



THE-345-001: ACTING PERIOD STYLES
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2024
TTR: 11:00AM-12:15PM

Instructor: Tabitha Ray, Adjunct Professor of Theatre

Office Location/hours: By appointment

Phone: 214-335-2798

University Email Address: Tabitha.Ray@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks:

Acting with Style, 3rd ed. by John Harrop and Sabin R. Epstein (ISBN: 978-0130035912)*

Antigone by Sophocles

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Tartuffe by Moliere

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Recommended Textbooks:

A Practical Handbook for the Actor by Melissa Bruder (et all)

The Sanford Meisner Approach: Workbook Four, Playing the Part by Larry Silverberg

Additional supporting materials provided via handouts in class

Software Required:

- Internet Access; Access to D2L via MyLeo
- Word-processing software (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.)

Materials Required:

- Something with which to take notes (computer/pen & paper etc)
- A small notebook or journal to be used as a beat book for this class.
- Actors who play male roles: Hard soled shoes, slacks, long sleeved button up dress shirt
Actors who play female roles: Character shoes with a low heel, full length rehearsal skirt
All actors: Clothing that allows for movement; clothing suitable for a yoga class

Come dressed appropriately for scene work. Students may be dismissed for the day if they arrive in improper attire.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the unique requirements of playing characters in non-contemporary plays. Student actors will explore period physicality, voice work, and text through scene studies and classroom exercises.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Demonstrate a mastery of period acting techniques

Assessment: Scene Work, Working Sessions

Demonstrate a practical mastery of terminology related to period acting

Assessment: Quizzes, Scene Work, Working Sessions

Demonstrate an ability to analyze text from different eras

Assessment: Beat Books, Scene Work, Working Sessions

Demonstrate a broad understanding of various time periods and playwrights

Assessment: Research Packets and/or Mood Boards

<h3>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</h3>

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

Students must be able to navigate myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and word processing software.

Instructional Methods:

This course is taught face to face. Student learning is dependent upon fully engaging with in-class exercises.

Class Behavior Policy:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for their classmates and their instructor. Rude, abusive, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The first infraction will result in a verbal warning and an after class conference. If repeated infractions occur, the instructor reserves the right to dismiss any student from the classroom. Additionally, if the instructor determines that a student's behavior is particularly egregious, the instructor reserves the right to dismiss the student from class even if they have not received a prior warning. If the student wishes to return to class, they must schedule a meeting with the instructor and the appropriate disciplinary authorities.

Students are also expected to comply with all policies listed in the student guidebook:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Late Work Policy:

All assignments must be submitted by the assigned date and time. For example, if a student misses a quiz given at the beginning of class because they are tardy they will not be allowed to make it up. As a general policy, I rarely accept late work. The intention of the no-late work policy is to encourage students to develop time management skills critical for professional success. If late work is accepted, the instructor may assign a grade penalty to the assignment. Late work exceptions are made at the discretion of the instructor if extenuating circumstances arise.

Recording of Lectures:

Students are expected to attend class to take notes. If you intend to record lectures, you must ask the permission of the instructor and the class. Video recording is prohibited. Exceptions made for students who have made arrangements via the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services.

Cell Phone and Laptop Policy:

Cell phones must not become a nuisance during class. If the instructor determines that a student is causing a disturbance with their cell phone, the instructor may dismiss the student from class. If a student is dismissed, the student may not make up missed work. Laptops are to be used for classwork only.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course:

- Be on time- We will have a class activity and a minute paper in most classes. You will be unable to fully engage with the activity if you are late.
- Choose to engage- Elements of this course are meant to be personalized. Decide to embrace the work and discover what works for you and your body.
- Turn cell phones off- Generally speaking, you do not need to be on your cell phone in class. If you are expecting an emergency call, please speak to the instructor before class.

- Plan ahead- Use the calendar in the syllabus to plan for assignments. Avoid last minute scrambles!
- Complete all assignments and readings on time- I rarely accept late work. If late work is accepted, I may assign a grade penalty to the assignment.

Major Course Assignments

Working Sessions (120 points total)

Student actors will have one formal working session with the instructor per scene study. They will be assessed upon evidence of progress made outside of class (beat book and scene work), their ability to incorporate direction, and the progress they make within the session itself.

Quizzes (60 points total)

Students will take quizzes over assigned readings from *Acting with Style* and class hand outs.

