



THE 345: ACTING PERIOD STYLES
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026
MW 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
PAC 126

Instructor: Rebecca Worley, MFA, Associate Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #105
Office Hours: MW 9:30-10:30 a.m., T/R 12-2 p.m or by appointment
University Email Address: Rebecca.worley@etamu.edu
Communication Response Time: M-F within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Acting with Style, 3rd ed. by John Harrop and Sabin R. Epstein
 Hand-outs distributed in class and/or posted in D2L

Additional Readings:

Most of your reading for this course will come from the above text. It will be necessary for you to arrange to have access to a number of scripts over the course of the semester (although I & other faculty members are a good resource for you in this regard; you will have to make copies of your scenes). Please plan accordingly for these expenses.

Additionally, I encourage you to put money aside to order new scripts. This will be a good opportunity for you to begin (or continue) building your own script library. Most scripts cost around \$9 a piece plus shipping. Since the book for this course costs very little, I would suggest putting some money aside for this expense now and begin budgeting that regularly in semesters to come. Searching for and buying new scripts will give you a leg up as a performer and expand your personal repertoire.

Suggested Texts:

Theatre History, Brockett and Hildy
Public and Performance in the Greek Theatre, Peter D. Arnott
Speaking Shakespeare, Patsy Rodenburg
Lazzi: The Comic Routines of the Commedia dell'Arte, Mel Gordon, ed.
Kiss and Tell: Restoration Comedy of Manners – Monologues, Scenes, and Historical Context, Michael Dixon and Michele Volansky, eds.

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.

Prerequisite:

The 213 - Fundamentals of Acting or transfer equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher.

Course Introduction:

Welcome! This course provides a practical introduction to the various period styles of acting. This class will be challenging, invigorating, and participatory. Please consider yourself part of a workshop rather than a classroom as it is usually understood.

Although there is a lecture/discussion component to this course, the nature of our work as actors requires substantial outside work – both inside and outside the classroom. You are now part of a learning community where members support one another with suggestions and constructive criticism. Learning, observing, and sharing are central to this course. *Attitudes of awareness and openness are essential to your development and your contribution to the development of the other members of this class. Active participation in discussion and presentation of projects within the class is not only welcome; it is an essential requirement. Positive, helpful and constructive attitudes are also required!* Presentations must be well prepared and shared with the understanding that questions and discussion will follow. The ongoing critique of our work as performers is crucial to everyone's learning process.

In this course, I will serve as your teacher, acting coach, director, guide, and outside eyes/ears as we work very specifically on your individual performance efforts. I ask that you trust me and approach the work with an open mind, an open heart, discipline and commitment, and a willingness to try new things. We can work through our artistic challenges together!

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 (10 pts.): *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Participation is a large portion of your grade in this course – 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.

Positive, respectful and helpful attitudes are essential. *You are expected to treat your peers and myself with a respectful attitude.* Disrespect, rudeness, disruptive behavior, or negative attitudes will **NOT BE TOLERATED**. It should go without saying that refusal to participate in any activity or part of an activity during class will result in a substantial and appropriate loss of participation points for the student.

Significant growth and a genuine attempt within the class will guarantee a “good grade.” You and your peers will arrive at various levels and you will leave at different levels; however, growth from the beginning to the end of the semester can be evaluated. I challenge you to push yourself to grow and succeed. The community in the class is here to help all of us grow and expand our abilities.

Participation grades will be calculated daily and reflected upon/tabulated at the end of the semester. *Each student will begin with a mid-passing Participation and Growth grade of an 8.* Strong effort or lack of effort during each class and over the course of the semester as a whole will either raise or lower that grade.

Monologue/Scene Presentations (4 @ 10 pts each = 40 pts.): Each student will work individually or with a partner and perform memorized monologues and/or scenes. The length of the monologues and scenes will vary as appropriate to individual assignments and goals associated with the unit. Each of these performances will be rehearsed, workshopped at least once, and performed. You will be required to independently cut, score, and block each of these monologues/scenes appropriately. These monologues and/or scenes will derive from the dramatic texts of varying historical periods (Greek, Shakespeare, Commedia dell’arte, and Comedy of Manners). Specific requirements for these assignments will be given at a later date.

