

SYLLABUS - ACTING /VERSE 2018

Acting Studio I T-TH 8:00am-9:50 pm

Notice:The following syllabus and course schedule is a guideline only, subject to change without notice.



Instructor Contact - How to Reach Me

- Instructor: Jim Helsinger
- Office: T-218 in PAC, also at Orlando Shakespeare Theater
- Office Hours: Generally, 10:30-11:30 Tuesday and Thursday. Also available at Shakespeare offices in Loch Haven Park. For an appointment, please **email my company manager, Paige Gober** at paigeg@orlandoshakes.org. I am happy to meet with you, please call!
- Phone: (321) 217-8479
- E-mail: jimh@orlandoshakes.org
- Mailbox: In Theatre Admin Offices
- Main Office: Orlando Shakespeare Theater, 812 E. Rollins St., Orlando, FL 32803



Required Texts - What do I have to read?

1. **Acting Shakespeare's Text**– by Jim Helsinger. Draft Format. Available in pdf format in this class webcourses (free)
2. **Applause First Folio of Shakespeare in Modern Type : Comedies, Histories and Tragedies** - by William Shakespeare, Edited by Neal Freeman
ISBN: 1557833338
NOTE: It is important that it is the APPLAUSE FIRST FOLIO VERSION, not any other.
3. **A Midsummer Night's Dream (Arden Shakespeare, Second Series)**
by William Shakespeare , Harold Brooks (Editor)
NOTE: It is important that it is the ARDEN VERSION, not any other.
4. **Comedy of Errors (Arden Shakespeare, Second or Third Series)**
by William Shakespeare
NOTE: It is important that it is the ARDEN VERSION, not any other.
5. **Actions, The Actor's Thesaurus**, Marina Calderone & Maggie Lloyd-Williams

OPTIONAL: We will be studying the RSC video series, *Playing Shakespeare* throughout the class. They are available in the UCF library and online. You may also choose to purchase the companion book: *Playing Shakespeare* by John Barton. With the Royal Shakespeare Company. Or purchase the videos themselves: *Playing Shakespeare* The Royal Shakespeare Company. DVD 4 Disc set. Published by Athena. Or watch them on youtube (there are links in this webcourses class).

DESCRIPTION: This is a course focusing on acting in verse works focusing Shakespeare. Concentration will be on expressing emotion through language, paraphrasing, emotional involvement, objective, action, imagery, subtext, scansion, text work.

COURSE FORMAT: Due to the number of exercises written and performed in class, attendance is crucial.

DRESS: Please wear comfortable rehearsal clothes to class. Because some of the exercises require you to lie on the floor, please wear clothes you might not mind getting dirty in. Please do not wear skirts unless it is especially for a scene. Tennis shoes are generally preferred, although you might wish to wear boots or heels for a particular scene. The room also is often cold so please bring a sweater or sweatshirt.

POLICIES AND METHODOLOGY:

- **Attendance-** Be Punctual! Class will begin on time. If you are unavoidably detained, enter quietly and apologetically. **NEVER enter during a performance or presentation!** Wait until it has been completed. Attendance will be kept by means of roll call at the beginning of the class. If you are late, **you** are responsible to alert the professor to mark you present at the end of class. If you forget, **you will be marked absent.**
- **Tardies- 10 Points will deducted for every tardy.** If the professor is late, no tardies will be marked for that day, but absences will. NOTE: It is much better to be tardy than to miss class.
- **Absences - ONE Unexcused absence is allowed. 50 points will be deducted from your final grade for every unexcused absence.** The grading system is based on roughly 1000 points, so every unexcused absence is a loss of ½ of a letter grade. Even if excused, student will still be responsible for all information presented in class that day. If you miss a class, it is **your responsibility** to acquire the information, including all assignments, notes and paperwork. Absences can greatly affect your grade. Two unexcused absences will likely result in the lowering of at least a letter grade, even assuming otherwise perfect scores. (You may do extra credit assignments to make up lost points. Contact the teacher for extra credit assignments)
- **Excused absences** -the only excused absences will be a doctor's excuse, family emergency, or departmental or advisor approved excuse. **All excused absences require documentation.** Such absences will not count against your grade. However, extended absences even with an excuse may result in an incomplete for the course and retaking the class.



Evaluation and Grading - What gets an "A" in the class?

Final grade will be determined by total accumulated points, subject to participation, evaluation and testing, assignment, and extra credit, minus any negative attendance.

Assignments, quizzes and tests that are turned in late will receive 50% credit.

Letter Grade	Points
A	92 – 100 points
A-	90 – 91 points
B+	88 – 89 points
B	82 – 87 points
B-	80 – 81 points
C+	78 – 79 points
C	72 – 77 points
C-	70 – 71 points
D+	68 – 69 points
D	62 – 67 points
D-	60 – 61 points
F	59 and below

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

PROJECTS

- **Performance-** You'll prepare and perform in class a number of acting projects consisting of monologues and/or short scenes.
- **Practice-** You are expected to practice the exercises and chapter assignments introduced in class during the week for your own self exploration.

- **Participation**- You are expected to take an active part in class, volunteering for exercises and discussion.
- **Quizzes**- Short quizzes on class material and homework reading, plays and videotapes will be presented.
- **Final**- The Final will be an in-class performance of a scene or monologue demonstrating your performance, plus a written breakdown of the piece and your performance choices. Plus a detailed, written self critique.
- **Paperwork** accompanying vocal projects, (i.e., analysis, scoring, inflection)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- **Quizzes** and written assignments- There will be regular written quizzes to evaluate your reading and comprehension of handouts and chapter material and the RSC videos.
- **Other** - there will be a variety of other written assignments to be completed and turned in for a grade.

NOTES:

- All written assignments are to be typed, not handwritten. Typos and poor grammar will be graded harshly.
- This class will use + and – grading as per UCF policy.
- This syllabus may be revised at the teacher's discretion. You will receive notice of any changes.
- Academic honesty is expected. Cheating or plagiarism can result in failure of the course.