

Location: KAP Hall (Kaprielian Hall) Rm. 140

Instructor: Camille Thornton-Alson

Zoom: <https://usc.zoom.us/j/4350659968> (if needed)

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.

Teaching Assistant: Juliana Sabo

Contact Info: jsabo@usc.edu

IT Help:

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

Course Description:

Welcome to critical text analysis study for the actor. In this class we will focus on the questions, artistic choices, methodologies, and approaches of an actor in the preparation of a production prior to rehearsal and how it influences the final performance and production. You will learn how to read a play, understand the world of the play and through research connect the ideas and themes within a play to your own process of character development. We will focus on understanding the circumstances of a play/musical and how to apply these circumstances 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 and musical. 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 focusing on different aspects of circumstances in the play/musical. Although this class will focus on the intellectual structure and breakdown of the play you will also be learning how to apply this information to the full development of the character. By the end of this class you will understand how to read a play and musical and apply circumstance work 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 critically read a play and a musical in order to apply your analysis to the staging of the play and your performance as an actor. This course is a foundational course that will serve your next foundational acting classes - 120B or 152.

Required Readings:

*You can purchase these books online at Amazon (I will put links below for which 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.

***Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes**

Please purchase the revised TCG version. The Amazon link is below. It is also on Scribd. https://www.amazon.com/Water-Spoonful-Revised-Quiara-Alegria-Hudes/dp/1559365579/ref=sr_1_1?crid=28KQNDG4CPULP&dchild=1&keywords=water+by+the+spoonful+by+quiara+alegria+hudes&qid=1596396834&srefix=Water+by+the+Spoonful%2Caps%2C194&sr=8-1

***In The Heights* Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes, Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda**

The Amazon link is below. It is also on Scribd. https://www.amazon.com/Heights-Complete-Broadway-Applause-Libretto/dp/1476874646/ref=sr_1_1?crid=6TVZVH5YU9Z0&dchild=1&keywords=in+the+heights+book&qid=1596397057&srefix=In+the+heights+%2Caps%2C232&sr=8-1

***Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare**

Please purchase the Folgers edition. The Amazon link is below. It is also on Scribd. https://www.amazon.com/Twelfth-Night-Folger-Shakespeare-Library/dp/0743482778/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Twelfth+Night+Shakespeare&qid=1595616739&sr=8-1

***Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White* by Alice Childress**

Please purchase the Samuel French Edition if you can. There are limited copies of this play. I am including two Amazon links for you. https://www.amazon.com/Wedding-Band-Story-Black-White/dp/B0006CGADS/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3KTNC5AV8NZOF&dchild=1&keywords=alice+childress+wedding+band&qid=1595616812&srefix=Wedding+Band+by+Alice+C%2Caps%2C212&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.com/Selected-Plays-Alice-Childress/dp/0810127512/ref=pd_sbs_14/1/133-9751320-5295049?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=0810127512&pd_rd_r=bfd2f5e2-75

[42-4682-a0d8-61caa77c8723&pd_rd_w=GpiSF&pd_rd_wg=AU3hx&pf_rd_p=bc074051-81d1-4874-a3fd-fd0c867ce3b4&pf_rd_r=TSKVM8V1349Q57WPZS3V&psc=1&refRID=TSKVM8V1349Q57WPZS3V](https://www.amazon.com/Dear-Evan-Hansen-Steven-Levenson/dp/1559365609/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&hvadid=78340273036716&hvbmt=bb&hvdev=c&hvqmt=p&keywords=dear+evan+hansen+play&qid=1595615815&sr=8-1&tag=mh0b-20)

***Dear Evan Hansen* by Steven Lenevson, music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul**

Please purchase the TCG Edition. The Amazon link is below. It is also on Scribd.

https://www.amazon.com/Dear-Evan-Hansen-Steven-Levenson/dp/1559365609/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&hvadid=78340273036716&hvbmt=bb&hvdev=c&hvqmt=p&keywords=dear+evan+hansen+play&qid=1595615815&sr=8-1&tag=mh0b-20

Assignments & Grading Breakdown:

Assignment 1: Read *Dear Evan Hansen* (5 points)

Assignment 2: *Dear Evan Hansen* Circumstance and Presentation (5 points)

Assignment 3: Read *In the Heights*(5 points)

Assignment 4: *In the Heights* Circumstance and Presentation(5 points)

Assignment 5: Read *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White* (5 points)

Assignment 6: *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White*: Circumstance and Presentation (5 points)

Assignment 7: Read *Water by the Spoonful* (5 points)

Assignment 8: *Water by the Spoonful* Circumstance and Presentation (5 points)

Assignment 9: Read *Twelfth Night* (5 points)

Assignment 10: *Twelfth Night* Circumstance and Presentation (5 points)

FINAL: Friday December 10th 2-4pm

***A clear grading rubric will be provided before each assignment.**

***Midterm: TBD(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 (on zoom) 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 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.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown:

Week 1 - 2 : The World of the Play / Vocabulary / What is Script Analysis?

