

IDIS 299 SPECIAL TOPICS: ACTING

Spring, 2014

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:35--3:45pm, Arena Theatre

INSTRUCTOR:

Christopher Shorr

Email: cshorr@moravian.edu

Office: Arena Theatre

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 1--2:15PM and by appointment

(You are EXPECTED to meet with me during the semester on an ongoing basis. Although you are always welcome to drop by, I encourage you to call ahead to insure a spot if you know you want to see me during office hours. Office hours are subject to change. Check posting on office door for updates.)

Phone: (610) 861-1489

REQUIRED TEXTS:

No Exit and Three Other Plays

Jean-Paul Sartre (Author), Stuart Gilbert (Translator)

Vintage; 1989 ISBN-10: 0679725164 ISBN-13: 978-0679725169

“Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”

adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, from the novella by Robert Louis Stevenson

Dramatists play service ISBN/Code: 978-0-8222-2307-8

“Hello Herman”

by John Buffalo Mailer

Dramatists play service ISBN/Code: 978-0-8222-2410-5

Chekhov, Michael. *On The Technique of Acting*. New York: Harper, 1991. Book.

Miller, Bruce. *The Actor as Storyteller: an introduction to acting*. Mountainview, CA: Mayfield, 1999. Book.

Parisi, Barbara (Editor). *The Best American Short Plays 2009--2010*. New York: Applause, 2011. ISBN--13: 978--1557837608

<https://archive.org/details/illusionfirstti00arligoog>

Additional texts to be assigned

REQUIRED LIVE THEATRE EVENTS:

"Dirty Hands" ("Les Mains Sales")
by Jean-Paul Sartre

"Hello Herman"
by John Buffalo Mailer

"MCTC Student Cabaret"

"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"
adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, from the novella by Robert Louis Stevenson

...PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES OF YOUR CHOICE.

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SPEND 2 HOURS EACH WEEK REHEARSING. THESE ARE COUNTED AS "LAB" HOURS AND SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED IN YOUR ACTING JOURNALS.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the craft of Acting. Students will be exposed to various approaches and will participate in exercises to develop techniques to approach scripted and non-scripted theatre pieces. With partners, students will rehearse scenes, incorporating feedback. By the end of the course, each student should have an introductory understanding of: Physical and intellectual approaches to acting; character motivation; and the process of rehearsing for performance.

CAUTIONS:

1. It is essential that you attend all classes. Students are expected to participate in class activities and contribute to class discussions of topics. **Less than active participation** may have a negative effect on your grade. **More than one absence** may have a negative effect on your grade separate from the 10% of the grade designated for Active Participation/Improvement/Commitment.
2. All work must be presented or turned in on time. Missed work may only be made up under special circumstances at the discretion of the instructor.
3. Students are expected to work hard and think creatively. The more time and opportunity you have to work on a skill and/or assignment, the greater the expectation for excellence.
4. All work turned in, except for acting journals, must be typed or printed from a printer.
5. All students must be prepared to present work and in attendance the first day of the classes designated for an assignment. Additional days are just for spill--over. (In other words, don't plan on skipping the first day of scene presentation to buy yourself an extra day to work on your scene!)
6. Students should expect to spend eight hours per week outside of class preparing for this class. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encourage to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
7. Read ahead on the syllabus to see what's coming up in order to avoid getting caught by surprise when a lot of reading, or other assigned work is due.

GRADING

Please note: Letter grades are based on percentages and do NOT get rounded up or down. There is a range of percentage points that corresponds to a particular letter grade. In blackboard, the instructor can choose to display grades as percentages or as letters. If I choose to display grades as percentages, it is so that students can see exactly how close they are to the next grade bracket.

This may provide incentive to do better in order to push your grade up into a higher bracket, or to keep it from slipping down into a lower bracket. Do not mistake this as an invitation to argue for a higher grade. A 79.99 is NOT a B-.

90.00%+ = A range (A-- through A+) 80.00%--89.99% = B range (B-- through B+)
70.00%--79.99% = C range (C-- through C+) 60.00%--69.99% = D range (D-- through D+)
59.99% or lower = Failure to pass the course

NOTE: The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a four credit hour course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Refer to the statement on academic honesty at Moravian College in the current Student Handbook (online at: www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm) Copies are available in the Academic Dean's file (acdean) on the Public (P:) Drive of the Moravian Intranet.

Keep copies of all written work submitted to the instructor, as well as notes, drafts and materials used in preparing assignments. If in doubt about appropriate collaboration, proper documentation and other honesty issues, ask the instructor.

If you lift a single sentence from a website for an assignment, you will fail the assignment, and may fail the course. Students should not expect any leniency on this policy.

NOTE: Paraphrasing without citation is still plagiarism, as is stolen thought structure.

When in doubt, cite it!

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

FINAL GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 5% Warm Up Assignment
- 5% Lip Sync Assignment
- 10% Physical Character assignment
- 10% Vocal Character assignment
- 15% Scene Study
- 15% Acting Journal-- to include play responses (reading and viewing), rehearsal log, class log, response to rehearsal observation
- 15% Critiques of acting in five performances (at least four must be the performances designated in the syllabus; one additional performance may be selected from off campus—college, community or professional theatre (no high school)—or from other on campus events.
- 15% Active participation and engagement in class discussion and exercises
- 10% Final Exam (polished scene, incorporating feedback from scene study assignment)

Lest there be confusion... Excellent work will count as an "A." Above Average work will count as a "B." Average work will count as a "C." Less than average work will count as a "D." A poorly done assignment, or one that fails to adequately fulfill the requirements an assignment will count as an "F."

The criteria for grades include originality of thought, clarity of purpose, organization, creativity, evidence of critical thinking, quality of material, expression and mechanics. Grades may be monitored on Blackboard, but keep in mind that those grades are ONLY a running total of graded assignments and that your final grade includes absences, participation, and other components not included in the Blackboard running total.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Tuesday January 14, Thursday January 16

Warm Up Basics

Warm Up Assignment

Week 2 Tuesday January 21, Thursday January 23

History Lesson

Lip Sync Assignment

Week 3 Tuesday January 28, Thursday January 30

Achieving Realism—"The Illusion of the First Time in Acting"

REQUIREMENT—ATTEND:

"Dirty Hands" ("Les Mains Sales")

by Jean-Paul Sartre

Part of the Friday Night Play Reading Series

Friday January 31, 2014 at 8PM

Week 4 Tuesday February 4, Thursday February 6

Using Language

Partner Action Exercises

Week 5 Tuesday February 11, Thursday February 13

USE YOUR WHOLE BODY

REQUIREMENT—ATTEND:

"Hello Herman"

by John Buffalo Mailer

Thursday February 13, 2014 at 8PM

Friday February 14, 2014 at 8PM

Saturday February 15, 2014 at 8PM

Sunday February 16, 2014 at 2PM

Week 6 Tuesday February 18, Thursday February 20

Exploration of techniques part 1

Week 7 Tuesday February 25, Thursday February 27

Character and Physicality

SPRING BREAK: No Class Tuesday March 4 & Thursday March 6

Week 8 Tuesday March 11, Thursday March 13
Character and Voice

REQUIREMENT—ATTEND:
Student Cabaret
Thursday March 13, 2014 at 8PM
Friday March 14, 2014 at 8PM
Saturday March 15, 2014 at 8PM
Sunday March 16, 2014 at 2PM

Week 9 Tuesday March 18, Thursday March 20
Energy

Week 10 Tuesday March 25, Thursday March 27
Exploration of techniques part 2

Week 11 Tuesday April 1, Thursday April 3
Acting in the absence of character

Week 12 Tuesday April 8, Thursday April 10
Creating original work

REQUIREMENT--ATTEND:
"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"
adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher,
from the novella by Robert Louis Stevenson
Part of the Friday Night Play Reading Series
Friday April 11, 2014 at 8PM

Week 13 Tuesday April 15
Scene Workshop

EASTER RECESS: No Class Thursday April 17

Week 14 Tuesday April 22, Thursday April 24
Scene sharing and discussion

IDIS 299 Acting Syllabus Addendum
Due Dates (Subject to change)

Week 2

Tuesday January 21 Assignment Due: Warm-Up
Thursday January 23 Assignment Due: Lip Sync

Week 3

Tuesday January 28 Reading Due: BOOK--Bruce Miller
Thursday January 30 Reading Due: PLAY--Jean-Paul Sartre
 Assignment Due: Play reading response 1

Week 4

Tuesday February 4 Assignment Due: Acting Critique 1: "Dirty Hands"
 Reading due: BOOK--Best Plays 2009-10
Thursday February 6 Assignment Due: Play reading response 2
 Assignment Due: Propose scene from Best Plays 2009-10

Week 5

Tuesday February 11 Reading Due: PLAY--John Buffalo Mailor
Thursday February 13 Assignment Due: Play reading response 3

Week 6

Tuesday February 18 Assignment Due: Acting Critique 2: "Hello Herman"
 Reading due: BOOK--Michael Chekhov
Thursday February 20 Assignment Due: Play reading response 4

Week 7

Tuesday February 25 Assignment Due: Physical Character assignment
Thursday February 27 Assignment Due: Play reading response 5
 Assignment Due: Scene Study Textual Analysis

Week 8

Tuesday March 11 Assignment Due: Vocal Character assignment
Thursday March 13 Assignment Due: Play reading response 6

Week 9

Tuesday March 18 Assignment Due: Acting Critique 3: "Student Cabaret:"
Thursday March 20 Assignment Due: Play reading response 7

Week 10

Tuesday March 25 Assignment Due: Acting techniques presentations
Thursday March 27 Assignment Due: Acting techniques presentations
 Assignment Due: Play reading response 8

Week 11

Tuesday April 1 Assignment Due: Acting Critique 4: (student selected play)
Thursday April 3 Assignment Due: Play reading response 9

Week 12

Tuesday April 8 Reading due: PLAY--Jeffrey Hatcher
Thursday April 10 Assignment Due: Play reading response 10

Week 13

Tuesday April 15 Assignment Due: Rehearsal Observation
Assignment Due: Acting Critique 5: "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"
Thursday April 17 Assignment Due: Play reading response 11

Week 14

Tuesday April 22 Assignment Due: Scene Study Presentations
Thursday April 24 Assignment Due: Scene Study Presentations