

Carleton University
Fall 2013
Department of English

ENGL 2104A — Drama Workshop
Mondays: 11:30 – 14:30
Classroom: 3224 RB
Please confirm location on Carleton Central
Instructor: Sarah McVie
Office: TBD
Office Hours: TBD

Phone: 613-520-2600 x2317 during office hours (to be confirmed)
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An Introduction to Acting Shakespeare

“Speak the Speech”

These are Hamlet’s words to the players. Shakespeare is often introduced to students in a purely literary context, but his plays were meant to be spoken and heard. Combining creative and physical exploration with research of the period in which these plays were written, this course will introduce students to an actor’s approach to Shakespeare.

Course Objective

Students will leave this class with a practical approach to speaking Shakespeare’s texts. We will explore the language and rhythm of the plays, giving us tools to speak Shakespeare’s words with ease and confidence. This course will give students the opportunity to explore and strengthen their abilities as oral communicators.

Class Format

We will meet once a week for three hours. There will be one off site visit to see a production of a professional theatre production of Goodnight Desdemona, Goodmorning Juliet at the Great Canadian Theatre Company. Students will be expected to do up to 4 hours per week of research, reading, creative writing and rehearsal.

Each class will consist of four sections:

1. Physical and Vocal warm-up; skill building exercises
2. Discussion/lecture
3. Rehearsal/Presentation
4. Check in on assignment progress

Course Assessment

	Assignment	Deadline	Course Value
Participation	Commitment to process		20%
Play Review	Attend a production of <u>Goodnight Desdemona, Goodmorning Juliet</u> at the GCTC and submit a 1000 word theatre review of the production	Dec. 16th	20%
World Picture Project	Create a brief presentation on a chosen topic related to Elizabethan England (a list of suggested topics will be provided) and submit a 500 word summary of your research.	Sept.23rd	10%
Group Project	As a group, prepare and present a 1-3 minute version of a Shakespeare play to be recorded and submitted as an entry to the Department of English's "Wilde-est Home Video Contest"	Part 1: Oct. 14th Part 2: Dec. 2nd	10%
Creative Writing	"In your own words": paraphrase an assigned speech	Nov. 4th	10%
Solo Work	Prepare and recite an assigned piece of text from Macbeth	Nov. 18th	10%
Scene Study	Prepare and perform an assigned scene from one of Shakespeare's plays. A 1000 word character study will also be required based on the tools discussed in class.	Dec. 9th	20%

WEEK 1	Sept. 9	<p>Course overview and introduction including a detailed description of assignments and due dates.</p> <p>Discussion: The Space Introduction to an actor's warm-up Ensemble work</p> <p>Assign: World Picture Project (due Sept. 23rd)</p>
WEEK 2	Sept 16th	<p>Discussion: The Acting Troupe Ensemble skill building work</p> <p>Assign: read Macbeth</p>
WEEK 3	Sept. 23rd	<p>The world of William Shakespeare and An introduction to the 17th Century</p> <p>Due: World Picture Presentations</p>
WEEK 4	Sept. 30th	<p>The Structure of the five act play Skill building exercises: storytelling</p> <p>Assign: Group Project (due Oct. 22nd) Read: <i>King Lear</i></p>
WEEK 5	Oct. 7th	<p>Skill building exercises: speaking the language Discussion: The Physical Force of Language Paraphrasing: making the text your own</p> <p>Assign: "In your own words" (due Nov. 4th) Read: The Taming of the Shrew</p>
WEEK 6	Oct. 21st	<p>Introduction to rhythm and metre Iambic Pentametre</p> <p>Due: Present Group Project Part 1 Assign: Scenes and Character Study (due Dec. 9th)</p>

WEEK 7	Nov. 4th	Introduction to Shakespeare's first Folio Text work Due: Paraphrased speech Assign: solo speech TBD (due Nov 18th)
WEEK 8	Nov. 11th	The Art of Rhetoric Points of appeal
WEEK 9	Nov. 18th	Imaging the text Inhabiting the words physically Elizabethan period dance Due: Solo speech (performed in class)
WEEK 10	Nov. 25th	Discussion: Interpretation Building a character Scene work Assignment: See play at GCTC (Nov. 26th-Dec. 15th) Due: Lines for scene memorized
WEEK 11	Dec. 2nd	Discussion: Playing action Actioning the text on your feet Scene work Due: Group Project Part 2 (video version recorded)
WEEK 12	Dec. 9th	Final Presentation of scenes for an invited audience Discussion: Moving into production Due: Character Study

*The play review is due one week after the end of classes on Dec. 16th.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (any edition)
King Lear (Signet Classic edition)
Macbeth (Signet Classic edition)

Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>