- Intro / etiquette / contact list
- Play / Musical Structure
- World of the Play / Time of the play
- The Actor's Process / How to read & absorb a Play / Musical
- What is the actor's job/ director's job etc.
- How we think as an actor
- Explanation of circumstance and application to character development

Homework: Read *Dear Evan Hansen*. Further homework TBD.

Week 3: *Dear Evan Hansen* / Initial Breakdown

- Discussion of the play.
- How to dissect text.

Homework: Breakdown and prepare your character's scene with your scene partner. Looking at circumstances. Acting application.

Week 4: *Dear Evan Hansen* Character Analysis

- Discussion of the prepared scene analysis.
- Theme, Text, application.

Homework: Read *In the Heights*. Homework TBD.

Week 5: *In the Heights* Discussion / Initial Breakdown

- Discussion and analysis of *In The Heights*

Homework: Homework TBD.

Week 6: *In the Heights* Character Analysis

- Discussion and presentation

Homework: Prep Mid-term

MID-TERM - TBD / Read *Wedding Band: A Love-Hate Story in Black and White*

Week 7: *Wedding Band: A Love-Hate Story in Black and White* Discussion

- Discuss the themes of the play and the world of the play.
- Structure / Tone.
- Connecting Circumstance.

Homework: TBD.

Week 8: *Wedding Band: A Love-Hate Story in Black and White* Character Analysis

- *Wedding Band* scene.
- How we begin to connect tone and text analysis to performance.

Homework: Read *Water by the Spoonful*.

Week 9: *Water by the Spoonful* Discussion / Initial Breakdown

- Discuss the play

Homework: TBD.

Week 9: *Water by the Spoonful* Discussion / Initial Breakdown

- Presentations

Homework: Read *Twelfth Night*.

Week 10: *Twelfth Night* Discussion

- Discuss the play
- Presentations

Homework: TBD.

Week 11: *Twelfth Night*

- Discussion

Homework: TBD.

Week 12- 13: *Wrap up & Final Scene Practice & Notes*

- Actors will discuss / perform their prepared scene analysis breakdown.
- Notes given

Homework: Prepare and incorporate notes into your final presentation.

Week 14: FINAL Friday December 10 2-4pm

Congratulations YOU DID IT!

EDI @SDA: Professional Development/Mandatory EDI Training

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

As part of our EDI initiatives and call to action, some workshops will be offered to faculty and staff and to students. Competencies that will be included: Anti-Racism (Faculty/Staff) and Equity Mindedness (Faculty/Staff), and then Theater Intimacy & Building Cultures of Consent (Students, Faculty/Staff). More details will follow.

NOTE: All SDA classes will be cancelled to support involvement in this effort.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITMENTS AND ISPS

SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

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 Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. OSAS is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for OSAS and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 814-4618 (Vidoe Phone), (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.

Health and Participation in Class

You are expected to complete your Trojan Check screener daily and, as your instructor, I may ask you to show your daily screening in class. Your health and safety, and the health and safety of your peers, are my top priorities. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you discover that you have been in close contact with others who have symptoms or who have tested positive, you must follow the instructions on Trojan Check.

My hope is that if you are feeling ill or if you have been exposed to someone with the virus, you will stay home to protect others. I will ensure that you can continue to participate in class remotely so that your education is not disrupted.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, USC requires that face coverings (masks) be worn indoors including in classrooms. Face coverings must cover your nose and mouth and be worn throughout the class session. A mask with a valve is not considered an adequate face covering and should not be used, as it can expel exhaled air, increasing the risk to others. Eating or drinking during class is prohibited because of the risk posed by removing your mask for these activities. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in your being asked to leave the classroom immediately. Requests for accommodations related to the face covering and eating/drinking policies should be directed to the Office for Student Accessibility Services (<https://osas.usc.edu/>).

SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

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

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL),
press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776
<https://osas.usc.edu>

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710
campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.