

## **THTR 454: Acting Shakespeare II (63163)**

**Term: Spring 2019**

**Day/Time: M/W 9-10.50**

**Location: PED 205**

**Instructor: Kate Burton, Professor of Theater Practice**

**Office: MCC 208**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Contacts: [burtonk@usc.edu](mailto:burtonk@usc.edu)**

**Course Description/Learning Objectives/Required Reading/Midterm and Final Exam:** In this course we will continue to explore the works of William Shakespeare. The depth of his poetic and prosaic writing, the breadth of his characters and the sheer brilliance of his storytelling form a rich tapestry for any young actor, no matter where they are in their learning process, to feast on. We will begin with working on 2 and 3 person scenes. Each actor will begin to work on two contrasting scenes. We will discuss how Shakespeare creates a road map for actors using the brilliance of his writing, both mechanically and emotionally, and that he naturally creates characters for whom “making the active choices” are paramount to successful interpretation. We will use text analysis as we work through the scenes. Suggested initial texts will be Twelfth Night, Midsummer, Merchant, Richard III, As You Like It and Macbeth. We will make sure we choose plays from both the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. Our midterm will be these first two scenes which we will have worked on in class. We may then choose to focus on one or two other plays and do our final scenes from those two plays. Required texts: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare. You must have this the first day of class. It will be ordered for you in the bookstore or you can purchase it yourself. It cannot be online. 2 Will of the World by Stephen Greenblatt. This will give you a wonderful overview of Shakespeare’s life and times. You can read this over the course or you may want to start it over the holiday. I will occasionally be assigning chapters along with the plays. Other suggested reading is by James Shapiro; 1599 and The Year of Lear: they each take a year in the life of Shakespeare during the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. I will expect you to be prepared for class having read and done some initial analysis of your monologues, scenes and plays. I will expect you to have spent 1 to 2 hours rehearsing any scene you perform in class. I suggest you print out the sides for your scenes from your Complete Works. I expect no devices of any kind in class unless there is an emergency. I expect you to be on time and there will be no unexcused absences. This will be a group experience and we will choose the material we work on together. The daughter of two Shakespearean actors, I had no idea how Shakespeare had profoundly affected my artistic life until I grew older. I look forward to sharing this wondrous world and work with you. I will update the class schedule and course assignments as we move into the semester.

**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](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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](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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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, the sexual assault resource center webpage [sarc@usc.edu](mailto:sarc@usc.edu) describes reporting options/ resources.

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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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