Working Sessions (4 @ 5 pts. each = 20 pts.): Each student will participate in four formally graded 15-20 minute working sessions with me. The Working Sessions will take place prior to each performance. The student will be graded on the level of artistic quality presented, the professionalism of the preparation, and the effectiveness of his/her ability to work with a director/acting coach in achieving growth during the determined time period. More in-depth expectations will be discussed in class at a later date.

Script Work (4 @ 5 pts. each = 20 pts.): Each student will be required to submit four formal sets of script work (one per developed performance). Script work will minimally include cutting, effective scoring/scansion, and formal determination/writing of the basic given circumstances of each character portrayed in the performance, as well as other criteria based on the needs of

the period. Students will be graded on both content (70%) and construction (30%). More in-depth expectations will be discussed in class at a later date.

Research/Reading Presentation (10 pts.): Students will work in a small group to prepare a presentation over a specific reading assignment that includes outside research regarding the appropriate historical time period in theatre history as assigned by the instructor. The group will come prepared to lead the class discussion for the day, lead appropriate class activities, and offer outside material in a formal, well-researched, professional, creative, interactive, and interesting presentation for the class. Specific requirements will be outlined at a later date.

Grading:

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

90-100 =	A
80-89=	B
70-79=	C
60-69=	D
59 and below=	F

Please note: A grade of "A" will not be assigned to an individual who has not completed ALL outside of class assignments, regardless of average.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All course sections offered by ETAMU 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

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, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

My Personal Policy:

Please keep in mind that I am a human. I have a family. As such, please see below for my boundaries so that I may maintain my own self-care yet still be available for you as my student:

- You may email me at any point for guidance, questions, etc. I will respond within 24-48 hours between the hours of **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday**
 - General course-specific questions: **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check D2L/ask a classmate first.** If your question has already been addressed, then you will have the answer you need.
 - **When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise. In addition, please follow some common “email etiquette” procedures in order to keep our electronic communication effective and efficient. Specifically:
 - Write a relevant subject line (ie: “Period Styles class question,”)
 - Address me by name (ie: "Dear Professor Worley" or "Hi Becca" or just "Becca")
 - Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, schedule an appointment (see below)
 - **Sign your name**
- I will **NOT** check email on the weekends, which means I will respond Monday morning.

Office Hours & Appointments:

If I am in my office & the door is open, feel free to visit me during my office hours. Scheduling an in-person or Zoom appointment in advance, however, is preferred. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code below or go to: <https://forms.gle/PpH1kEpUAA3WBYEj7>



COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance Policy:

You may accumulate two (2) absences before any penalty occurs. **There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Grades will be dropped in ½ letter grade increments for every class absence beyond the first two absences.** Of course, if you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor ASAP. **Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness.** Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. I will work to support you getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Late Arrivals:

The class will begin promptly at 11 a.m. If you arrive after 11:10 a.m., you will be marked absent. If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. **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:

Please turn off all cell phones while in class. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. Laptops should only be used for class purposes.

Late Work:

Under normal circumstances, I do not accept late work.

Extra Credit:

The instructor reserves the right to offer extra-credit to all students, and to gauge its application appropriately and uniformly for all.

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.

Incompletes:

Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will NOT be given for a final grade in this course. Per University policy, students who **because of circumstances beyond their control** are unable to attend classes will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of X (incomplete)

in all courses in which they were ***maintaining passing grades at the time of the request*** for an incomplete.

University Specific Policies and 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>

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 ETAMU 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>

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

ADA Statement

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

ETAMU; 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

ETAMU 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 ETAMU 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 ETAMU 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.

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 ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Mental Health

Please make sure that you are taking care of yourself, not just with the work in this class, but also balancing what is happening in your life. Know that there are people willing to listen and help if needed. If you or someone you care about is in need of any assistance, please reach out to me or use the following resources:

- The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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.etamu.edu/counsel
- The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to **Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar**. Go to <https://www.etamu.edu/telus/> for more information & instructions on how to download the **FREE** app.
- Crisis Text Line: Text "MHFA" to 741741
- Lifeline Crisis Chat: www.crisischat.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, call, text, or chat **988**

AI Use in Courses (Draft)

ETAMU 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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

TBD

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