



**THE 497: ACTING PERIOD STYLES
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2022
M/W 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER #126**

Instructor: Triston P. Pullen, Adjunct Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #110
Office Hours: M and W 11:00 am to 12:00pm and I am always available via Zoom (Email to set up appointment)
University Email Address: Triston.Pullen@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

***Acting with Style.* 3rd Ed. By John Harrop and Sabin R. Epstein. ISBN-10: 0205295827.**

***A Gap in Generations* by Jerry Blunt**

All other reading will be provided in PDF format

Required Viewing:

A Doll's House Part Two (TAMUC PAC Mainstage)
 A Texas Romance (TAMUC PAC Mainstage)

Tickets for University Playhouse productions are available for a nominal fee. You may purchase tickets at:

https://www.eventbrite.com/o/dept-of-theatre-texas-aampm-university-commerce-34067403123?fbclid=IwAR3IRepL1D2AprCMtTP18oXSFQsuCieZGPSliROByvE2FoDs1L8_n5mX7HQ

If you need help purchasing tickets call 903-886-5900 or email at playhouseboxoffice@tamuc.edu.

Course Description:

For the intermediate and advanced student actor, this course places primary emphasis on the development of characterization techniques, participation in physical and vocal acting exercises, and practical performance application through stylistic scene and monologue work. Period/Styles covered in this course include the following: Comedy of Manners, Farce, Ancient Greek, and Shakespearean.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding and practical proficiency in developing and executing artistically effective performances of period/stylistic texts.
2. provide evidence of the acquired essential knowledge needed by the broadly trained actor regarding historical theatrical conventions, period scripts, and stylistic performance considerations.
3. exhibit increased proficiency in accepting and incorporating constructive criticism into his/her own performance work, while honing the skills needed to humanely and insightfully evaluate both personal artistic efforts and the work of others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

PARTICIPATION AND GROWTH (300pts): *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Participation and Growth is a large portion of your grade in this course – for good reason! As mentioned above, participation is vital in this class. This is an interactive environment and students must not only attend but must also actively contribute to each class.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST WEAR CLOTHES THAT YOU CAN MOVE IN FOR THIS CLASS. MANY OF THE ACTING STYLES WE WILL BE COVERING WILL BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.*

TWO SCENES 200pts (100 pts each): Each student will work with a partner and perform memorized scenes. The length of the monologues will vary as appropriate to individual assignments and goals associated with the unit. Each of these performances will be rehearsed (20 pts), workshopped at least once (20 pts) and performed (40pts). You will be required to independently score, each of these scenes appropriately. Specific requirements for these assignments will be given at a later date.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 3.*

THREE QUIZZES 150 pts (50pts each): There will be a total of three quizzes given in this class regarding course reading material. The quizzes will contain any combination of multiple choice, matching, true or false, short answer and/or essay questions.

**Measures Course Learning Outcome 2.*

FINAL PERFORMANCE REHEARSALS 150 PTS: There will be additional rehearsal outside of class to prepare for your final performance. There will be a rehearsal schedule and you must show up when you are called. You may not be called every rehearsal, but if you are called you must show up.

FINAL PERFORMANCE 200 PTS: The final performance will be a 45-minute cutting of *A Gap in Generations*. The goal is to produce a minimalist production in the style of Commedia Dell'Arte. The final performance will be performed for the department as well as people on campus. There may be a possible opportunity to perform it for the public in downtown Sulphur Springs,

details pending. The performance should be an accumulation of all the work you have don't in the semester and highlight period styles acting.

Grading:

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

Letter Grade Point Ranges

A+	990 - 1000
A	910 - 989
A-	900 - 909
B+	890 - 899
B	810 - 889
B-	800 - 809
C+	790 - 799
C	710 - 789
C-	700 - 709
D+	690 - 699
D	610 - 679
D-	600 - 609
F	0 - 599

GRADING RUBRIC:

Assignment	Grade
Participation and Growth (300 pts)	
Two Scenes (200 pts)	
Three Quizzes (150 pts)	
Final Performance Rehearsals (150pts)	
Final Performance (200 pts)	
Semester Grade	

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There may be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

WRITTEN WORK: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a disc or thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on

the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Triston P. Pullen:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. I am always willing to meet via Zoom. Please note: the easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it fairly frequently.

Student Resources:

Department of Mass Media, Communication and Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center

Hall of Languages #103

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

TAMU-C Actor's Lab

Private Acting Coaching Sessions with Dr. Klypchak by appointment during office hours: open to all declared Theatre Majors/Minors and students auditioning for, or cast in, University Playhouse productions. Actor's Lab is also available to any student enrolled in Dr. Klypchak's course(s) during the semester of enrollment. Important note: in order to participate in Actor's Lab, a student must bring a memorized piece and sign up at least twenty-four hours in advance on the sign-up sheet on Dr. Klypchak's door – PAC #129 (put out every Friday).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

ATTENDANCE: I have designed this course for those serious students of the theatre who are committed to developing as artists and generating an exceptional product. With that said, serious students of the theatre do not skip class unless there is an emergency. In this upper division performance class there is no such thing as an "excused" or "unexcused" absence. *Class meetings are highly interactive in nature.* You must come to class prepared to participate! It is also important to note that participation is a major component of your grade. Something to keep in mind: *you must be present in order to participate!* I expect you to practice/rehearse outside of class in preparation for in-class activities, I expect you to be familiar

with any reading assignments you may receive, and I expect you to have completed all homework on time.

