

ACTING 352A (62950D)- (Chekhov)

Term: Fall 2017

Day/Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 10-11.50

Location: MCC 112

Instructor: Kate Burton

Title: Professor of Theatre Practice

Office: MCC 208

Office Hours: By appointment

Contacts: burtonk@usc.edu 213 740 4647 (o)

Course Description/Learning Objectives/Required Reading/Final Exam:

We will spend the semester immersed in the four major plays of Anton Chekhov (in translation by Prof Sharon Carnick`e):The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters and The Cherry Orchard. One of the world's most astonishing and profound playwrights, Chekhov enables actors to develop and deepen their skills wherever they are in their learning process. We will cater our work to students' individual needs, choosing material that will both strengthen and stretch them. I believe all young actors should develop a relationship with this greatest of all humanist playwrights. As we work through the material, we will do some research on Chekhov's life as well as have a basic understanding of Russian history at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th Centuries. We will also look at some of Chekhov's short stories (in translations of Pevear and Volkonsky), his other masterpieces. This will occur quite organically as we work through the plays. We may end the semester with fully explored scenes for presentation or we may decide to present full acts. My approach will be to find out who and where you are as actors through working on this glorious material. This work should enhance and complement what you have done for the previous years and move you to the next stage. It requires rigor and commitment. All the texts mentioned above will be available in the bookstore by the beginning of next week. Other texts will be handed out in class. Our final exam will be a performance of thoroughly explored scenes from the four plays.

Grading Policy

- A work of excellent quality
- B work of good quality
- C work of average quality
- D work of below average quality

Your grade is assessed according to

Class Work – 50%

Midterm – 25%

Final – 25%

Course Assignments & Class Schedule

WEEK	FIRST CLASS	SECOND CLASS
1	Table Read	Table Read
2	Table Read	Table Read
3	Scene Work	Scene Work
4	Scene Work	Scene Work
5	Scene Work	Scene Work
6	Scene Work	Scene Work
7	Scene Work	Scene Work
8	Scene Work	Scene Work
9	Scene Work	Scene Work
10	Scene Work	Scene Work
11	Scene Work	Scene Work
12	Run-thru	Run-thru
13	Run-thru	Run-thru
14	Run-thru	Run-thru

Attendance, Tardiness, Absences

We expect the highest level of commitment from you in your final year here at USC. Lateness is not tolerated without prior notice. Unexcused absences are not permitted. Communication with the instructor is essential in case of emergency or illness. Violation of these requirements will result in disciplinary measures.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, (www.usc.edu/scampus or <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

Statements on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>. Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information*

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Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

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