

## **ORI 2000 - Oral Interpretation of Literature**

**SPRING 2015**

**Instructor:** Grace Abele

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**Room:** MCCB (McCarty B) 3124

**Section/Period:** 5235 / M W F 8 – 3:00-3:50

**Instructor's Office Hours:** M 2:00-3:00

### **Course Objectives:**

- To develop communication & performance skills through oral presentation of literature
- To provide you with a greater appreciation of quality literature & performance
- To develop awareness of yourself in various aspects, such as physically, vocally, mentally, and emotionally
- To develop your critical thinking and analytical skills in identifying what works and doesn't work in performance

The Fundamentals of Performance include the ability to:

- Stand calmly and confidently
- Speak loudly and clearly enough to be easily understood
- Make eye contact with the audience
- Communicate thoughts and ideas with intention and purpose
- Utilize movement when natural

We will work towards building these fundamentals with a wide variety of tools, designed to develop your expressive potential in the reading of literature before an audience.

### **Course Content:**

- Students will participate in exercises during class that are designed to develop the major skills required for acting. Students will be expected to prepare outside of class for these exercises and their scene work.
- Students will perform a series of pieces for the instructor and the class. It is imperative that you work on these scenes outside of class to prepare them for presentation.
- Students will also prepare written analyses in order to strengthen their performances and allow them an opportunity to articulate what it is they are trying to demonstrate in their pieces. There will also be in-class workshops for each of the pieces prior to the performance. A final presentation will occur during the last week of classes.
- In addition, students will be required to complete short writing assignments and complete critiques on shows viewed and material covered.

### **Required Course Materials:**

- This Syllabus, ORI 2000 Spring Manuel (to be purchased at Target Copy for Approximately \$5) and Course Outline.
- Class text, *Oral Interpretation* by Timothy Gura and Charlotte Lee
- Poems, narratives, monologues, stories, etc. collected by the student. Copies must be made. Library West has an extensive collection of literature including one-act and full length plays which can be searched for by title and/or playwright.
- 3-Ring Binder or folder containing syllabus, class manual, handouts, presentation pieces, notes (notebook or loose-leaf paper) and any other material applicable to class.
- Appropriate apparel for class: clothing to move in; on workshop and performance days clothes much be appropriate to the presentation piece.
- Appropriate writing utensils: pencils, pens, highlighters, etc.
- Access to internet, email and Canvas for class information, updates, grades, performance material.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be taken daily. Due to the nature of this course, attendance is MANDATORY. *You are allowed three unexcused absences.* If more than three absences occur, **125 points** will be deducted from your attendance grade for each additional absence. Based on the 1000-point grading scale system, this means that only TWO absences following the first three will be allowed until automatic failure of the course.

Part of being in college is learning how to use your time wisely and plan ahead. Time management is an invaluable skill in the workplace, so learn to exercise it well. Save your absences until they are absolutely necessary, as in the case of a broken down car, missed flight, or sudden illness. Please do not expect an exception to be made in your case and beg for allowances later.

In the case of an absence, you are responsible for finding out what material was covered in class. Get the contact information of at least two of your classmates and contact them for details regarding your missed class. Please do not contact the instructor and ask for a copy of notes or material covered. There are NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES so do not miss a day you are work shopping or performing. The ONLY excused absences allowed are religious holiday (student must write a letter saying such and provide it to the instructor at least one week prior to the absence), medical emergency (accompanied by a doctor's note on letterhead) and *mandatory* school requirements (which must be approved by the instructor and a letter from the appropriate authority must be provided at least one week ahead of time). Failure to provide the appropriate documentation at least one week before an excused absence will result in an unexcused absence. Students must provide any missed assignments at the following class period for an excused absence. Missed workshops or performances with an excused absence will be made up the following class period.

**\*Excused Absences:** In order for an absence to be excused, you must turn the proper written documentation. (Ex: team travel, band, academic field trips, doctor's notice, etc.) See above for further details.

**\*Tardy Policy:** In addition to your 2 allowed absences, you will be given 2 opportunities to be late. Upon your 3<sup>rd</sup> tardiness, **25 points** will be deducted from your overall grade. If you arrive late, DO NOT come into the room while another student is performing – please be respectful! Leaving class early will count as a tardy.

## **Late Assignments:**

Assignments are due on the day listed on the course outline. The ONLY exception will be in the case of an unforeseen excused absence, such as a medical emergency. In this case, the assignment may be handed in the following class day. In the case of planned excused absences, such as a religious holidays, assignments should be either handed in a day early, or e-mailed on the day it is due.

Made sure you have a reliable printer to use for printing out assignments. DO NOT WAIT until the last minute to print assignments, as printers can create problems. Do not assume that you can e-mail the assignment because you forget it or had trouble printing it out. It is not the instructor's job to print out your assignments for you.

## **Make-Up Work:**

There are no make-up days for your workshop or final performances without an excused absence. In the event of an excused absence, workshop and final performances may be made up no later than the following class period. If you miss, you forfeit your points. You may not switch days with someone from another workshop (scene performances are negotiable). Please look at the calendar thoroughly. If you have a planned engagement that you are aware of ahead of time, please alert your instructor to it so workshop and presentation schedules can be planned out in advance.

## **Dress Code:**

Dress appropriately and comfortably, wearing clothes and shoes that allow you to move with ease. On workshop days, dressing in sweats, t-shirts, comfortably fitting jeans, etc. are fine. On presentation days, the appropriate professional attire and/or costume is required.

