions examples might be, SETC, UPTA, StrawHat as well as regional auditions at theatres; or a presentation to a professional theatre company in the areas of directing, design, or theatre management **100pts**
- City and/or Region Research Project **100pts**
- Class participation, attendance and professionalism **225pts**

Grade scale: 1000 - 900 A, 899 – 800 B, 799 – 700 C, 699 – 600 D, 599 – 0 F

Course Calendar – Subject to Change

August

Week 1

Thursday 8/23 Introduction to Course

Week 2

Tuesday 8/29 Curriculum Vitae Beginnings - bring a rough draft

September

Thursday 8/31 **READ and DISCUSS:** “Getting the Job: Anxiety and Aspirin” and “Getting the Job: With a Little Bit of Luck... and a Whole Lot of Forethought” pages 87- 105

Week 3

September

Tuesday 9/5 Reading Position Descriptions - where to find them and what they might mean

Thursday 9/7 Continue **Bring in an example of a position description that may interest you. It does not need to be current but you must be searching for a position to apply for during this semester.**

Week 4

Tuesday 9/12 Cover Letters (that respond to the position descriptions)

Thursday 9/14 Continue

Week 5

Tuesday 9/19 **READ and DISCUSS** pages 19 – 45 “The Making of a Scholarly Career at a Major Research University”, “Meeting Expectations for Research, Teaching, and Service at the Comprehensive Public University”, “Teaching at a small Liberal Arts College”

Thursday 9/21 Readings on interviewing from *The Academic Job Search Handbook*, Chapters 14 – 17 will be shared with the class prior. **READ and DISCUSS**

Week 6

Tuesday 9/26 Begin Statement of Teaching Philosophy, review examples

Thursday 9/28 Job Searching Activities

Week 7

October

Tuesday 10/3 Updates on application process (this is early but a good thing to think about)

Thursday 10/5 Auditions and Regional discussion – please bring in information about a professional audition as well as a city or region you would like to research

Week 8

Tuesday 10/10 Interviewing by Phone and on Campus (Mock Interviews)

Thursday 10/11 Begin City and/or Region Research Project Presentations (3- 4 per day)

Week 9

Tuesday 10/17 Continue City and/or Region Research Project Presentations (3- 4 per day)

Thursday 10/19 Conclude Presentations (3- 4 per day)

Week 10

Tuesday 10/24 Show and Workshop Audition Materials

Thursday 10/26 **NO CLASS – Mid-semester Break**

Week 11

Tuesday 10/31 Present Auditions or Presentations

November

Thursday 11/2 Present Audition Packages or Presentations

Week 12

Tuesday 11/7 Interviewing by Phone and on Campus (More Mock Interviews)

Thursday 11/9 Continue

Week 13

Tuesday 11/14 **READ and DISCUSS** Chapters 6, 7, 8 from the Actor’s Workbook

Thursday 11/16 Presentations and Teaching as part of the campus interview.

Tips, Guidelines and things to consider.

Week 14

Tuesday 11/21 **READ and DISCUSS** supplemental readings for course.

Please suggest any articles, chapters, or essays that you feel the class should discuss.

(Please submit before Nov.1st.)

December

Thursday 11/23 **Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASS**

December

Week 15

Tuesday 11/28 Updates on Job Searches and Auditions, Discussion and Activities

Thursday 11/30 CV, Statement of Teaching Philosophy, Cover Letters and Applications all **DUE**

Discussion of materials completed

Week 16

Tuesday 12/5 Show and final audition and showcase material or job searching materials.

Thursday 12/7 Wrap-up class with a discussion of completed job applications.

Final Exam Week Dec.11 – 15

Individual meetings will take place this week to discuss your application and audition process.

Research Presentation on Theatre Opportunities in a Specific Region or City

Careers Class – Project Guidelines

Try to find audition information for that area (look for specific audition guidelines for that area.)

Describe the theatres in the area, for example, how many LORT and Equity houses are there in the area?

Will you be pursuing a union in the area, will you need to?

Are there internships available in the area, please describe.

What teaching opportunities are there in this area, please describe.

What classes are available to continue your training, please describe.

Is there a trade paper, website or hotline for actors available in this area? Please inform us.

What other there ways for you to earn money in theatre in this area?

What is the cost of living, housing, is there a good system of public transportation, available?

How will you earn money to survive in this region or city?

Create a handout that highlights what an actor would need to know prior to relocating to this area, for example a quick-fact sheet that will provide the needed information and include helpful websites and other resources.

Presentations should be 8 to 10 minutes in length, and please be ready for a Q and A session after your presentation.

Become an expert on your region or city and have fun sharing all of the helpful information that you find!!

UA Severe Weather Guidelines

The safety and well-being of our students, employees and visitors is our highest priority at The University of Alabama. Please be familiar with UA's severe weather guidelines and be prepared to quickly move to safety if severe weather occurs.

Some students and employees commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather-related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should take the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service issues a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life-saving actions.

Personal safety should dictate the actions that students and employees take.

- Classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues tornado warnings for the campus. In the case of a tornado warning, all University activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories.
- Please move immediately to the shelter or best available refuge area and remain there until the tornado warning has expired.
- Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor.
- Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains
- Encourage students in your classroom to follow these procedures by remaining in the building and going with you to a shelter or best available refuge area
- During a tornado warning, Crimson Ride will immediately suspend operations, and the driver will direct passengers to shelter in select buildings.

Remember, when severe weather strikes and the warning sirens sound:

- Go to the nearest shelter or best available refuge area.
- Stay tuned to radio or television stations for further weather statements.
- Remain inside until the severe weather threat has ended.

If a tornado warning is issued for the campus, students, employees and visitors will be notified using the methods listed below. If you receive notification of a tornado warning through any of these methods, move to safety immediately.

UA issues emergency notifications using the following methods:

- UA Alerts, which simultaneously deploys text messages, emails and phone calls
- Campus Indoor and Outdoor PA system
- Emails to students and employees
- Social media, including Twitter and Facebook
- Media alerts through TV and radio stations and newspapers
- UA Home page
- Digital signage across campus
- Crimson Ride bus marquee
- Campus cable network
- UAPD sirens

Additional information regarding the University's Emergency Management Program is available at: <https://ready.ua.edu/>.