

Carleton University  
Fall 2014  
Department of English

ENGL 2104 A: Theatre Workshop  
Monday 11:35-2:25  
Location: *Please confirm on Carleton Central*  
Instructor: Sarah McVie  
Sarah.Mcvie@carleton.ca

## The Actor's Craft: From Text to Performance

### Course Description:

What is the actor's craft? How has it changed since the birth of Western theatre? Students in this course will be given the opportunity to explore their own ability to perform as they come to understand the essential skills needed to portray a role for an audience. The 'actor's tool kit' will be introduced through hands on exercises aimed to develop voice, movement, creative impulse and imaginative exploration. Students will put theory into practice working with texts from classical antiquity to modern day. Acting theory and style will be examined in the context of each period of study. Two off site visits will be required to attend local professional theatrical productions: *The Importance of Being Ernest* at the National Arts Centre and *Fish Eyes and Boys with Cars* at The Great Canadian Theatre Company.

Attendance is very important for this course due to the practical nature of the workshop. Commitment to the ensemble is a part of the actor's duties and therefore punctuality is expected and will be reflected in the final grade.

It is highly recommended that students concurrently take **ENGL 2607: World Drama** to enrich their experience of this workshop.

### Course Evaluation

Participation	25%
Actor's journal	15%
Group project	10%
Solo Piece	10%
Scene	25%
Play review	15%

Week 1 September 8th		<p>Introduction to course outline with a detailed description of assignments  Discussion: The craft of acting  Ensemble work: eye contact, trust  Breath support  Reading out loud</p> <p>Assign: Reading #1  Assign: Actor's journal</p>
Week 2 September 15th		<p>Discussion: The Theatre of Ancient Greece  Choral speaking  Flocking  Creating stage pictures</p> <p>Assign: Group choral piece (Vocal Masque) due: Sept. 29th</p>
Week 3 September 22nd		<p>Discussion: Roman circus and Italian comedy  Commedia dell'Arte  Mask work</p>
Week 4 September 29th		<p>Lecture: The Physical Force of Language  Rhythm and metre</p> <p>Due: Perform group piece (1<sup>st</sup> time)  Assign: Shakespearean soliloquy due: Nov. 10th</p>
Week 5 October 6th		<p>Discussion: Rhetoric and the Folio  Speech: clarity and enunciation  Seven stages of physical tension  The language of movement</p>
October 13th		Thanksgiving
Week 6 October 20th		<p>Discussion: Restoration Theatre  Working with the corset and fan  Text work: imaging the text</p> <p>Due: Sonnet memorized  Assign: read Hedda Gabler</p>
October 27th		<p>Reading Week  Assign scenes by Thursday September 16th</p>
Week 7		Review of classical theatre unit

November 3rd		Discussion: The Dawn of Realism Blocking on a proscenium stage In class read through of Hedda Gabler  Due: Final performance of soliloquys Assign: character study and rehearsal journal
Week 8 November 10th		Discussion: Stanislavsky and 'The System' Playing action Laban Movement Analysis Scene work  Vocal Masque performance (final)
Week 9 November 17th		Discussion: Playing Status Working with RP (Wilde) The Alexander Technique
Week 10 November 24th		Discussion: Physical theatre The teachings of Jaques Le Coq: Le Jeu, Clown and Buffon  Due: lines memorized for scene
Week 11 December 1st		Discussion: Preparing for Performance Rehearsal and text work  Due: Character study
Week 12 December 8th		Final performance of scenes and soliloquys for an invited audience.  Due: Actor's journal (including rehearsal journal additions)

Required texts: Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen

### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

**Religious obligation:** 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation.

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable).

After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).