Directions for filling out this syllabus: This is a seminar and project-based course that is designed to tie together the skills and knowledges you have been developing in your career as a BA Theatre student. This capstone is student-driven and demonstrates your expertise, voice, and perspective in making art, connecting to others, and engaging in the broader community to make change and/or to support communication and relationships.

This syllabus provides the map for your senior project. Most of the time it is an extension of the project you began in THR 320. But that is not always the case. A capstone should synthesize the knowledge you already possess with an original piece of research that is both challenging and interesting to you. This entire process should be a capstone that shows your expertise.

No matter what your project is, BEFORE your first seminar meeting this semester please fill the highlighted areas of this syllabus out to the best of your ability. Bring a draft with you (in both hard copy and on a thumb drive). During your first meeting with Robin you will adjust and edit the work and then post it in D2L.

THR 465 CAPSTONE: **Subtitle of Student’s Project**

**Name of Student**

Dates: Spring 2018

One-on-one Tutorial meetings: *enter the dates and times we will be meeting*

Credits/Projects: 3 (30 hours of seminar and ‘class’ time; 100+ hours of independent research and writing; 10 hours for presentations and rehearsals =140 hours. Divided by 16 weeks = 8.75 hours per week)

Meeting Time: In D2L & by appointment (a minimum of 4 conferences per student are required, 8 are suggested as best use of your time). You will also be expected to present and discuss your work in a public forum—to be designed with Robin.

Instructor: Robin Mello, Ph.D. Professor of Theatre, Area Chair BA Theatre Degree Program

Contact Information: rmello@uwm.edu,
Website: www.robinmello.com
Office: Theatre 220
Office Hours: Monday/ Wednesdays 12-1:00 PM or by appointment

Texts: *enter the texts, websites, and other material you are using. If you are writing a play be sure to include the title of the manuscript you are writing. In the case of plays, play analysis, or directing please include the texts you used in your THR 213, 359, and 410 courses.*

Project Description

PURPOSE: *This is where you describe what you are going to do and the purpose, reason, or the issue you are addressing. Describe WHY this is important to you.*
PROBLEM: This is where you discuss why the problem issue, or idea needs to be dealt with or studied. Discuss your personal experience, interested, or connection to the problem. Also discuss how your skills and interests pertain to the way you will explore answering and/or addressing the problem.

PRACTICE: This is where you include: a) what you expect the final outcome will be; 2) WHAT you will do and in what order; 3) WHEN you will do each step. Make this description very brief because you will be adding in a detailed calendar of steps and dates later on in this syllabus.

Objectives: The course is designed to:
1) Impact the student’s abilities to interact and work on theatre projects independently and through scholarly research;
2) Enhance students theatre literacy.
3) Engage students in their communities so they may engage in practices that lead to positive stronger relationships and programs.
4) Enter an objective—something you want to gain and/or learn.
5) Enter another objective—something you want to gain and/or learn.
6) Enter another objective—something you want to gain and/or learn.

Participation/Managing your Capstone: You are a learner as well as a researcher. You may discover new strengths. You may also discover some unexpected weaknesses. Nevertheless, we do expect you to use your Capstone study to synthesize the knowledge you already possess with an original piece of research that is both challenging and interesting to you. This entire process should be a capstone that shows your expertise.
1. This is a project-based course. Students are responsible for working and developing their own projects in consultation with the instructor.
2. We use the D2L course home page for communication and archiving. Check D2L frequently and meet deadlines established in your plan.
3. Dr. Robin Mello is your Project Mentor: She will provide formative and summative feedback for evaluation purposes. Use her as a resource and keep her informed of your progress (see tutorial meetings in Calendar in D2L). Failure to attend tutorials may result in failing this course. Almost all interaction with the instructor is one-on-one and you are responsible for making, confirming, and keeping these appointments. You are very welcome to request more than the minimum 5 meetings required.
4. If circumstances make it impossible to complete this project it is your responsibility to meet with the instructor in person to explain the situation and find a solution.
5. It is also possible to do a project that spans more than one semester or takes place during times the course is not formally offered. If this is the case you must plan the project with the dates/calendar in mind.

Grading: Due to the participatory nature of this class, attendance and active participation is required. Plan to arrive on time, prepared, and ready to work. All students will be expected to attend all scheduled activities and to maintain consistent contact with their peers and instructors.
A Grade = attendance exemplary, all assignments completed, all portions of assignments completed in an exemplary fashion *and on time*.

B Grade = attendance meets requirements, all assignments completed, all portions of assignments completed well with high quality work *and on time*.

C Grade = attendance meets requirements, all assignments completed, all portions of assignments completed satisfactorily, some assignments are submitted after deadline.

D Grade = attendance meets requirements, all assignments were completed but many in an unsatisfactory manner (it is almost impossible to get a D. The difference between a D and an F is almost non-existent. We suggest you work toward an A whenever possible).

F Grade = attendance did not meet requirements, all assignments were not completed or were completed in an unacceptable way, some portions of assignments were not completed.

What to do and when to do it:

1. **Initial Meeting:** DUE DATE December 15th
   - Contact the instructor of the course: Robin Mello. TH 220. OFFICE HOURS TUESDAYS 9-2. rmello@uwm.edu
   - Participate in an initial meeting with the instructor prior to the 15th OF DECEMBER. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE LAST MINUTE so plan ahead.
   - At that time of the meeting have an outline of what you want to do for the project(s). Robin will set up a discussion, dropbox, and chat room for your work in the course D2L site. A calendar of tutorials will also be set up.
   - Between December 15th and the first seminar of the semester develop your plan, create a timeline and a check list, create a specific list of learning goals you want to achieve. Bring these with you to the first seminar. At the first seminar you and your course instructor will review these materials and make any amendments needed.

2. **Formative check-ins on line:** DUE DATES: February 15, March 15, April 15
   - Check in via D2L discussion CHECK IN and report (150-300 words) how things are going. Refer to each of your learning goals and report how they are (or are not) being met. Include any challenges, successes, and questions you have.

3. **Seminar meeting sessions** with your faculty mentor: DUE DATES: see calendar in D2L

4. **Evidence of your project:** DUE DATE: MAY 15TH
   - Submit a version of your finished project in D2L. We totally understand that in many cases the actual final outcome is a performance or engaged experience. What we are looking for is a descriptive representation of your project. This might be a final script (if you are writing a play), director’s log and notebook (if you are
directing a show), dramaturgical report with a lobby display, service-
learning/community project, grant proposal, project development for future
implementation, student start-up challenge, extension of a program or project you
have been working on, musical composition, photographic journal of a process,
digital story, video recording that documents the work, archives, oral histories,
transcripts, musical composition, reviews, etc.

5. **Public presentation:** DUE DATE: April/May (exact dates TBA)
Most research projects in Theatre require a public presentation (15 min). This is akin
to the public defense for MFA and PHD degrees). The theatre department assists in
arranging these. Most public presentations take place at KW Makers Space, 508, or
in ACL 120 in late April and early May.

**Timeline/Calendar**
Please fill out the timeline so it shows what you will be doing, when, and what the
outcome is.

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