

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

## **TPP 6145: Grad Acting 3 - Period Styles / Fall 2023 Syllabus**

Class Meetings: TRF - Per. 4 & 5: (10:40-12:35 AM) / Rm: CON 015

Dr. Mikell Pinkney / mpinkney@arts.ufl.edu / Office: 222 Nadine McGuire Pavilion/ 273-0512

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 11:45 - 12:30PM and/ or Tues. & Thurs. by appointment

**Course Description:** Analysis and performance experience with dramatic literature: Neo Classical to early twentieth century. The course is designed to enhance the imaginative artistry of the student and to develop awareness and capabilities for heightened performance techniques.

**Course Objectives:** Work on creating a holistic, powerful and elevated approach to use of self, within the principles of period styles, as well as learn to layer the heightened style with your own unique sensibilities by “lifting yourself” into the work without losing yourself in the work. Work on incorporating period movement and voice into scene work as you also use your research and study of period styles to the scene work. Experience performance of various acting styles from Neo Classical through Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries. Develop a familiarity with classic dramatic literature. Develop ensemble and cooperative, creative skills.

**Expected Outcomes:** It is expected that students will leave the class with the confidence in their abilities to research, analyze, score a script, as well as to rehearse and perform classical roles with a particular flair for “heightened style.” Students should develop appreciation for the eloquence and style of the written text, an understanding and respect for period research, and a joy and confidence in playing such roles. In addition, a major objective is to prepare the student for “real world” possibilities beyond the completion of his/her course of study by learning when to “break the rules” with a contemporary sensibility.

\*Students should have a flexible, “can do” attitude toward this work, as our purpose is to explore numerous techniques and to develop a personal process for the creation of a role in various period styles, rather than perfecting one or two styles.

### **Required Texts:**

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

ISBN#: 978-0205295821

Various Play Scripts: *Greek, Restoration, Ibsen, Chekhov, Absurdist* (Pinter, Mamet, Beckett, Albee)

**Content Warning:** In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in a Theatre Studies course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. You are encouraged to reach out to your professor if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but you should remember that each student is responsible for any information covered in their absence.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

## **Course Requirements:**

**1. PRODUCTION VIEWING:** 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. 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 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."*

\* Interest and enthusiasm for the topic is expected. The instructor 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. PROPER CLASS ATTIRE:** Proper attire, or costuming, must be worn for scene work according to the period being presented. This will mean, for women: Floor length skirts or dresses, with corsets and proper shoe styles. Any added elements will depend on periods as well. This will mean, for men: High collar shirts, with long sleeves; appropriate neck wear, vests or waist coats, suit or sports jackets, appropriate shoes (heels for classicism). For all: Full fabrics of bed sheets for Greek and French neoclassicism.

**5. 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.

**6. 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 regarding 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. Ability to express knowledge concerning the topic (orally and in written notes)
5. Individual development
6. Jury Scene presentation
7. Course Notebook (includes two parts with class work and response to questions)

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

**Week #1: (Aug. 28-31)**

Introductions/ Formalism/ *Acting With Style*: “General Approach”

**Week #2: (Sept. 5-7)**

*Acting With Style* : Playing Tragedy, Pg. 7/ Chapter 2 of *Style*. . . , playing Greek style/  
Classical play structure and analysis/ Greek monologues

**Week #3: (Sept. 12-14)**

Development of Greek monologues w/written work (location in text, vocal markings, paraphrase, etc.)/ Questions and answers concerning Greek style/ Scene assignments

**Week #4: (Sept. 19-21)**

Workshop Greek scenes/ Presentation of Greek scenes for feedback

**Week #5: (Sept. 26-28)**

Introduction to Commedia del’Arte/ *Acting With Style* : Playing Comedy, pg, 87/  
Chapter 5 of *Style* . . . Farce

**Week #6: (Oct. 3-5)**

Present Commedia scenarios

Chapter 4 of *Style* . . . Introduction to Neoclassicism/ Comedy of Manners

**Week #7: (Oct. 10-12)**

Workshop Neoclassical scenes (*The Miser, Man of Mode, The Way of the World*)

**Week #8: (Oct. 17-19)**

Presentation of Neoclassical scenes for feedback  
intro of Racine monologues

**Week #9: (Oct. 24-26)**

Workshop Racine monologues/

**MIDTERM:** Greek & Restoration scenes, monos

**Week#10: (Oct. 31-Nov. 2)**

MidTerm review of Classicism

Introduction to Modern Realism/ *Acting With Style* : Playing Realism, pg, 167/  
Chapter 6 of *Style* . . . Realism/ Assignment of Ibsen scenes

**Week #11: (Nov. 7-9)**

Workshop Ibsen scenes

Present Ibsen for grading

**Week #12: (Nov. 14-16)**

Chapter 7 of *Style* . . . Chekhov

Workshop Chekhov scenes

**Week #13: (Nov. 21-23)**

*Acting With Style* : Playing Postrealistic Drama, pg, 221/ Chapter 8 . . . The Absurd

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Week #14: (Nov. 28-30)**

Present Reports on Postrealistic readings and research

Absurdist scenes

**Week #15: (Dec. 5)**

Final Jury Presentations

---

**PINKNEY PRINCIPLES!**

(Things I learned as a student)

1. *"You get no pity in the pit!"*
2. *"Excuses don't get results"*
3. *"Mediocrity is excellence, only to the mediocre"*
4. *"The 7 Pz: Previous Prior Preparation Prevents Pitiful Poor Performance!"*
5. *Punctuality* is essential; it means "ahead of time"
6. "Tend to your own business, and leave other people's business alone!"
7. 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/>

---

**GRADE MEANINGS**

- 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!
-

**SOTD Handbook and Production Policy Manual:**  
**Listed on webpage under General Theatre / Current Students/ Student Resources**  
<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/programs/generaltheatre.aspx>

**In case of a disaster affecting the UF campus, for the latest information see**  
**<http://www.ufl.edu>**

**University Police**  
352-392-1111

*City Emergency Notification:*  
**Weekdays Evenings/ Weekends**

<b>Fire/Police/Medical Emergency:</b>	911	911
---------------------------------------	-----	-----