

USC School of Dramatic Arts

THTR 354 Acting Shakespeare

Term—Day—Time: Spring 2023

Monday/Wednesday

9:00am - 10:50am

Location: MCC 112

Prerequisite(s): THTR 101

Instructor: Matthew Felten

Office Hours: by appointment only

Contact Info: felten@usc.edu

(336) 671-2478 (cell)

Timeline for replying to emails/calls 48 hours

Course Description

A study of performing Shakespeare's language and themes through active exploration and analysis of the plays and sonnets with a particular focus on the First Folio.

Learning Objectives

To explore and strengthen the personal connection between the actor, the text, and the audience; and, in turn provide an "original practice" approach to analyzing and performing Shakespeare's works.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Access to the Complete Works of Shakespeare (sonnets and plays)

4 - 5 different color highlighters

A journal or notebook

A pen or pencil

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Content:

1. Iambic Pentameter/Poetry Study - personal sonnet
2. Sonnet Study and Performance - focusing on personalization and relationship to the text
3. Macbeth - Text analysis and staged readings
4. Voice/Speech/Movement exercises
5. Scene Study and Performance

This is a performance class so we will be approaching Shakespeare's work from a theatrical angle rather than an academic one. There will be two graded performances though grading will not be based on the instructor's subjective opinion of talent. Grading will be based on:

- Active **in-class** student analysis and performance of text
- Constructive feedback of classmates' acting presentations and perceptible support of classmates work i.e. meeting a professional standard of behavior in class and rehearsals
- Willingness to experiment and apply the constructive feedback of instructor and students
- Meeting all assignment deadlines: reading, writing, acting
- Memorization of lines

Class work is not restricted to class time. You will have to rehearse individual and group performances both inside and outside of class.

Grading Breakdown

Warm-up/Check-in	5 points
In Class Work on Macbeth	15 points
In Class Voice/Movement/Speech Exercises	10 points
In Class Work on Sonnets/Poetry	15 points
Mid-term Performance of Sonnet	20 points
In Class Work on Final Group Scenes	15 points
Final Presentation of Scenes	20 points

TOTAL	100 points
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Grading Scale (Example)

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

Assignment Submission Policy

No late assignments shall be accepted or graded. Deadlines must be met.
All written assignments and original work will be EMAILED to instructor

Grading Timeline

As soon as humanly possible with the understanding that feedback is most valuable if work being assessed is fresh in the mind of the student. *I will be happy to discuss your work at any time.*

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

USC policy prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relation to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Course evaluation

Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. It is an important review of students' experience in the class. You should expect to receive an email update once the system has launched to provide your feedback on this course. In addition, you are always welcome to connect with me as the instructor to offer any feedback on the course.

Additional Policies

Students must be present on performance/presentation days in order to receive credit. There will not be any make-up performances/presentations unless previously cleared by the professor. Students must come each day dressed to move. Leave all electronic devices in silent or off mode and put them away during class. No food or drink (except water) will be allowed during class unless it is part of a scene.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

(The timeline is subject to change depending on the dynamics, pace and unpredictability of the creative process of any given class and the world's dictates)

<u>Module 1</u> Weeks: 1 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personal Poems ● Sonnet Selection and Analysis ● Folio Text work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss students' expectations, aspirations, course goals 2. Personal Sonnets 3. Voice/Movement/Speech exercises 4. Intellectual, emotional exploration of Selected Sonnet 5. Folio Text analysis and staged reading of Macbeth 	<u>Reading/Rehearsal /Homework</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal Sonnet 2. Memorize Selected Sonnet 3. Macbeth reading
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<u>Module 2</u> Weeks: 7 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sonnet Rehearsal and Performance ● Final Scene Casting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voice/Movement/Speech exercises 2. Selected Sonnet Performance (mid-term) 3. Assignment and Casting for Final Scenes 	<u>Reading/Rehearsal /Homework</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued Rehearsal of Selected Sonnet 2. Final Scene Prep work - reading of play, beginning text analysis 3. Macbeth Reading
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<u>Module 3</u> Week: 10	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
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<u>Module 2</u> Weeks: 11 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Scene work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voice/Movement/Speech exercises 2. Final Scene Text Analysis 3. Final Scene Rehearsal 4. Final Scene Performance 	<u>Reading/Rehearsal /Homework</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memorize lines 2. Rehearse Final Scene

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.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

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.