## **Performance Pieces:**

The method of how to select each piece will be discussed in class. The pieces you work on and present MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTOR.

**Required Viewing:**

You are required to attend 3 UF School of Theatre and Dance production listed below. You will be required to write a two page critique of the acting (on one to two actors) to show you understand the concepts you have been learning. This is not a report. I will hand out guidelines for the paper before the show opens. The papers are due in class on Wednesday, after the show closes (Please see the calendar). All students must arrive at least 10 minutes before the show begins. DO NOT BE LATE. Some shows do not allow late seating. DO NOT TEXT ever during the show. Ever. You will be given ticket vouchers for the UF shows. The cost to you will be \$2 for each show. If you happen to miss a show in the case of an emergency, you will be allowed one chance to attend a different show.

**UF Production Dates:**

***Metamorphoses*** – Constans Theatre (McGuire Pavillion)

Friday, 01/23 @ 7:30 pm  
Saturday, 01/24 @ 7:30 pm  
Sunday, 01/25 @ 2:00 pm  
Tuesday, 01/ 27 @ 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, 01/ 28 @ 2:00 pm  
Thursday, 01/29 @ 2:00 pm

***Gator Tales*** – Black Box Theatre (McGuire Pavillion)

Friday, 02/13 @ 7:30 pm  
Saturday, 02/14 @ 7:30 pm  
Sunday, 02/15 @ 2:00pm  
Tuesday, 02/17 @ 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, 02/18 @ 7:30 pm  
Thursday, 02/19 @ 7:30 pm  
Friday, 02/20 @ 7:30 pm  
Saturday, 02/21 @ 7:30 pm  
Sunday, 02/22 @ 2:00 pm

***The Comedy of Errors*** – Black Box Theatre (McGuire Pavillion)

Friday, 04/03 @ 7:30 pm  
Saturday, 04/04 @ 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, 04/07 @ 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, 04/08 @ 7:30 pm  
Thursday, 04/09 @ 7:30 pm  
Friday, 04/10 @ 7:30 pm  
Saturday, 04/11 @ 7:30 pm  
Sunday, 04/12 @ 2:00 pm

It is highly suggested that you reserve your tickets for these performance two weeks before the opening night, on the first day the box office opens.

**Extra Credit:**

The instructor reserves the right to give up to 25 extra credit points throughout the semester at her discretion according to the needs and strengths of the class.

**Workshop Days:**

On Workshop Days, you *must* have the following:

- A copy of your scored script for you to use as you perform.
- *Stapled* together in a packet: a second copy of your scored script, your completed character analysis sheet, and a blank feedback sheet on top (feedback sheets will be provided in class, as well as on Canvas.)

### **Performance Days:**

You will be assigned a day on which to perform your piece for the class. When you arrive, you *must* have the following prepared items:

- Suggestion of Costume encouraged or appropriate dress
- A copy of your revised scored script for you to use as you perform.
- Stapled together in a packet: your original workshop packet (including the feedback worksheet,) a revised copy of the scored text, a revised copy of the character analysis sheet, and a blank feedback sheet on top.

Students are expected to display thorough preparation and rehearsal. Workshop discussion and other suggestions from the instructor and class should be fully worked into the piece. Although memorization is not required, it is strongly encouraged that the student be highly familiar and comfortable with the material.

### **Office Hours:**

The instructor agrees to be available during the stated office hours every week for the students' convenience. Any student may come to those hours unannounced and for any reason, other than to make up missed work. Students may not make up absences by attending an office hour. If a student is unavailable during the given office hour, he/she must arrange a different meeting time *in advance*. If the instructor and student arrange a meeting time outside of class and the student does not show, and provides no advance notice of changing plans, points may be deducted from the students' final grade.

### **Final Note:**

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor, and *it is your responsibility* to make note of any changes discussed in class. Please feel free to approach the instructor with any concerns you may have about this class.

### **Class Conduct:**

When you are not working in front of the class, you must give your full attention to your fellow classmate who is working. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE of cell phone use (including texting), sleeping, eating, drinking, doing work for other classes, newspaper reading, or disruptive talking in this class. If you engage in any of these behaviors, you will be ejected by the instructor and counted as absent for the day.

NOTES MUST BE TAKEN BY HAND - no laptops, netbooks or tablet computers can be open once class has begun.

### **Special Accommodations:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (392-1261). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

### **Academic Honesty:**

As a result of completing the registration form 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 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 instructors of this course fully support 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.

Student guidelines for ethical behavior can be found at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

The Student Conduct Code is available at

## SYLLABUS QUIZ & CONTRACT

Use the above information to correctly answer the questions below, then sign and date at the bottom to verify that you understand and agree to all the terms of the syllabus.

1. How many absences are allowed before points are deducted from the final grade? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many total absences are allowed before automatic failure of the course? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What three events count as an excused absence?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Provide an example of an incident which would NOT be counted as an excused absence.

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5. If a student has an *unexcused* absence on the day he or she is supposed to present a workshop or a final presentation, he or she will be allowed to make up the presentation at a later date.

True

False

6. If a student's printer stops working, he or she may e-mail the assignment to the instructor without having points deducted.

True

False

7. If a student has an excused absence that is an unforeseen emergency, he or she will not lose points for missing a workshop or presentation.

True

False

**I, \_\_\_\_\_ have carefully read over the Spring 2015, ORI 2000 Syllabus. I AGREE to all the rules and regulations of the class as outlined in this syllabus. This form serves as a contract between student and instructor.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_