

University of Florida/ College of the Arts/ School of Theatre and Dance

TPP 6116: Section 14D3 / Spring-2017 Syllabus

Graduate Acting 2: Shakespeare and Heightened Style

MWF - Per. 3 & 4: (9:35-11:30 AM) / Rm: CON 013

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Office Hours: Tues. 2:00-4:00PM & Thurs. 2:00-4:00PM; also by appointment

Course Description:

Analytical, research and technical skills needed to perform plays written in “high verse” with particular focus on the plays of Shakespeare. Students will be directed in the formalist approach to classical performance style. The approach is designed to enhance each student's awareness, development, and capability for heightened performance requirements.

Objectives and Outcomes:

It is expected that students will leave the class with confidence in their abilities to research, analyze, rehearse and perform classical roles with a particular eloquence and regard for formal verse language, understanding and respect for period research, and a joy and delight in playing classical style. A major objective is to prepare the student for “real world” possibilities beyond the completion of his/her course of study.

Required Texts:

Harrop, John and Sabin Epstein. *Acting with Style: 3rd Edition*. (Boston: Allyn and Bacon).

Tassel, Wesley Van. *Clues to Acting Shakespeare*. (New York: Allworth).

Plays:

Sophocles. *Antigone, Oedipus Tyrannous*

Euripides. *Orestes, Medea*

Shakespeare. *The Sonnets*.

Shakespeare. *Richard III*.

Shakespeare. *The Winter's Tale*.

Highly Recommended Texts:

Onion, C. T. *A Shakespeare Glossary*, enlarged and revised by Robert D. Eagleson. (New York: Oxford UP 1989/1988). Or; any other Shakespeare Glossary will be helpful.

DICTIONARY and *THESARUS*. Any good pocket size copy.

Course Requirements:

1. PRODUCTIONS: Attendance at live theatre productions is required for all students enrolled in this course. This term's productions will include: *The Divine, Tennessee Williams' One-Acts*, and *King Lear*. You are encouraged to attend OUTSIDE performances at the Hippodrome State Theatre. Special effort should be made to view classical productions and presentations during this term whenever and wherever they may occur. All productions should be viewed from the perspective of classical acting skills and techniques utilized by the performers. The same applies to outside performance opportunities. Students should make every effort to exercise heightened performance techniques in their everyday lives as well as in performance opportunities (whatever they might be) during this semester.

2. QUIZZES: Quizzes on reading material and previous class work and discussions MAY BE GIVEN OFTEN AND AT ANY TIME. If students are tardy or absent it may mean you will miss a quiz. There can be no make-up quizzes or presentations! In very rare cases; the acceptance of excuse documentations for any and all kinds, and for whatever purposes, will be subject to the primary discretion of the instructor.

3. CLASS ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION POLICIES (non-negotiable):

* Attendance and participation in all classes is mandatory. Students arriving late for class MAY NOT be admitted depending on the discretion of the instructor in regard to the specific activity underway at the time. Students should arrive at class WARMED-UP PHYSICALLY AND VOCALLY and prepared (including appropriate attire) for the day's activity. Excuses cannot be allowed or accepted. Excuses get no results!

* University Graduate Catalog states: *“The University recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and then assign a failing grade for excessive absences.”*

* Any missed classes, for any and all reasons, are the sole responsibility of the student; **meaning**, any missed information or assignments missed due to absence DOES NOT OBLIGATE THE INSTRUCTOR TO RE-TEACH THAT INFORMATION OR SCHEDULE MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS OR PRESENTATIONS. THERE WILL BE NO OFFICIAL MAKE-UPS SCHEDULED other than those arranged by the instructor due to unforeseen problems related to “acts of God or overshadowing world, local or School events.”

* STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT OR TARDY FOR PARTNERED OR GROUP WORK AND PRESENTATIONS will receive an automatic failing grade (E) for that assignment. In such cases the displaced partner will receive “no grade” for the assignment. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT EXPECT RESCHEDULED OR MAKE-UP PRESENTATIONS! Any missed presentations will automatically lower final grades.

