

Carleton University  
**Fall 2026 Preliminary Course Outline**  
Department of English

**ENGL 3905 A: Topics in Performance**  
*Topic: Stanislavski and the “Method”*

**Prerequisites: third-year standing or permission of the department**

**Instructor: Adam Barrows**  
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**\*\*\* This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.  
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. \*\*\***

**Course description:** In this course, we will study and practice what came to be known as “Method Acting,” tracing its roots in the work of Konstantin Stanislavski and the Moscow Art Theatre through its dominance of American acting under the influence of New York acting teachers like Lee Strasberg and Stella Adler to its enduring influence on stage and screen acting today.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will learn to: identify and discuss the theoretical and experiential concept of Stanislavski-based performance; gain practical experience in “method” acting through individual and group exercises; apply theoretical knowledge to the experience of rehearsing and performing scene-work.

**Required Texts:** (Available through the Carleton University Bookstore)  
Chekhov, Anton. *Plays*. Penguin, 2002 (New: \$13.50).  
Churchill, Caryl. *Top Girls*. Bloomsbury, 2018 (New: \$21.95).  
Stanislavski, Konstantin. *An Actor Prepares*. Routledge, 1989 (New: \$44.70).

**Evaluation:**

**Attendance: 10%**

**Reading Assignments: 10%**

**Short Writing Assignments: 20%**

**Performance Exercises/Reflections: 30%**

**Scene-work Evaluations: 30%**