Location: Von KleinSmid Center rm. 155 (VKC155)

Instructor: Camille Thornton-Alson
Office: Von KleinSmid Center rm. 155
Office Hours: Mon: 3:50-4:50pm
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Cell: 510-684-0805
I will reply to emails and calls within 48 hours.

Course Description:
Welcome to text analysis study for the actor. In this class we will focus on the questions, artistic choices, methodologies, and approaches of an actor/director/designer in the preparation of a production score prior to rehearsal. You will learn how to read a script, score a script and apply the analysis of the script to the development of a character and your work as an actor. We will read three plays and two musicals this quarter and we will approach each piece as if you are preparing for a performance. We will spend two weeks on each play. At the beginning of the two week cycle you will be expected to come to class prepared and ready for discussion. We will then proceed to analyze and score the script. You will be given a character to focus on at the beginning of the two weeks. At the end of the two week cycle you will be asked to break down a scene that pertains to your character in the script. Although this class will focus on the intellectual breakdown of the character and his/her thoughts you will also be learning how to apply this information to the full development of the character including his/her emotional and physical life. By the end of this class you will understand how to apply script analysis to the development of your character as an actor.

This is a letter grade class.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course you will understand how to apply critical script analysis to the development of a character in performance and to your char your second semester acting class.
**Required Readings:**

*Awake and Sing!* by Clifford Odets  
*West Side Story* by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
*Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare  
*Illyria* adaptation by Peter Mills  
*Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes

*These will available at the University Book Store.

**Assignments & Grading Breakdown:**

Assignment 1: Read *Awake and Sing!* (5 points)  
Assignment 2: *Awake and Sing!* Character Analysis Break Down and Presentation (5 points)  
Assignment 3: Read *West Side Story* (5 points)  
Assignment 4: *West Side Story* Character Analysis Break Down and Presentation (5 points)  
Assignment 5: Read *Twelfth Night* (5 points)  
Assignment 6: *Twelfth Night* Character Analysis Break Down and Presentation (5 points)  
Assignment 7: Read *Illyria* (5 points)  
Assignment 8: *Illyria* Character Analysis Break Down and Presentation (5 points)  
Assignment 9: Read *Water by the Spoonful* (5 points)  
Assignment 10: *Water by the Spoonful* Character Analysis Break Down and Presentation (5 points)

*Midterm: Cold reading / script analysis of a scene from *Awake and Sing!* (25 points)  
*Final: A presentation / performed scene with a partner (25 points)*

In-class participation is a huge part of your grade. If you are not in class while we are discussing a play points will be taken from the assignment relating to that particular play. It is important that you are showing up to class, completing assignments on time and participating in the group discussion.

**Grading Scale:**

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale  
A  95-100  
A-  90-94  
B+  87-89  
B   83-86  
B-  80-82  
C+  77-79  
C   73-76  
C-  70-72  
D+  67-69
D  63-66
D-  60-62
F  59 and below

**Grading Timeline:**
Grades on assignments will be given the following week they are due.

**Additional Policies:**
Late assignments will not be accepted. We have a limited time together and it’s important that you are ready to discuss and participate in every class. If there are extenuating circumstances then you can email me directly and we will discuss other options in determining your grade.

**Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown:**

**Week 1: Vocabulary / Script Analysis**
- Vocabulary breakdown
- Explanation of script analysis technique and application to character development
- Examples of scenes

**Homework:** Read *Awake and Sing!*

**Week 2: Awake and Sing Discussion / Initial Breakdown**
- Discussion and analysis of *Awake and Sing!*
- Character assignments

**Homework:** Breakdown and prepare your character’s scene.

**Week 3: Awake and Sing! Character Analysis**
- Actor will discuss their prepared scene analysis breakdown

**Homework:** Read *West Side Story*

**Week 4: West Side Story Discussion / Initial Breakdown**
- Discussion and analysis of *West Side Story*
- Character assignments

**Homework:** Breakdown and prepare your character’s scene.
Week 5: *West Side Story* Character Analysis
   - Actor will discuss their prepared scene analysis breakdown

**Homework:** Read *Twelfth Night*

Week 6: *Twelfth Night* Discussion / Initial Breakdown
   - Discussion and analysis of *Twelfth Night*
   - Character assignments

**Homework:** Breakdown and prepare your character’s scene.

Week 7: *Twelfth Night* Character Analysis
   - Actor will discuss their prepared scene analysis breakdown

**Homework:** Prepare for Mid-Term Scenes from *Awake and Sing!* We will discuss this in class.

Week 8: Mid-Terms *Awake and Sing!*
   - Cold scene analysis and response and presentation.

**Homework:** Read *Illyria*

Week 9: *Illyria* Discussion / Initial Breakdown
   - Discussion and analysis of *Illyria*
   - Character assignments

**Homework:** Breakdown and prepare your character’s scene.

Week 10: *Illyria* Character Analysis
   - Actor will discuss their prepared scene analysis breakdown

**Homework:** Prepare for a comparative discussion on *Twelfth Night* and *Illyria*

Week 11: *Twelfth Night / Illyria* Discussion
   - Discussion about staging and performance. Play vs. Musical format

**Homework:** Read *Water By the Spoonful*

Week 12: *Water By The Spoonful* Discussion / Initial Breakdown
- Discussion and analysis of *Water By The Spoonful*
- Character assignments

**Homework:** Breakdown and prepare your character’s scene.

**Week 13: *Water By The Spoonful* Character Analysis**
- Actor will discuss their prepared scene analysis breakdown.

**Homework:** Think about the scene you will be prepping for the final with your partner.

**Week 14: FINAL PREP and Questions**
- Looking at, prepping and going in depth with scene work.

**Week 15: Final Presentations**

**Congratulations YOU DID IT!**

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITMENTS AND ISPS**

Should you choose to participate in any extra-curricular project, such as an Independent Student Production, the SDA administration and faculty will not make allowances or exceptions for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework that is required as preparation for class, or lack of participation in class resulting from your extra-curricular involvement.

**Statement 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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. 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.

**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 for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

**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. See the university’s site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

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**Support Systems:**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

*Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

*Diversity at USC*
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

**USC Emergency Information**
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

**USC Department of Public Safety** – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.
Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu