

THTR 397/497 Theatre Practicum for Actors

Sec.62994

Fall 2020—MTWThF and Sa or Su

Synchronous/Asynchronous hours scheduled between 6-10p.m. M-F and one weekend day.

Location: Online

Instructor: Juliàn Conde

Office Hours: by appointment via Zoom

Contact Info: jconde@usc.edu

Assistant Instructor: Els Collins ecollins@usc.edu

213-948-6782 cell

Course Description and Overview

Substantive participation in actualizing devised or scripted texts towards the end of a shared public culmination/performance sponsored by the school and supervised by faculty. Student involvement includes, but not limited to, project research, table work, rehearsal process and final preparation for inclusion of the audience constituency. All theatre practicum public shares presented in the School of Dramatic Arts semester, are the result of work done in the various sections of THTR 397/497. All design, stage management, technical direction, and acting assignments in the School of Dramatic Arts are part of the THTR 397/497 series. Acting assignments are by an audition process as set forth by the section's practicum leader.

Learning Objectives

Our theatre practicum coursework is anchored by principles aimed at developing artists who exercise interdependence of artistic practice and understand theatre as a collaborative art form with social impact. This course provides the student actor the opportunity to develop their storytelling skills in the context of a collaborative performance project directed by SDA faculty. These principles are stated below:

Upon completion of the 397/497 course student actors are expected to:

- Exhibit a working knowledge of the collaborative relationships between the actor, text, theatre event and the audience in a range of social contexts, historical periods, performance styles and cultures.
- Demonstrate a practical understanding of the processes of rehearsing and performing in live media.
- Have applied their developing physical, vocal and emotional skills to performances in productions that are shared virtually to an audience through an online modality.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite (s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: None

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

The play's script to be presented and such research materials as the director may deem necessary for a particular project. Students are informed which specific texts are to be used and are provided the publishing information to acquire these texts.

Each participant (actor) will be expected to have either a computer, tablet, or phone which will enable them to participate virtually with the ensemble.

1. Students with demonstrated need may reach out to USC's Student Basic Needs Technology form [here](#).
2. Each participant (actor) will be expected to have wireless earbuds to allow for specified choreographed movement away from the computer/phone. These are available at low cost [here](#).
3. Students with demonstrated need may reach out to SDA's Production Department for assistance with the earbud [here](#).

World of play "Goody Bag": The "maker" nature of the class will require inventive use of available "found" or personally sourced props and costumes for your character/s to fulfill the needs of the content/texts (devised or published) being explored.

1. Students with demonstrated need may reach out to USC's Head of Production at ecollins@usc.edu to discuss.

Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

Grading will be determined by the following as defined below and according to the appropriate grading matrix and timeline for your discipline which is an addendum to this syllabus:

1- Participation and preparation	10%
2- Professionalism	20%
3- Rehearsal Process	30%
4- Public performance	40%

Grading Breakdown

These expectations constitute the bulk of your graded experience. In addition to these may be other assignments that happen out of the specific rehearsal process.

The final letter grade is awarded based on the following percentages

(A>94%>A->90%>B+>87%>B>84%>B->80%>C+>77%>C>74%>C->70%>D+>67%>D>64%>D->60%>F)

Participation and preparation 10%

Actors are expected:

- To arrive at rehearsals on time, ready to work, focused on the work at hand.

- Unscheduled conflicts will be considered absences

Professionalism 20%

Actors are expected:

- To learn lines by the deadlines required by the director
- To be quiet and respectful when their colleagues are rehearsing
- To be attentive to entrances and exits.
- To be responsible for all blocking and movement as presented by the director
- To acknowledge and incorporate director's notes
- To be in costume and make-up by the designated time for performance
- To be quiet (mute setting for zoom) when not on stage (camera)
- To be responsible for their individual entrances and exits
- To be responsible for all personal props and wardrobe

Rehearsal Process 30%

Actors are expected:

- To be flexible and open in the rehearsal process
- To be willing to investigate alternative solutions and ready to offer their own ideas
- To work as needed with dialect and vocal coaches and fight choreographers

Public Performance/Quality of Design/Performance 40%

Actors are expected:

- To integrate all of the rehearsal process to include physical, vocal and dialect work as appropriate to the production
- To execute the themes, tone and style of the play
- To perform as a member of the ensemble

Proposed Schedule:

Actors:

- The normal rehearsal period for a THTR 397/497 is 6-8 weeks including the week of performance.
- Rehearsals are scheduled between 6:00pm-10:00pm Monday-Friday and 5 hours TBD on one weekend day.
- In the online modality, rehearsals and the performance share will take place on the Zoom platform.
- Rehearsal time in the online will be scheduled both synchronously and asynchronously.
- Time breakdown per week is: 8 hours synchronous, 8 hours asynchronous, 5 hours small group synchronous or asynchronous (as needed), 4 hours available as office hours with practicum leader (as needed)
- Students in the THTR 397/497 project are "on call" for all scheduled synchronous rehearsals.

- See “Course Schedule: Weekly Breakdown” on Page 4 for adjustments made for Fall 2020’s online modality.

Guidelines on Grading

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Participation and Preparation	10	10
Professionalism	20	20
Rehearsal Process	30	30
Public Performance	40	40
TOTAL	100	100

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments will be submitted according to the guidelines provided by the practicum leaders/directors.

Additional Policies

Attendance is mandatory. Lack of attention in this area will impact student’s grade and/or ability to continue in the project.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

The weekly schedule varies according to the timeline, process and progression of the section practicum leader/director.

The hour per week parameters for the practicum leader are as follows:

Up to 8 hours per week group synchronous work.

Up to 8 hours per week individual asynchronous work.

Up to 5 hours per week small group synchronous or asynchronous work if needed for special preparation.

Up to 4 hours per week for office hours as needed.

Time expectations for the individual student are determined weekly by the practicum leader/director according to the needs and progress of the group. The determination of synchronous vs. asynchronous work will ensure that the time working in the zoom room is manageable.

Materials:

Because of the variety of content being explored in each practicum section and the range of activities of the students, the materials needed for each week varies. The individual practicum leaders/directors will articulate the needs for their sections.

Final Examination Date:

The final for this class is the final performance.

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, home work 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.

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

USC Technology Support Links

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

*****This syllabus serves as your contract for Theatre Practicum Fall 2020*****

Please note...

Specific requirements and schedule will be provided by the individual practicum leaders