I will take roll at the very beginning of each class in order to aid me in calculating your participation grade and tracking your attendance. *If you are absent, you are making that choice, and I expect you to accept the consequences graciously and in a mature manner.* It is your responsibility to remain informed of class activities if you are absent for any reason.

Please be aware that missing a scheduled appointment/coaching time with me without significant and appropriate advance notification also counts as an absence. Keep up with your absences in this course – this is your responsibility. Do not ask me how many absences you have during the semester; I may not have that information readily available when you need it.

*for more information on the university attendance policy please go to the following link:
<http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/registrar/attendance.asp>

LATE ARRIVALS: To further foster a high level of commitment—and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus—the class will adopt the following late entry policy. Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less than disciplined/committed artist. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. The class will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m.! If you arrive after 12:40 p.m., please do not enter the classroom (you will be marked absent regardless). If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. *It is your responsibility to make sure that you find me after class and document your late attendance for the day—otherwise, your initial marked absence documented during roll will remain.* Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. A late arrival or early departure will significantly reduce your participation grade. *Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.*

CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS: No phones or laptops allowed in the classroom.

LATE WORK: There is no late work in this class.

EXTRA CREDIT: There is no extra credit offered in this class.

ADAPTATION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Due to the fluid nature of this performance-based class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

FOOD, DRINK, GUM, AND SMOKING: Please do not bring food or drinks into the classroom at any time (exception: you may bring bottled water with you to class). As this is a course focusing on practical performance, chewing gum is not allowed at any time during class. Smoking during class time (even when in individual rehearsals outside of the building) is never allowed.

CLOTHING: Dress for maximum freedom and movement. You may occasionally be lying and rolling on the ground. Fair warning: the floor may or may not be spotless. Wear comfortable shoes that you can move around in or bring other shoes.

INCOMPLETES: Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will not be given for a final grade in this course.

University Specific Policies and Procedures:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: This course adheres strictly to the college's guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student's Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the Head of the Department. (*You should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester.*)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
James G. Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**Note: Please be aware that under no circumstances can I implement any disability accommodations without official documentation from the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services at Texas A&M University - Commerce.*

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Student's Guide Handbook*, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Tentative Schedule: (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Wednesday, January 12
Introduction to class, syllabus, and calendar
HOMEWORK: Reading Style for Actors Pg. 5-32

Monday, January 17
Reading Discussion What is Style
Posture
Given Circumstances
HOMEWORK: Reading Style for Actors Pg. 35-63

Wednesday, January 19

Activities/Discussion – Style and Heightened Physicality/Speech

Introduction to Shakespeare

Let's talk about Scansion

HOMEWORK: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and **Start reading Style for Actors 101-162**

MONDAY, January 24

Quiz #1 over A Midsummer Night's Dream (In class)

Assign Scene Partners

Work Scansion with partner

Wednesday, January 26

Shakespeare Scene Work

Monday, January 31

Discussion over Style for Actors 101-162

Shakespeare Scene Work

Wednesday, February 2

Shakespeare Scene Work

HOMEWORK: **Start Reading Style for Acting 165-197**

Monday, February 7

Shakespeare Scene Work

Wednesday, February 9

Shakespeare Scene Work

Monday, February 14

Shakespeare Presentations

HOMEWORK: Reading Style for Acting 165-197

Wednesday, February 16

Restoration and Comedy of Manners

Molière

Discussion over Style for Actors 165-197

Homework: Read Imaginary Invalid by Molière

Monday, February 21

Quiz #2 over Imaginary Invalid

Assign Scene Partners

Script Scoring

Wednesday, February 23

Invalid Scene work

Monday, Feb 28

Invalid Scene Work

Wednesday, March 1
Invalid Scene Work

Monday, March 7
Invalid Scene Work

Wednesday, March 9
Invalid Presentations
Homework: **Reading Style for Acting pg. 205-232**

Monday, March 14 – Friday March 18
NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 21
Discussion over Style for Acting Pg. 205-232
Intro to Mask Theatre
Play Day

Wednesday, March 23
Quiz #3 A Gap in Generations
Talk about the play
Assign roles
Play Day

Monday, March 28
Experiencing the Masks

Wednesday, March 30
Rehearsals Start

Monday, April 4
Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 6
Rehearsal

Monday, April 11
Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 13
Rehearsal

Monday, April 18
Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 20
Rehearsal

Monday, April 25
Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 27
Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 2
Rehearsal

Thursday, May 4
Rehearsal

Performance date TBD

****Please note: There will be several outside of class rehearsal for the final. Please plan accordingly**