

THEATRE 220A

Shakespeare

Instructor: Armin Shimerman

Fall 2017

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Office Hours : by appointment

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Course Description and Overview

- 1) Understanding Shakespeare for actors and communicating Shakespeare to modern audiences
- 2) To develop acute interpretation skills that will enable the actor to discover the meaning and intention of the playwright and the complex subtleties of the characters
- 3) To point each student towards researching Shakespeare and using the source materials to learn about the Elizabethan world, its language, and its ethos
- 4) To remind the actor that in the pursuit of acting, the actor must be disciplined, dedicated, and committed to learning the craft of Theater which requires rigorous attention to language, intention, sub-text, and connotation
- 5) To instill an addiction to rehearsal and personal investigation

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) The student will be required to memorize and perform 1-2 Shakespearean monologues of 4-8 minutes length.

In addition, the student will be required to memorize and perform 2-3 Shakespearean scenes.

- 2) The student will be called upon to write several 1-2-page paper assignments on Elizabethan or Jacobite historical or linguistic topics of the teacher's choosing.
- 3) The student for their midterm will need to write a lengthy paper on a Historical topic taken from their reading of Stephen Greenblatt's "Will in the World."
- 4) Reading, preparation, memorization, and rehearsal will be required for outside of class.

Attendance

Learning in class depends on focus on individual work and collective sharing of discoveries by all members of the class. Therefore, no absentees are allowed. However, a student may be excused from class once, but only after the teacher gets a written and oral explanation. Attendance shall be weighted at no more than 15% per university guidelines. You will be considered absent if you come to class more than 5 minutes after class starts. You are allowed to be late no more than three times. No one may leave class early without first giving me an explanation before the class.

Description of Grading and Assessment of Assignments

- 1) Active class participation including textual analysis - 15%
- 2) Class preparation including memorization and rehearsal- 10%
- 3) Oral and written presentation of Assignments and midterm paper/exam - 15%
- 4) Attendance - 5%
- 5) Monologue work - 20%
- 6) Scene work - 15 %
- 7) FINAL Exam: Performance achievement of Last scene 20%

Grading scale

Excellent: A (4) = 100-96; A- (3.7)= 95-90

Good: B+ (3.3) =89-85; B (3) = 85-84; B- (2.7) = 83-80

Average: C+ (2.3) = 79-76; C (2) = 75-74; C- (1.7) =73-70

Poor: D (.7 -1.3) =60's

Fail: F (0) -59 and below

Workspace:

No food or smoking or unauthorized computer usage is permitted in classroom or theatre. Bottled water is permitted for hydration and acting work. Students must bring their own props and the spaces must be returned to a tidy condition at the end of class. Pen and writing paper is required at every class.

Proposed Schedule:

Week One: Discuss Students Expectation of class and lectures on Rhetoric, Elizabethan mores, History, and Reference materials

Week two: Readings of Richard and Anne scene and/or Richard and Elizabeth scene/scenes from Richard III.
Assignments of Monologues

Analysis of Monologues' Rhetoric and specifics

Week three: Memorizing and Performing of assigned monologue

Week four: Continue work on monologue

Week 5-7: Either Continued work on monologue or assignment of new monologue.

Week 8: Handing and class presentation of midterm paper based on Historic incidents from "Will in the World." No

emailed copies. All must be read first in class then handed to professor for grading.

Week 9: Choices of Scenes and scene partners of Shakespearian scenes from any play.

After assignment, outside reading of the significant play. Textual, historical, and character analysis of scenes and characters

Work on assigned scenes

Week 10-15: Continued work on scene and the choice and work on final scene leading to the performance for the final exam.

Texts:

Arden or New Variorum versions of plays that contain the assigned monologues and scenes

Will in the World by Stephan Greenblatt

Recommended Reading:

Elizabethan World Picture by E.M.W.Tilyard

Playing Shakespeare: An Actor's Guide by John Barton

Access to Oxford English Dictionary

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – on the mid-term is an academic offense.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment will not be tolerated in class. When it is part of a scene, it will be allowed

only to the extent that the professor allows and is necessary for the completion of the scene.

Guidance:

I am open to meeting with students on a regular basis and will do so before class for any period of time that the student deems necessary as long as neither they nor I am late for class. I look forward to getting to know all my students both in and before class.