

Carnegie Mellon University

School of Drama

GRADUATE STAGE MANAGEMENT I

COURSE SYLLABUS - FALL 2015

* COURSE INFORMATION:

Instructor:	Molly McCarter
Course Number:	DRA 54749
Course Credit:	PTM Core Course, 3 units
Course Meeting:	MW 1:30-2:50p, PCA 103
Office Hours:	PCA 336, By Appointment
Email:	mollyem@andrew.cmu.edu

* COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is designed to provide a basic understanding of the role and functions of a stage manager. We will focus not on just the “What” but the “How” and the “Why” of a stage managers job as we work our way through a hypothetical production and utilize real world examples.

* LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Upon completion of this course students should be able to
- Demonstrate an understanding of the functions and role of a stage manager in the production process.
 - Employ methods of script & design analysis for production.
 - Create basic production paperwork and relevant computer skills.
 - Employ rehearsal facilitation & communication methods.
 - Apply strategies for solving common challenges.

* CLASS STRUCTURE:

CLASS SESSIONS: This course will consist of lecture, in class activities and general discussion. Class discussion will utilize real world examples from our own experiences. Skills in negotiating and problem solving will drive most of our discussion. Respectful class discussion is essential. Participation in this class should offer a safe and stimulating environment for students to hone their spoken communication skills. Students will be evaluated on both the quality and quantity of their participation. At times information shared in class may be of a confidential nature and everyone is asked to give any such confidence the utmost respect.

BLACKBOARD: Assignments, readings and grading will be managed through of blackboard. www.blackboard.andrew.cmu

* ASSIGNMENTS:

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: Every assignment must be uploaded to the o Blackboard by the due date and time. Assignment due dates are outlined on the course schedule and further details can be found on blackboard.

Assignments for this class consist of written papers, reports, charts, paperwork and other communications. All work must be completed to presentation standard. Before turning in any work, students should proofread for clarity, grammatical errors and spelling. The ability to communicate via the written word is important in life and in this class. It will be weighed heavily in grading.

READING: There will be, on rare occasion, outside reading. This will be distributed via blackboard.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS: Many of the homework projects are paperwork, which one creates in the course of production management work. All reports for homework projects must contain all of the following elements. A 5% penalty is assessed for each missed "required element."

1. Document Title
2. Producing Organization / Venue
3. Production title (if appropriate)
4. Preparer's name
5. Revision number or date
6. Portrait configuration

All formal papers must be written to MLA standards:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

*** GRADING:**

Your grade in this course will be assessed by the following percentages:

Assignments -	50%
Final -	25%
Participation -	25%

Grading for this course will be ABCDR as shown in the School of Drama handbook. For this course, the SOD Conservatory grading scale is as follows:

100% - 93%	A
92% - 84%	B
83% - 74%	C
73% - 65%	D
64% and Below	R

Assignments will typically be graded on 100 point scale. Work submitted acceptably presenting everything as required by the project instructions will likely receive a score in the 80's depending on presentation. A 90 will be awarded for excellent work. To receive a 100 a student will have to demonstrate something special, a dimension to their work, presentation, or improvement that was exceptional and unexpected.

Quiz and exam scores will be evaluated on the same scale.

Any student not understanding any grade they have is encouraged (all but required) to make an appointment to discuss the work, expectations and their performance.

Up to date grading and feedback on all assignments is available throughout the term on blackboard. Please keep tabs on your performance as you go.

*** COURSE POLICIES: THIS COURSE OPERATES ON A 1-2-1 POLICY**

1 ABSENCE: You are allowed 1 absences from this class for any reason. After your 1 absences each additional absence will drop your grade one 1/2 letter grade (or 5 puts of your total 100). There are no additional absences allowed except in case of extreme emergency with documentation.

2 TARDIES: You have a 3 minute window to get to class on time. After that it will count as a tardy. 2 Tardies equal one Absence and will be calculated as such.

1 EXTENSION: Scheduling can be difficult, but it can be anticipated. You are afforded 1 extension. It must be requested at least 48 hours prior to the due date/time. Any request made after 5p on Friday will be considered submitted at 9am on Monday. If you miss a deadline other than under these circumstances you have one week to submit the work for a 20 point reduction. If the work is not submitted within the week you will receive a 0.

TECHNOLOGY: Please review the “Classroom Conduct” portion of your School of Drama handbook. Students are required to silence all phones and other technology. Please put cell phones away during class. Any student disrupting class may be required to leave.

Students are allowed to bring to class and utilize laptop computers to help with note taking. However, class time is not an appropriate time to be using computers for other functions, nor should this be an excuse for lack of engagement. Students who abuse the laptop privilege or who are distracted from participation, will be instructed to leave their computers at home.

COLLABORATION/CHEATING: This course falls under the University policy on cheating and collaboration. That policy is available on the web at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Academic%20Integrity.htm> Please review this policy.

Note that submitting anyone else’s work (in full or in part) as your own and that collaborating on any assignment or exam without express direction to do so may be considered cheating under the University policy.

For the purpose of this course, you may not collaborate on any project without receiving specific instructions to do so from the instructor. When given, such instructions will apply to the current assignment only. Without additional instructions you must assume that future assignments must be completed independently.

Cheating and collaboration on assignments is a serious issue and can result in significant action. Please make an effort to stay informed of the specific instructions for each assignment.

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Course Schedule

Fall 2015

September

Monday	Wednesday
31-Aug Intro & Brainstorm Assessment	2-Sep Stage Managers (In The Wild)
7 Labor Day No Class	9 Script/Design Analysis <i>Show & Tell: Prep work</i>
14 Calendars & Schedules <i>S&T: Schedules</i>	16 Props & Rehearsal Halls <i>S&T: Props, taping</i> DUE: Analysis Paper
21 First Rehearsals & Relationships <i>S&T: Actor Packets</i>	23 Blocking & Rehearsal Management <i>S&T: Blocking</i> DUE: Prop Paperwork
28 Reports & Communication <i>S&T: Reports, minutes</i> DUE: Actor Packet	30 Tech Preparation <i>S&T: Run Sheets</i> DUE: Blocking Script

October

Monday	Wednesday
5 Tech & Cuing <i>S&T: Call Books</i>	7 Opening & Maintenance <i>S&T: Perf reports</i> DUE: Tech Packet
12 TBA	14 TBA DUE: Calling Script
19 FINAL	

EXTREMELY SUBJECT TO CHANGE