

University of Florida — School of Theatre and Dance

ACTING – PERIOD STYLES

17th Century to Absurdism

TPP 4144

T/R, period 6-8, 12:50 – 3:50 pm

Location:

Academic Term: Spring 2021

Professor: Michelle Tailor

Email: mtaylor@ufl.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 12:50 – 1:50 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Experimentation and experience with classic dramatic literature: analysis and performance. Coursework includes stylistic work in Neoclassical Comedy, Restoration and Sentimental Comedy, late 19th Century Naturalism, and 20th Century Non-Realistic Styles.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES

Prereq: TPP 4140 with a minimum grade of C and Theatre major.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide the student with experience in the major stylistic performance techniques from the Neoclassical Comedy to Absurdism, excluding the body of realistic plays from the Mid 20th Century American canon (Miller, Williams).
2. To develop an understanding of the theatrical conventions and the performance directives (vocal, physical, and emotional) inherent in the script.
3. To apply the principles of analysis, rehearsal and performance within the conventions of the style script, making informed and appropriate stylistic choices.
4. To apply principles of period research, analysis, and the scoring of a role in the development of a character.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Full participation in class exercises.

Rehearsals: Students are expected to prepare and rehearse scenes in and outside of class for in class performances.

Performances: Various solo and partner/ensemble scenes. including commedia improvisations, monologues and scenes from dramatic literature will be evaluated for grading purposes. Scene work not prepared for presentation dates

will receive a maximum grade of 60% for the remaining entire assignment, provided all follow through preparation work is done and the scene is fully work-shopped.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Please wait until first day of course meeting to purchase books. Further instructions await you.

ACTING WITH STYLE, 3rd edition. Harrop and Epstein. ISBN # 978-0205295821

ACTIONS: The Actor’s Thesaurus. Caldarone and Lloyd-Williams. ISBN# 0896762521 (provided via Canvas).

STYLE FOR ACTORS. A Handbook for Moving Beyond Realism. 2nd Edition. Barton. ISBN #9780415485739

CRITICAL DATES

Please see course outline on Canvas for more specific details. Dates are subject to change.

Final Scene Performance 17th/18th c. Comedy: Feb 16th

Final Scene Performance Chekhov: March 16th

Final Scene Performance Brecht: April 6th

JOURNAL

You will keep a journal beginning with January 19th class. Please date every journal entry. The journal will be a written response to what you’ve physically and emotionally experienced during the exploration of the concepts in class and the connection of those concepts during your performances. The dates you are expected to journal are listed in the marked in course outline as “J”.

Please see the assignment handout for more details on content of the journal and due dates.

PLEASE bring your journal with you to every class.

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
“ROUNDS” Rehearsal and Performance of 4 Scenes (broken down below)		
Scene 1 17 th & 18 th c. Comedy	50	81%
Scene 2 Naturalism “Chekhov”	50	
Scene 3 Epic Theatre “Brecht”	50	
Workshop: Pinter and Absurdism	50	
Participation and Attendance	25	10%
Journal	21	9%
TOTAL	246	100%

PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS

Analysis and Score/ Rehearsal and Performance Rounds:

The five scenes break down as follows:

15 points for “Scene Assignment” paperwork

15 points for rehearsal round

20 points for performance round

SCENE PRESENTATIONS

The scenes will be performed in two rounds. Both rounds must be performed on the scheduled day as listed in the course outline. Before a scene may be performed in class, the “Script Analysis Paperwork” must be given to the instructor.

The minimum requirements are as follows:

ROUND ONE (Rehearsal): four hours of focused rehearsal

1. Thoroughly memorized lines!!!
2. Simple, logical blocking.
3. Intelligent, action-oriented objectives for each beat, tactics and obstacles.
4. Emotional and physical choices.
5. All choices should evolve out of your understanding of the current style being studied.

ROUND TWO (Performance): four to six additional hours of rehearsal

1. Scene must have a sense of rhythm and movement.
2. Blocking must reflect emotion and style of the play.
3. Clarified objectives, tactics, and obstacles.
4. Specific emotional and physical choices.
5. Evidence that suggestions from round one have been carefully incorporated.

COVID RELATED PRACTICES

We will have face-to-face and online instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. F2F and online class sessions are clearly marked in the course outline and subject to change based on the needs of the course. Your instructor will update you with any changes both verbally and on Canvas.

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are

all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom. • If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.

ATTENDANCE POLICY, CLASS EXPECTATIONS, AND MAKE-UP POLICY

This is an experiential class. You are expected to attend class daily and be on time. "The University recognizes the right of the individual professor has to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and then assign a failing grade for excessive absences." Normally, there would be only one excused absence in the course. I would like to hold that standard in a general sense for this course, however, with the following caveat....

*With a COVID based world in mind, please know that if you are affected by Covid, your professor will make every effort to guide you and support you in completing coursework and supporting you in an agile and empathetic environment while still upholding the standards of the work. Let's all work together in ways that allow for us to succeed and support our professional and creative growth.

