

Graduate Acting II: Shakespeare and High Style  
TPP 6116  
Spring 2022  
M/W/F: 10:40-12:35 (Periods 4 and 5), Room G15  
Malcolm Gets  
[mgets@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:mgets@arts.ufl.edu)  
352-273-0500  
231 McGuire Pavilion  
Office Hours: M/W/F 1:00-2:30

#### COURSE OBJECTIVE:

“I’m constantly intimidated by Shakespeare’s work. Trying to decipher what he’s saying and holding on to that thought- not just as an actor, but as a human being- is a rigour.”

-Zoe Wannamaker, actress

“I remember feeling that Shakespeare wasn’t for me, for somebody who looked like me. I think it’s important to see people of all ages in different colors, tapping into the stories that look like the world that we live in. If we can get past the barrier of the language, we’ll find that a lot of it is very timely.”

-Moses Ingram, actress

This semester we will dive into the works of William Shakespeare. We will examine the properties of verse, learn how to mine the text for clues and characteristics, and explore how to bring the works alive today in a way that bridges contemporary acting approaches with the heightened language that the plays were written in. We will also examine contemporary playwrights whose language approaches a similar level of poetry, such as August Wilson, Tony Kushner, Antoinette Nwandu, Nilo Cruz, Quiara Alegria Hudes, and Naomi Iizuka.

#### WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Intro/Syllabus/The “size” of playing Shakespeare

Week 2: Breaking down the text/Scansion

Week 3: Solo Piece 1

Week 4: Solo Piece 1/Contemporary Playwright

Week 5: Solo Piece 2

Week 6: Solo Piece 2/Contemporary Playwright

Week 7: Scene 1

Week 8: Scene 1

Week 9: Scene 1/Contemporary Playwright

Week 10: SPRING BREAK

Week 11: Filming Shakespeare

Week 12: Filming Shakespeare

Week 13: Rehearse Final Project

Week 14: Rehearse Final Project

Week 15: Rehearse Final Project

Week 16: Sharing/Presentation

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Playing Shakespeare, by John Barton. Anchor Publishing

Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare, by Stephen Greenblatt. W.W. Norton Publishing

Finishing the Hat: Collected Lyrics (1954-1981), by Stephen Sondheim. Knopf Publishers

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

- 1) Attendance and Punctuality (20%)
- 2) Preparation and Professionalism (15%)
- 3) Research Papers (10%)
- 4) Discipline, Growth, Effort and Class Participation (30%)
- 5) Ability to retain and incorporate methods explored in class (25%)

**GRADING SCALE:**

| Letter Grade | % Equivalency | GPA Equivalency |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| A            | 100-94        | 4.0             |
| A-           | 93-90         | 3.67            |
| B+           | 89-87         | 3.33            |
| B            | 86-84         | 3.00            |
| B-           | 83-80         | 2.67            |
| C+           | 79-77         | 2.33            |
| C            | 76-74         | 2.00            |
| C- *         | 73-70         | 1.67            |
| D+           | 69-67         | 1.33            |

|                   |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
|                   |       |       |
| D                 | 66-64 | 1. 00 |
| D-                | 63-60 | .67   |
| E, I, NG, S-U, WF | 59-0  | 0. 00 |

Please note that a C- is no longer an accepted grade **for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major.**

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are allowed 3 “unexcused” absences that do not require documentation and do not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.” Any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence. To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation. However, in order to help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester. Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness—A doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, with the doctor’s name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course’s instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student’s continued participation in the course. For Majors: Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation. Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 3 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student’s final grade.

## HYBRID COURSE:

The desired intent is for the class to meet face-to-face, in person. Class may occasionally meet through Zoom. As of the date of posting this syllabus (12/28/2022), there has been a significant rise in Florida and nationally in cases of COVID-19 due to the omicron variant. Symptoms appear to be mild in many cases, and it may manifest asymptotically also, so that individuals may be unaware of infection unless tested. That is why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UF Health urge everyone to wear masks indoors to minimize the risk of spread. Moreover, UF Health recommends you wear the more form fitting KN95 or N95 pouches instead of looser blue surgical or cloth masks to enhance protection.

Students who are medically required to quarantine will have documentation from a medical provider. Students who self-quarantine must communicate with the instructor and “attend” courses remotely synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor. Students who elect to enroll in a hybrid course are expected to participate in in-person instruction. If a student is uncomfortable attending in-person, the student should elect courses that are delivered online only and plan to take the hybrid or face-to-face course in a future semester. In the case that the student does not have the option to take the class at a later time (i.e., a graduating senior), the student must make arrangements with the instructor to “attend” all class meetings synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor. Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, 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. (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>)

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.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center: <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.

## HONOR PLEDGE:

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

(<http://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.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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](#).

*GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.