Beat Book Work (220 points total)

Student actors will submit a beat book at each final scene showing. In this book, they will use the techniques outlined in a *Practical Handbook for the Actor* to score their scene, complete a GOTE sheet, and complete written Meisner character development exercises. Student actors will also include scene specific textual analysis which will be specified in class by the instructor at the beginning of each unit (scansion notation, rhyming/imagery notation etc.).

Research Packets/Mood Board (100 points total)

Student actors will research the following for each scene study:

- The physical location of the scene as the playwright envisioned it
- The physical location of the scene as interpreted in a professional production
- Historically appropriate clothing for their assigned character
- Appropriate clothing for their character as interpreted by a professional production
- Historically appropriate hairstyles for their assigned character
- Historically appropriate music for the time period of their assigned scene
- Period appropriate food/drink
- Important cultural and historical events that occurred during the time period of their assigned scene
- Historically appropriate housing for their assigned character
- Anything of importance in the play that effects their character
- Important information about the playwright

Student actors will compile images and text from their research and create a packet or a mood board. **Their research packet/mood board is due on the date of their final performance.**

Final Scene Performances (400 points)

Student actors will showcase their scene study work in final performances. There will be four final performances in total.

GRADING

Letter Grade Points Earned

A	800-900
B	700-799
C	600-699
D	500-599
F	0-499

Interaction with Instructor Statement

All emails from students should include:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Please be concise

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Student Resources:

Department of 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>

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail online in the Student Guidebook. Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette Webpage for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the Attendance Webpage and the Class Attendance Policy.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software

constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no

instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether

they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 Velma K. Waters

Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status.

Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

01/11	Discuss syllabus and class expectations, Discuss Meisner, GOTE sheet and <i>Practical Handbook</i> techniques HW: Read chapter one AWS
01/16	Continue discussing Meisner, GOTE sheet and <i>Practical Handbook</i> techniques, Meisner exercises in class HW: Read Playing Tragedy, and Chapter Two AWS; Read Antigone
01/18	Discuss assigned reading, Greek acting exercises, assign <i>Antigone</i> scenes HW: Read packet, beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
01/23	Discuss packet, <i>Antigone</i> scene rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
01/25	<i>Antigone</i> scene rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
01/30	<i>Antigone</i> scene rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet

02/01	<i>Antigone</i> scene workshop #1 HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
02/06	<i>Antigone</i> scene workshop #2 HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
02/08	<i>Antigone</i> final scene performances HW: Read chapter two AWS and packet, read <i>The Tempest</i>
02/13	Discuss chapter two and packet, Shakespeare exercises, assign <i>Tempest</i> scenes HW: Beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
02/15	Shakespeare exercises, HW: Beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
02/20	Shakespeare exercises, <i>Tempest</i> scene rehearsals HW: Beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
02/22	<i>Tempest</i> scene rehearsals HW: Beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
02/27	<i>Tempest</i> scene rehearsals HW: Beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
02/29	<i>Tempest</i> scene workshop #1 HW: Beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
03/05	<i>Tempest</i> scene workshop #2 HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
03/07	<i>Tempest</i> final scene performances HW: Read playing comedy and chapter 4 AWS, read <i>Tartuffe</i>
03/12	Spring Break
03/14	Spring Break
03/19	Discuss playing comedy and chapter 4 AWS, comedy of manners exercises, assign <i>Tartuffe</i> scenes HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
03/21	Comedy of manners exercises, <i>Tartuffe</i> rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
03/26	<i>Tartuffe</i> rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
03/28	<i>Tartuffe</i> rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet

04/02	<i>Tartuffe</i> rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
04/04	<i>Tartuffe</i> scene workshop #1 HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
04/09	<i>Tartuffe</i> scene workshop #2 HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
04/11	Final Performances <i>Tartuffe</i> HW: Read chapter 5 AWS, read <i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i>
04/16	Discuss playing chapter 5 AWS, farce exercises, assign <i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i> scenes HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
04/18	Farce exercises, <i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i> rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
04/23	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i> rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
04/25	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i> rehearsals HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
04/30	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i> scene workshop #1 HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
05/02	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i> scene workshop #2 HW: beat book, scene rehearsals, research for mood board/packet
05/07	10:30AM-12:30PM Final performances <i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i>