DECORUM

Your work in class is a major part of your grade. This includes your classroom and out of class rehearsal decorum, because it strongly impacts the quality of instruction for you and your partners. You are expected to show respect for yourself, your partners, and the art and craft of theatre. You are also expected to respect the spaces in which we work by preparing the space for work and clearing it after you finish working. Part of learning the acting process is also learning how to act professionally. Unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated.

**** Food is not permitted in class.** Eat before or after class, not in class. Bottled water and a flip-top thermal travel mug with warm tea with honey (for vocal care) are allowed.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER 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.

REQUIRED DRESS

Acting: Since this is a class in period performance, it will be necessary for women to have a floor length skirt for all class work. Men should have some type of rehearsal jacket for certain scene work. Everyone will be required to wear hard soled shoes for class work. Shoes with a slight heel are preferred for 17th and 18th century work. Women may use “character shoes” as the best option, or ballet slippers. Women should have a corset for work up through late 19th Century styles.

WRITTEN WORK

All papers and written assignments must be typed and presented before the rehearsal and performance rounds of each scene. Late assignment and papers will be given only partial credit. Please see COVID attendance policy.

MAKE UP WORK

Performance assignments must be performed for the sake of your partner. You will not be able to receive a “make up” grade except under extenuating circumstances at the judgment of the instructor(s). Because the course depends on the co-operation of partners in scene work, it is imperative that work be presented ON TIME. In the event that an absence is known in advance, you must make arrangements to present the work early.

PRODUCTION VIEWING

Attendance at SOTD theatre productions is required for all students enrolled in this course. However, due to Coronavirus, there will be no live productions this semester on campus. In lieu of live productions, there will be two to three online video productions that will be assigned for you to watch.

TEACHING METHOD

There will be assigned readings and discussions of text materials, practical exercises, and character studies, research of historical elements relevant to the playing of period plays and styles. There will also be the traditional coaching/working of scenes. The unique nature of period styles acting requires a different vocal and physical vocabulary for each style, which must be in place before the character can be fully created. Therefore, particularly in the

rehearsal round, you will often be directed in order to realize the style. This can be frustrating when you are simultaneously trying to acquire the style skills and to create your character. Every effort will be made to distinguish between coaching and directing. Your responsibility is to be willing to try the notes, suggestions, and directions in a collaborative fashion.

GRADING

Grading will be evaluated and will be based on methods and requirements listed above, as well as quality of work, approach, enthusiasm, development, completion of all assigned work, and the student's ability to express written and oral knowledge concerning the course topics. Final grades will be based on above criteria, evaluation and assessment of each student's attitude toward the work, and the individual development of each student throughout the semester.

UF GRADING SCALE

Percent	Grade
94.0 - 100.0	A
90.0 – 93.0	A-
87.0 – 89.0	B+
83.0 – 86.0	B
80.0 – 82.0	B-
77.0 - 79.0	C+
73.0 – 76.0	C
70.0 – 72.0	C-
67.0 – 69.0	D+
63.0 – 66.0	D
60.0 - 62.0	D-
0 - 59.9	E

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open

during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Student Code of Conduct is available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

SOFTWARE USE

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

STUDENT PRIVACY

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

SCRIPT ANALYSIS PAPERWORK

1. PLAY ANALYSIS

1-Theme, 2-Central Conflict, 3-List key events in Rising Action, 4-Climax, 5- Denouement

2. **SCENE ANALYSIS** is a written discussion of the following points, all of which should be clearly labeled and covered adequately:

- A. Given Circumstances (Who, What, Where, When)—A clear description of what has happened to the character you are playing in the scene just before your scene begins. This description should include the emotional-mental state, and the physical condition of the character just before the scene begins. Evidence from the script should be offered where support is needed.
- B. Intention or Objective—A description of the character’s overall motivation, what he/she wants throughout the scene—the character’s super-objective in the scene.
- C. Obstacle—A clear description of what is blocking the character from achieving his objective.
- D. The Score—On a photocopy of your scene, use [brackets] to mark beats, objectives, and tactics. A beat is a motivational unit that contains a short term objective. A transition is a change in objective that takes the actor from one beat to the next. Your objective is what you want to do to the other character. Your tactics are the physical actions you will use to accomplish each objective.
- E. Result—A brief statement of the outcome or resolution of the scene.

3. **CHARACTER ANALYSIS** is a written assignment that should be submitted along with presentations. It consists of the following aspects, each of which must be covered adequately. The more detailed the description or choices, the more vivid the character will become to you:

- A. Physical Description—A full description of the character, justifying characteristics where necessary with text references. This description includes information on the character’s age, what he/she looks like, what he/she must wear in the scene. It also includes more active dimensions like how the character walks, moves, sits, gestures, talks.

- B. Emotional Profile—A full emotional profile of the character including habitual disposition and specific moods in the scene.
- C. Relationships—What is his/her relationship to the other characters in the scene and to the central conflict in the scene.
- D. Past History—A brief statement of the most important influential details about the character’s past history.
- E. Secret- 1) Shared, 2) Private or “Uber”