

PRACTICAL SHAKESPEARE

FALL 2019



THE 497 Practical Shakespeare
Office hours: 1-3pm T-Th
Room: PAC 126

Professor Christian Casper
Office:
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Course overview:

Practical Shakespeare is designed to develop the students understanding and training of the challenges of performing Shakespeare. This is a performance-based class where we will explore the works of William Shakespeare through the art and craft of acting. We will explore several monologues and scenes from his plays over the semester. The main focus of the class will be focused on making the words come alive in our bodies, minds and our imaginations. We will also explore the clues that are present in the dialogue that will help the speaker tap into the emotion of the scene. Students will investigate several different “on their feet” exercises; paraphrasing, script analysis, in class discussions, vocal and physical work. These exercises are geared toward getting the character off the page and into the students’ body and mind.

Course objectives:

- Provide students with acting methods that enhance and engage the text
- To improve the student’s levels of performance skills
- To not feel intimidated but liberated by Shakespeare’s language
- To create a learning environment where students can make bold and fierce acting choices

Student learning outcomes:

Students will:

- Understand the basics of Shakespeare’s language: blank verse, iambic pentameter
- Ask critical questions about the characters and script
- Understanding why the characters are using these words at this precise moment
- Be collaboratively creative with their fellow students
- Breakdown of scenes and scripts through analysis of given circumstances, objectives, beats, etc.

Books:

- *Thinking Shakespeare*
- *Hand outs*
 - Complete Works of William Shakespeare: (Available for IPAD: Shakespeare Pro App)

Class Attire:

Dress appropriately for the work that is being done.

Classroom Behavior:

- No food or drink (except water) in class.
- **No cell phones on in class. EVER!!!! Put them away, do not let me see them!**
- **BE ON TIME TO CLASS!**
- All work must be memorized when due.
- Outside rehearsals are necessary and required for this class. A lack of preparation will greatly affect your grade.

Assignments:

Scansion work: 25

Breaking down and putting back together monologues and scenes. This will be presented as acting exercises as well as written work.

Monologue work: 25 points

Each student will be given a Shakespearean monologue to rehearse and present along with the necessary scansion/analysis work.

Final Scene & Analysis: 50 points

A scene will be assigned, rehearsed and presented as the final exam. Appropriate scansion work, character/scene analysis will be due at the time of the final presentation.

Grading scale:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

59 F



Schedule

August 26:

Introduction to class.

Go over Syllabus

August 28:

Shakespeare changed everything

August 30:

Soliloquy time/Fundamentals of acting

Read chapters 1



Sep 4

Chapter 1: A thought at a time/analysis

Sep 6

Words & emotions/Thinking leads to feeling

Sep 9

What actors do! Fundamentals. GC, Conflict, objectives, obstacles & actions

Sep 11

Rehearsal time: Hamlet & Horatio

Sep 13

Action leads to emotion

Chapter 3

Sep 16

That would be scanned

Sep 18

IAMBIC PENTAMETER

Sep 20

TRUST YOUR INSTINCT BUT ALWAYS SCAN

READ CHAPTER 4

Sep 23

ACTING IS ARGUING

PARAPHRASE

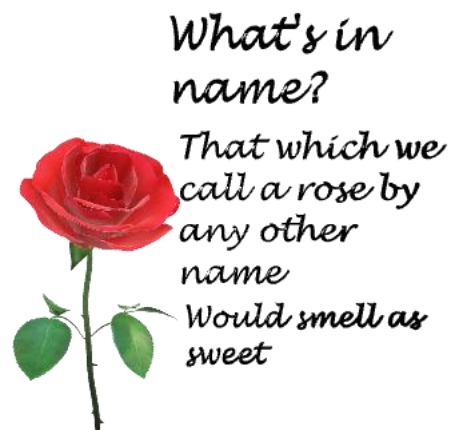
Sep 25

PARAPHRASE

Sep 27

Rule: Use **but** and **yet** to give shape and feel to your arguments.

Sep 30



Breaking down beats to create structure

Oct 2

ALWAYS STRESS THE WORD NOW!

Oct 4

The word against the word: Antithesis

Oct 7

Mighty opposites: exercises

Oct 9

Rehearsal time: Molehill speech

Paraphrase, antithesis

Oct 11

Turn in work and discuss

Oct 14

One line at a time

Phrasing with verse line

A springboard

Oct 16

Shakespeare/Mamet

MMM exercise

Oct 18 NO CLASS

The paper trick

Oct 21

The paper trick

Rehearsal fun

Get to the end of the line

Oct 23

Words at the end exercise

Oct 25

Rehearsal time:

Westmoreland/Exeter/Canterbury

Oct 28

VERBIAGE!!!



HAMLET

OF DECEIT AND
ON

Oct 30
Rehearsal time

Nov 1
Making a list

Nov 4
What the other guy is thinking.

Scene work

Nov 6
Rehearsal time chpt 13

Nov 8
More rehearsal time, scene work

Nov 11
NO CLASS

Nov 13
Rehearsal time

Nov 15
Assign scene work/monologue

NOV 18
Scene work
Apply principles from class

NOV 20
Repeat exercise pg 377

NOV 22

NOV 25-31.
NO CLASS

DEC 2
Scene/monologue work

DEC 4
Scene/monologue work

DEC 6
Scene/monologue work

DEC 9
FINAL 10:30AM



Policy on Late Work

Assignments are due when I collect them in class. I will not accept late work without a valid excuse.

TAMUC Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required of all JCSU students. Each student is allowed as many absences per term as credit hour(s) received for the class (note that this means you are allowed three). This policy does not apply to internships and student teaching. Attendance policies for these classes will be determined by the offering department. A student is expected to attend all classes and not be absent without adequate cause. It is the responsibility of the student to make up scheduled work missed because of class absences. Absence from unannounced tests and other assignments may be made up at the discretion of the instructor. Students who exceed the maximum number of absences may receive a failing grade for the course.

TAMUC Honor Code

Remember: Your personal Honor is one of the few things that cannot be taken from you – it must be willingly given up by you.

Policy on Disruptive Behavior

Academic excellence demands that appropriate behavior and decorum be maintained by students at all times in the classroom. TAMUC will not tolerate disruptive behavior by students or teachers that incites such behavior. Disruptive behavior that causes disorder or turmoil to exist in the classroom will be dealt with accordingly.

When the student is judged to have engaged in disruptive behavior, the instructor shall initiate the following procedures:

1. Instructor will request the student to discontinue the disruptive action.
2. If the behavior continues, the instructor will instruct the student to leave the classroom. Security will be called to remove the student if he or she does not leave as requested.
4. After completion of the incident report, including the student's comments, the student must secure the written permission of the Vice President of Academic Affairs in order to return to class. The student will be held responsible for all absences incurred between the time of suspension from class and his/her return.
5. Any recurrences of disruptive behavior on the part of the student cited would result in expulsion from the class and a grade of "F" recorded in the semester in which the offense occurred.

Caveat

This course is an agreement between students and faculty and may be changed by the professor as needed. You are responsible for any announcements made in class or otherwise.

