

Location: Zoom Online - <https://usc.zoom.us/j/4350659968>

Instructor: Camille Thornton-Alson

Zoom: <https://usc.zoom.us/j/4350659968> (IMPORTANT - Always use this link!)

Office Hours: Email me and we will schedule a time.

Contact Info: camille.thornton@usc.edu

Cell: 510-684-0805

I will reply to emails and calls within 48 hours.

Technical Difficulties:

If you are experiencing difficulties with Zoom or Blackboard please go to:

<https://kepteaching.usc.edu/get-help/>

Course Description:

Welcome to Introduction to Scene Study. In this class we will focus on the questions, artistic choices, methodologies, and approaches of an actor in preparation of a production prior to rehearsal and how it influences the final performance. We will focus on process and technique and specifically look at how to develop the sensory work and emotional thought process of the actor and how it relates to character development. In order to do this, we will begin with monologues and move into scene work. The monologues will be selected as monologues that you can further use in professional auditions. When we have examined the sensory work and beat work within the structure of the monologue we will continue to work on scenes. The play we will focus on this semester will be *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner. We will specifically look at how the circumstances of the play and Kushner's life relate. We will apply this research to how you, the actor, in understanding this, can apply this study to the sensory development of your character. This class will continue to build and deepen your process of script analysis, application and performance.

This is a letter grade class.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course you will understand how to apply your research of the playwright's personal life circumstances and apply this information to the sensory development of your character based on the circumstances within the world of the play.

Required Readings:

Angels in America by Tony Kushner

*You can purchase this play online at Amazon (I will put the link below to the edition to purchase) you can also go to scribd (<https://www.scribd.com/>), a site that has many plays uploaded there for a monthly fee. It is like Netflix. It is important that you have a way of making notations on your script - whether that be a printed scene or a play that is up to your preference.

https://www.amazon.com/Angels-America-Fantasia-National-Complete/dp/1559363843/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Angels+in+America&qid=1610409449&sr=8-1

Assignments & Grading Breakdown:

Attendance:

Absences/Tardiness: It is important that you are on time and ready to work. This is an ensemble class and learning and growth within the class depend on every member of the class being present. Therefore, no tardies or absences are allowed. Attendance will be weighted at no more than 15% per University Guidelines.

Grades: Grades are based on effort, work and personal improvement as the semester progresses. Each individual will be working on different aspects of their actor process. It is this improvement that I am looking for when I grade your work. You will also be graded on your participation within the ensemble.

This includes:

- Memorization of lines
- Being ready to rehearse a scene
- Outside class character preparation
- Participation within the ensemble
- Taking notes in rehearsal and applying them to the scene
- Incorporating notes within a scene
- Listening and watching classmates

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. Specific grading rubrics will be given per the assignment. Feedback and notes on scenes will be given immediately.

Grading Points Breakdown:

- Monologue Presentation: 20
 - Monologue with Notes: 20
 - MID-TERM: Table work presentations 20
 - Preparation of Final Scene: 20
 - Final: 20
- Total Points Available : 100

*A breakdown of expectations on above assignments will be provided to you before the assignment is due so that you clearly understand what is needed to earn the full amount of points.

Grading Timeline:

Grades on the mid-term and final will be given the following week they are due. I will give you a grading rubric for each assignment. If you follow the guideline then you will receive the full amount of points.

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.

Zoom Etiquette:

1. Arrive a few minutes early so that we can start class exactly at 8:00 am.
2. Have all your materials ready and by you for class.
3. We will discuss a group break together when you can go to the bathroom.
4. Have water or something to drink but no eating.
5. No texting / private chats.
6. Depending on your internet service, please be on camera.
7. If you are having technical difficulties text me at 510-684-0805 to let me know.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown:

* The timeline of this class is subject to change depending on where and how the ensemble of the class approaches monologue and scene work. This also includes the material. If we need more time, on scene work, we will adjust the syllabus.

Week 1: Introduction

- Discuss Syllabus
- Discuss Class expectations/ what it means to rehearse/ rehearsal expectations/ what it means to know your lines
- Sensory Exploration and how that applies to the actor
- Why structure is important to the creative process
- Process breakdown and how that applies to the actor
- Overview of terminology in acting and how it applies to text analysis / review and expectation of this.

Homework: Prepare first monologue for class. This will be given to you.

Week 2 - 3: Performance of Monologue and Discussion of the Monologue.

- Sensory exercises.
- Monologue for professional use.
- Discussion of how to find a good monologue.

Homework: Find and submit your monologues.

Week 4: Rehearsal of sensory with Monologues / how this relates to on-camera and zoom

- Rehearsal and notes

Homework: Prepare for Final Monologues

Week 5: Performance Monologues

Homework: Read *Angels in America*. Be prepared to discuss in class.

Week 6: Discussion and Table Read of Angels in America

- Discussion and presentation

Homework: Group presentations.

Week 7: Presentations (Mid-Term)

- Present and discuss

Homework: How this applies to scene work.

Week 8: Presentations (Mid-Term)

- Present and Discuss.

Homework: Think about scenes you want to perform in terms of how this can build on your sensory work in class.

Week 9 - 15: Rehearse / Present and Prepare Final Scene

Homework: Keep incorporating notes.

FINAL: Thursday May 6th from 4:00 -5:50pm

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, 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