

American College Dublin

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PA409 PERFORMING ARTS PROJECT

Credits:	3 US credits / 6 ECTS credits
Credit level:	Stage one
Prerequisites:	None
Mandatory:	Yes
Contact hours:	40
Academic Year:	2016/17
Semester:	2
Lecturer:	Deirdre Masterson

MODULE DESCRIPTION

The course requires senior students to demonstrate abilities in the process of organizing, administering, auditioning, directing, producing, and performing a convincing and competent performance piece. Students are expected to develop and perform the work with minimal supervision. Assessment is based around the submission of a portfolio that includes a proposal document, a journal documenting in detail the process of development of the work, a director's prompt book, and a critical analysis of the project and the work; the artistic quality of the performed work will also form a substantial part of the assessment.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students should have attained the following learning outcomes:

- an ability to make a convincing business and artistic pitch for a performing arts project, both orally and in writing as a feasibility study;
- an advanced competence in conducting with minimal supervision the planning and management of content development, organization and production of a live theatrical performance;
- a critical understanding of how to audition, instruct and direct actors and other performers, writers and crew in a live theatrical performance, with due regard to the principles of effective ensemble and human resource management;
- an awareness of how effectively to market and publicise a public performance effectively and with a limited budget;
- an understanding of the requirements of producing a director's prompt book;

- an ability to produce a journal discussing the experience of undertaking the project and a critical analysis of the performed work;
- a high-level ability to respond constructively to feedback and discussion from lecturers, peers and others involved in the production.

REQUIRED TEXT

Tobie S. Stein, Jessica Bathurst, *Performing Arts Management: A Handbook of Professional Practices*, Allworth Press, 2008

SUPPLEMENTARY READING LIST

Robert Barton, *Acting: Onstage and Off*, Boston: Wadsworth, 2012;

Christopher Baugh, *Theatre, Performance and Technology: the Development of Scenography in the 20th Century*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005;

Robert H. Blumenfeld, *Accents: A Manual for Actors*, Limelight Editions 2004;

Marvin Carlson, *Performance: A Critical Introduction*, New York-London: Routledge, 2nd Edition, 2004 (1996);

Roselee Goldberg, *Performance: Live Art Since 1960*, New York: Harry N., 1998;

-----, *Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present*, London: Thames and Hudson, 2001;

Amelia Jones, Adrian Heathfield, eds., *Perform, Repeat, Record: Live Art in History*, Bristol: Intellect, 2012.

ASSESSMENT/GRADING

The grading scale used by American College Dublin is the following: A (80-100%): excellent; B+ (70-79%): very good; B (60-69%): good; B- (55-59%): above average; C+ (50-54%): fair; C (40-49%): pass; D (35-39%): poor; F (below 35%): fail.

The extent to which students have achieved the intended learning outcomes is established by different kinds of assessment strategies. Students will be assessed continuously throughout the semester on the basis of observed participation, submitted presentations and reports (some of these presented at the end of the semester), a portfolio, and an assessment of the showcase performance. The grading will include the following main components:

These include various forms of continuous assessment and a final performance assessment.

Assessment instruments include evaluation of in-class acting and voice exercises, essays, class presentations, and live performances. The grading will include the following main components:

- class participation, including attendance, appropriate conduct, human resource management, active involvement in class activities (30%);
- presentations (including initial pitch and proposals) and reports (20%);
- final portfolio, to include summary of project and activities, journal, director's prompt book, critical analysis of performed piece (30%);
- assessment of showcase performance (20%).

The assessment requirements and the divisions of grades within these components will be discussed in class.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The physical structures of the learning environment include a rehearsal and performance space (Black Box), an off-site dance studio, lecturing classrooms supplied with integrated chairs and desks and a whiteboard, a Powerpoint system and overhead projector.

The learning environment also includes the College's library (the Rooney Library). The Rooney Library is able to supply reading and research materials on all aspects of the degree (as well as a range of materials on history, sociology, literature, languages, art, international relations and environmental studies). The library has a number of networked computers and printers, with Internet access and power points for portable computers. The library management system, Voyager, provides an online catalogue. Students are able to search the catalogue, extend their loans, and place holds on titles from home. An inter-library loan service is available for staff and students.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

As class attendance and punctuality is essential for successful performing arts learning and career development, strict penalties will apply for any unexcused absence or tardiness: 5% will be deducted from the final grade for each instance of an unexcused absence; 2% will be deducted for each instance of an unexcused lateness (up to half an hour after the scheduled commencement of class; any student arriving unexcused more than half an hour after the scheduled beginning of class will be counted as absent and will have 5% deducted from his or her final grade).

Students are required to use academic techniques of source referencing in order to avoid plagiarism, that is, unacknowledged appropriation of someone else's ideas, words, and research results. Plagiarism is regarded by the College as a serious offence punishable by downgrading, failure in the course work, and possible dismissal from the College. The College's detailed Plagiarism Statement is included in the Quality Assurance Manual, sections 3.8.1-3.