* Interest and enthusiasm for the topic is expected. The class will assume that students are preparing for serious careers in the field and will hold all students accountable to the highest possible standards! **Note taking or journaling of daily class work, including lectures, discussions, video viewing and work sessions is strongly encouraged.** Quizzes will come from discussions, lectures, presentations, **as well as text materials.** This material will also be expected as part of the final exam review book.

4. FINAL EXAM: The course final exam will include evaluation of three major elements: 1.) the final performance presentation for faculty, 2.) a course notebook review. At the final presentation each student must turn in a neatly bound notebook or journal, containing all course work, quizzes, assignments, notes, revelations, etc., and 3.) written responses to the final exam question(s), which will be assigned in the last week of classes.

GRADING:

Grading will be based on each individual student’s quality of work, discipline and approach to the work, development and completion of preparation and performance of assigned work. Evaluation will include both subjective and objective assessment of each student’s completion of each assignment and overall attitude and development throughout the semester. Attendance, including “willingness and readiness to work” outside the classroom will also be factors important to the assignment of final grades. Final grades will be a combination of the overall quality of work and assessment of the student’s potential for success beyond the classroom in regard to acquired skills and craft needed to play the style required for roles utilizing verse and “high” language. Specific evaluative criteria is listed below with grade meanings at the end of this syllabus.

1. Attendance and participation (including punctuality and preparedness for work)
2. Approach, enthusiasm, attitude toward the work
3. Completion of assignments in timely fashion (includes memorization of material)
4. Overall Quality of work
5. Ability to express knowledge concerning the topic (orally and in written notes)
6. Individual development
7. Jury Scene presentation
8. Course Notebook (includes two parts with class work and response to questions)

COURSE CALENDAR: **(Subject to Changes and Adjustments)**

PART ONE: "Learning the Skills"

Week #1:

Wed. Jan. 4 Introduction / Formalist Analysis
 Fri. Jan. 6 Read Chapter 1 of *Acting With Style: "General Approach"*

Week #2:

Mon. Jan. 9 Chapter 1 of *Acting With Style* continued ; w/ **Playing Tragedy, Pg. 7**
 Wed. Jan. 11 Read: **Chapter 2 of *Style***. . . , playing **Greek** style/ Classical play structure
 Fri. Jan. 13 Common Understanding and Basic Skills: **Tassel: Intro and Chapters 1-3**

Week #3:

Mon. Jan. 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day / NO CLASS:**
 Wed. Jan. 18 First Reading of Greek monologues w/ written work (location, vocal markings, paraphrase, etc.)
 Fri. Jan. 20 Questions and answers concerning Greek monologues w/ adjusted work

Week #4:

Mon. Jan. 23 Workshop memorized Greek work with feedback
 Wed. Jan. 25 Workshop memorized Greek work with feedback
 Fri. Jan. 27 Presentation of Greek scenes for grading / Shakespeare Sonnets assigned

Week #5:

Mon. Jan. 30 Read: **Chapter 3 of *Acting with Style***: playing Shakespeare style
 Wed. Feb. 1 Work on SONNETS and analysis of ***Richard III***
 Fri. Feb. 3 Discussion of textbook reading and Presentation of SONNETS

Week #6:

Mon. Feb. 6 Work on SONNETS and analysis of ***Richard III (due)***
 Wed. Feb. 8 Sonnets w/ written work; instructor's feedback
 Fri. Feb. 10 Second presentation of Sonnets for feedback

Week #7:

Mon. Feb. 13 Energy, Thought, Structure, Rhythm, etc: Read ***Tassel, Chapters 4-8***
 Wed. Feb. 15 **R3** Monologues presented and worked
 Fri. Feb. 17 **R3** Monologues presented and worked

Week #8:

Mon. Feb. 20 **Lear** monologues presented for feedback
 Wed. Feb. 22 Read ***Tassel, Chapters 9-10*** and discussion
 Fri. Feb. 24 **MID-TERM: Greek monologue, Sonnet, Richard III monologue**

PART TWO: "Application of Skills"

(Students will be expected to review material from Part One throughout this section. All research, analysis, and scansion marking work should appear in final notebook and should be available to share with the instructor at all times during scene work and presentations)

WEEK #9:

Mon. Feb. 27 Re-focus Day/preliminary work outlined
 Wed. Mar. 1 *Shakespeare scene #1* – first readings
 Fri. Mar. 3 First Round – Duet Scenes #1 presented

Week #10: SPRING BREAK / March 6-10

Week #11:

Mon. Mar. 13 Scenes workshopped in class
 Wed. Mar. 15 Scenes workshopped in class
 Fri. Mar. 17 Duet Scenes #1: Presentation for grading/ Scene #2 assigned

Week #12:

Mon. Mar. 20 Q&A/ discussion of skills and outline of work on scene #2
 Wed. Mar. 22 Scenes #2: presented and critiqued
 Fri. Mar. 24 Scenes workshopped in class

Week #13:

Mon. Mar. 27 Scenes workshopped in class
 Wed. Mar. 29 Scenes workshopped in class/ or TBA
 Fri. Mar. 31 Second Round - Scenes #2 presented and graded

Week #14:

Mon. Apr. 3 Final Scenes: reading and work
 Wed. Apr. 5 Final scene work
 Fri. Apr. 7 Final scene work

Week #15:

Mon. Apr. 10 Final scenes memorized, worked and heightened
 Wed. Apr. 12 Final scenes worked and heightened
 Fri. Apr. 14 Final scenes worked and heightened

Week #16:

Mon. Apr. 17 Jury Presentation rehearsal
 Wed. Apr. 19 **Final Jury Scene Presentation**

PINKNEY PRINCIPLES!

"You get no pity in the pit!"

"Excuses don't get results"

"Mediocrity is excellence, only to the mediocre"

"The 7 Pz: Previous Prior Preparation Prevents Pitiful Poor Performance!"

Punctuality is essential, it means "ahead of time"

"Tend well to your own business, and leave other people's business alone!"

NO ZINGERS!

Special Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Cell Phones and Beeping Electronic Devices:

**These must be turned off before the beginning of each class.
It is strongly recommended that they be turned off before
entering the classroom.**

Academic Honesty:

As a result of completing the registration from at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

The instructor of this course fully supports the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. We, the members of the University of Florida Community, pledge to hold ourselves, and our peers, to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Lectures given in this class are the property of the University faculty member and may not be taped without prior permission from the instructor and may not be used for any commercial purpose. Students found to be in violation may be subject to discipline under the University's Student Conduct Code.

The Student Conduct Code is available at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/>

GRADUATE ACTING II (Shakespeare and High Style)
Dr. Mikell Pinkney

INDIVIDUAL GRADING EVALUATION

- A** = Perfection, (also requires perfect attendance as a final grade)
- A -** = Excellent work, not yet absolute perfection
- B+** = Very Good, not yet reached perfection
- B** = Good work, well above average
- B -** = Good work, slightly above average
- C+** = Above average but lacking in overall quality
- C** = Average but ordinary, thus below graduate quality work
- C -** = Slightly below average
- D+** = Below average and slightly higher than poor
- D** = Poor quality and unsatisfactory for graduate level
- D -** = On the verge of failure
- E** = Unsatisfactory outcome denoting Failure!

- 1. Attendance and participation:**

- 2. Approach, enthusiasm, attitude toward work:**

- 3. Completion of assignments (including memorization of material):**

- 4. Quality of work (evaluation of talent and craft):**

- 5. Ability to express knowledge concerning the topic (oral and written):**

- 6. Individual Development:**

- 7. Final Jury Presentation:**

- 8. Final Notebook/ Exam Questions:**

- 9. Overall Response:**

- 10. Final Grade:**