

**MFA I ADVANCED ACTING**  
***PERSONALIZATION 2.0***  
**#520b**  
**Spring 2020**

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**Office Hours**

Available by appointment. Call or email as above. **Mentorship is an essential element of the instructional technique in the MFA program; make it a point to make an appointment.**

**Course Description**

Intensive Scene Study focusing on the work of modern playwrights.

**Course Objectives**

To continue the practical application of the craft of acting from table-work, through personalization and now making the connection between yourself, your story, and the so-called “character” that you are attempting to portray. We will continue exploring the concept that the individual actor is infinitely more interesting than any finite character that he or she might play. I am looking for the students to incorporate the “working process” begun in the fall semester into their rehearsal time outside of class and then carry those discoveries into the room.

**Final Exam**

TBD

**Required Text**

The plays of Arthur Miller:

*Death of a Salesmen*

*The Crucible*

*All My Sons*

*A View From The Bridge*

**Suggested Reading**

Every play you can get your hands on.

Note: All plays you read this semester in any class, all the plays you see you this year at any venue, carry potential for scene study material. Think about this...as you will be making some of your own choices in terms of material to work on.

### **Class Meetings**

M/W – 3:00-5:50pm

PED 202

### **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**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>FIRST CLASS</b>	<b>SECOND CLASS</b>
1	<b>Review Semester 1</b>	<b>Dealer's Choice Table Work</b>
2	<b>Andy Robinson workshop</b>	<b>Andy Robinson workshop</b>
3	<b>Andy Robinson workshop</b>	<b>Andy Robinson workshop</b>
4	<b>Show DC Scenes</b>	<b>Show DC Scenes</b>
5	<b>Show DC Scenes</b>	<b>Show DC Scenes</b>
6	<b>Show/work scene 1</b>	<b>Show/work scene 1</b>
7	<b>Show/work scene 1</b>	<b>Show/work scene 1</b>
8	<b>Show/work scene 1</b>	<b>Show/work scene 1</b>
9	<b>Show/work scene 1</b>	<b>Run-thru of Scene 1</b>
10	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>

11	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>
12	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>
13	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>	<b>Show/work scene 2</b>
14	<b>Format Culmination</b>	<b>Rehearse Culmination</b>
15	<b>Rehearse Culmination</b>	<b>Rehearse Culmination</b>

### **Attendance, Tardiness, Absences**

We expect the highest level of commitment from MFA actors. 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.

### **Dates to Note:**

MLK Day: Monday, January 20

President's Day: Monday, February 17

Spring Recess Sun-Sun March 15-22

Classes End: Friday, May 1

Study Days: Sat-Tue May 2-5

Exams: Wed-Wed May 6-13

Commencement (required attendance for all MFA) Friday May 15

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](https://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](https://dps.usc.edu)