

Carleton University
Department of English
Fall 2015

ENGL 2104 A: Theatre Workshop

Monday 11:35-2:25

Location: PA 234

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Sarah McVie
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Office: 1914DT
Office Hours: TBD

The Actor's Craft: From Text to Performance

Course Description:

What is the actor's craft? How has it developed 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. One off site visits will be required to attend *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* at the National Arts Centre.

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.

Course Evaluation

Participation	20%
Actor's journal	15%
Group project	10%
Solo Piece	15%
Scene	25%
Play review	15%

*Students are encouraged to attend a live theatre production prior to our first class on September 14th.

**We will delay our first class until September 14th. We will make up for the scheduled class on September 4th in week 6 (October 19th-23rd).

***Students are expected to do up to 4 hours per week of work related to the course content, including; research, reading, creative writing and rehearsal.

Week 1 September 14 th	Introduction to course outline with a detailed description of assignments Discussion: The craft of acting Ensemble work Assign: Actor's journal (part 1 due October 19 th) Read: <i>Oedipus the King</i>
Week 2 September 21 st	Discussion: The Theatre of Ancient Greece Working with the concept of a "chorus" Assign: Group Project (reading due Oct 5 th and staged presentation due Oct. 19 th)
Week 3 September 28 th	Discussion: Roman circus and Italian comedy Commedia dell'Arte Neutral Mask work In class quiz: mark will contribute to participation grade
Week 4 October 5 th	Discussion: The Physical Force of Language Folio and Shakespeare's Code Due: Group piece presentation (reading only) Assign: Solo piece (due Nov. 2 nd)
October 12 th	Thanksgiving
Week 5 October 19 th	Discussion: The Art of Rhetoric Speech for the stage: clarity and enunciation Due: Final performance of group piece Due: Actor's Journal Part One Assign: Actor's Journal Part Two (due December 7 th)
Week 6 (make	Attend the production of <i>The Adventures of a Black</i>

up for missed class in September)	<p><i>Girl in Search of God</i> at the National Arts Centre. The show runs from October 21st to November 2nd. Student discounts are available, more information can be found here: http://nac-cna.ca/en/students</p> <p>Assign: Play Review (due November 16th) Read: <i>Hedda Gabler</i></p>
October 26th	Fall break
Week 7 November 2nd	<p>Review of classical theatre unit Discussion: The Dawn of Realism</p> <p>Due: Solo Piece Final Performance Assign: Scenes from <i>Hedda Gabler</i> (due December 7th)</p>
Week 8 November 9th	<p>Discussion: Blocking on a proscenium stage Facts and Questions: table work on <i>Hedda Gabler</i></p> <p>Due: Final performance of Solo Piece Assign: Character study (an element of the scene project)</p>
Week 9 November 16th	<p>Discussion: Stanislavsky and "The System" Scene work: actions, intensions and obstacles</p> <p>Due: Play Review</p>
Week 10 November 23rd	Scene Work
Week 11 November 30th	<p>Discussion: Preparing for Performance Rehearsal and text work Due: lines memorized for scene</p>
Week 12 December 7th	<p>Final performance of scenes for an invited audience.</p> <p>Due: Actor's journal (including 3 additional rehearsal journal entries)</p>

Required texts:

Oedipus the King by Sophocles, translation by Stephen Berg and Diskin Clay
Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen

Recommended Texts: A list will be provided during the term.

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 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).

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Carleton University has a clear policy on academic integrity, including procedures to address academic misconduct. See the Undergraduate Calendar under “Academic Regulations of the University” Section E14:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academicregsuniv14/>

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information please go to: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>