



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

THE 560.01B – Acting

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: [Aaron Adair, Ph.D.](#)

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Mobile: 972-379-9480

Office Fax: 903-468-3250

University Email Address: aaron.adair@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: < 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Brestoff, Richard. *The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods*.

Lyme, NH: Smith and Kraus Books (1995). ISBN: 978-1575250120

Krasner, David (ed.). *Method Acting Reconsidered: Theory, Practice, Future*.

New York: St. Martin's Press (2000). ISBN: 978-0312223090

Tucker, Patrick. *Secrets of Acting Shakespeare: The Original Approach*.

New York: Taylor and Francis (2013). ISBN: 978-1135862336

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Barton, John. *Playing Shakespeare: An Actor's Guide*.

New York: Random House (1984). ISBN: 978-0385720854

Software Required: None

Course Description

Intensive approach to acting styles to help the advanced student (1) sharpen technical skills; (2) gain experience in problem-solving situations for the actor; and (3) increase

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awareness of the complexities of the actor's craft. Memorized scene work; exercises in language, movement and characterization.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Analyze Shakespearean text through the combined lenses of Strasberg's Method, Adler's script analysis techniques, and Meisner's truthful behavior approaches
- Apply specific acting techniques from each methodology to Shakespeare's verse and prose (emotional memory from Strasberg, social/historical context from Adler, repetition exercises from Meisner)
- Synthesize textual analysis with embodied performance techniques to create psychologically complex character interpretations (RSC)
- Demonstrate advanced vocal techniques specific to Shakespearean language, including iambic pentameter, rhetoric, and heightened speech patterns (RSC)
- Execute meaningful physical choices that authentically express character objectives within Shakespeare's heightened language framework
- Evaluate the unique contributions and limitations of each methodology when applied to classical verse
- Develop personalized approaches to Shakespeare performance that integrate elements from multiple acting traditions
- Create and defend original interpretations of Shakespearean characters using evidence from text analysis and psychological insight
- Demonstrate the ability to shift between internal (Strasberg), contextual (Adler), and relational (Meisner) approaches as appropriate to different Shakespearean texts
- Articulate a coherent personal philosophy regarding contemporary approaches to classical performance

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Reliable internet access
- Access to Brightspace/D2L LMS

Instructional Methods

- Readings
- Lectures
- Discussion Board Posts
- Group Activities
- Monologues
- Research Paper

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Remain engaged throughout the course
- Communicate with professor
- Note all due dates
- Submit assignments on time

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 900 – 1000 Points

B = 800 – 899 Points

C = 700 – 799 Points

D = 600 – 699 Points

F = 0 – 599 Points

Assessments

Discussion Board Posts (4 @ 50 points each)	20%
Journal (1 @ 200 points)	20%
Monologues (4 @ 125 points each)	50%
Final Paper (1 @ 100 points)	10%
TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

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Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Professor in Brightspace/D2L or by email.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students should expect a timely response to email questions and prompt grading and posting of assignments and exams. You should receive a response to your email within 24 hours. If you haven't received a response within 24 hours, please email again just in case I overlooked it. You should do your best to email from your official ETAMU student email account. **Be sure to include your name in the body of every email you send as well as the assignment number you are referencing.**

Students should expect prompt grading and posting of assignments and exams. Instructor feedback will be provided to students before the next assignment is due (within 7 days).

The professor reserves the right to make adjustments to the syllabus and/or grading policy as needed in order to meet the instructional needs and goals of the class. Students will be notified of any adjustments to the course schedule.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct in your Student Guide Handbook).

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. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

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 in the [Student Guidebook](#).

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

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of 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](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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

East Texas A&M University

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](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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.

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Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation"\)](#).

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

WEEK 1: course overview and syllabus / read and take notes for Barton – RSC and Tucker – Playing Shakespeare / select, scan, rehearse first monologue

DUE NEXT WEEK: assigned readings / discussion board post / week 1 journal / Monologue Performance

WEEK 2: performance / read and take notes for Strasberg – Method and Tucker – Playing Shakespeare / select, scan, rehearse second monologue

DUE NEXT WEEK: assigned readings / discussion board post / week 2 journal / monologue performance

WEEK 3 performance / read and take notes for Adler – Creative Imagination and Tucker/Playing Shakespeare / select, scan, rehearse third monologue

DUE NEXT WEEK: assigned readings / discussion board post / week 3 journal / monologue performance

WEEK 4 performance / read and take notes for Meisner – Technique and Tucker – Playing Shakespeare / select, scan, rehearse fourth monologue

DUE NEXT WEEK: assigned readings / discussion board post / week 4 journal / monologue performance / final paper

WEEK 5 performance / submit final paper / course wrap up

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