**ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS**

**THEATRE 1400**

Section #2 MoWeFr 9:00 -9:50 AM

Section #3 MoWeFr 10:00-10:50 AM

**Instructor: AL DABIRI EMAIL ADDRESS: MDABIRI@MAIL.MISSOURI.EDU**

**Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, by appointment only; Space TBA**

Note: Throughout this syllabus, I have used Actors as a gender-neutral term.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONs

In Theatre 1400 Acting for Non-Majors, you will develop your unique acting method while obtaining a general knowledge about theatre as an academic discipline. Together we will delve into realistic, non-realistic, and participatory theatre (forum theatre in particular) as every one of them requires a different style of acting. Along the way, I will teach you the importance of fully understanding the plays, the character development process, critical thinking, intimacy and violence on stage, and facilitating Theatre of the Oppressed projects. In this course, you will develop your writing and research skills by keeping journals and writing about the MU productions. One of the requirements for this course is attending the MU theatre productions and writing an examination of the cultural and social dynamics of the play you saw with notes on each actors’ performance. This will help you develop your critical thinking by offering you a space to ponder on your own acting practices.

**I will upload materials on Canvas for you to read, that means you don’t need to buy textbooks BUT YOU SHOULD READ THE PLAYS ON CANVAS. I will update the syllabus constantly, so make sure you check the Canvas regularly and read the syllabus weekly. (All the changes to the syllabus happens on Friday mornigns!)**

### SUGGESTED READINGS

* *Acting the First Six Lessons* by Richard Boleslavsky
* *Creating life on Stage, a Director’s Approach to Working with Actors* by Marshal Mason
* *An Actor’s Handbook* by Constantin Stanislavski
* *Improvisation for the Theatre* by Viola Spolin
* *Acting Onstage and Off* by Robert Barton
* *Games for Actors and Non-Actors* by Augusto Boal
* *Chicago Style for Students & Researches* by Kate L. Turabian 8th edition

Course Time Table

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| --- | --- |
| Week 1; August 20th-24th | Introduction to theatre |
| Week 2; August 27th-31st | The Stanislavski System |
| Week 3; September 3rd-7th | The Stanislavski System |
| Week 4; September 10th-14th | Intimacy and Vioance on Stage,  Reviewing the materials for Quiz 1 |
| Week 5; September 17th- 21st | Life and Lit Discussions; Quiz 1 on September 21st |
| Week 6; September 24th – 28th | Scene 1 in Realistic Mode |
| Week 7; October 2nd- 5th | Theatre of Cruelty |
| Week 8; October 8th- 12th | *Songs for a New World* Discussion,  Theatre of Cruelty 2 |
| Week 9; October 15th- 19th | Scene 2 in the style of Theatre of Cruelty |
| Week 10; October 22nd – 26th | Turning in Journals, a general review, Quiz 2 on October 26th |
| Week 11; October 29th- November 2nd | Theatre of the Oppressed (To) |
| Week 12; November 5th- 9th | TO Continued, *Fever/Dream Discussion* |
| Week 13; November 12th- 16th | Forum Theatre |
| Week 14; November 19th – 23rd | Forum Theatre 2 |
| Week 15; 26th- 30th | *This Neighbor* Project |
| Week 16; December 3rd and 5th | *This Neighbor* Project |
| Week 17; December 10th -14th | Quiz 3 on December 12th ; December 14th Deadline to turn in third journal. |

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Through our work together over the semester, you will experience and/or learn to:

* Increase confidence in your presence before an audience
* Develop an awareness of how the actor’s performance process may benefit other areas of your life
* Gain an appreciation for theatre as an enduring and expressive human art form and for its value in the world
* Demonstrate progress and achievement in physical and vocal acting techniques grounded in Stanislavski’s method through participation in class games, warm-ups, and targeted exercises.
* Identify motives behind acting choices for specific characters.
* Decide on a specific approach to a scripted scene chosen from various alternatives and apply this approach in workshop, dress, and final performances.
* Create an original interpretation of a neutral (or open) scene.
* Evaluate the merits of and make recommendations to strengthen a given performance, be it their own, their classmates’, or from stage productions using self-reflections, in-class feedback, and written or verbal critique.
* Propose conclusions about the world of a given text, based on script and character analysis, provided in either written or verbal form.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1.**Participate**! Simply put, you are expected to try your best at everything we do. You must actively participate to receive full points participation carries the most weight in terms of grading. This class requires your consistent dedication, enthusiasm, and preparedness.

2. **Attendance & Punctuality Policy**. These are two requisites for working in the theatre, so they will be for our class as well. When you are absent or tardy, we suffer—you, me, the class.

* You will be allowed three absences. Period.
* Every absence after three will result in a drop of 1/3 of your final grade (i.e. B+ to B).
* Late arrivals interrupt the focus of those students who are on time; therefore two (2) late arrivals will count as 1 absence.
* **If you are absent without notice on a day you are scheduled to present, your scene partner may be reassigned and you may lose credit for the assignment or be deducted points.**

3. **Respect**. Our work is founded on mutual respect and a safe and supportive environment. To that end, I expect you to be attentive and respectful of each other’s work and opinions at all times.

4. **Wear** comfortable clothing that you can easily move in. No hats. Wear sensible shoes (i.e. no high heels, platforms, or flip flops.). If, for performance, any particular clothing items are needed, you are responsible for obtaining the items.

5. **Time Commitment**: this course requires you spend a significant amount of time outside of class to attend plays, complete readings, written work, and rehearse. Students are cautioned against taking this course if they do not have the requisite time to comply.

**MU Theatre Performances**

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO VIEW THREE UNIVERSITY PRODUCTIONS, THAT ARE LISTED BELOW, AND WRITE ONE PARAGRAPH ON THE SOCIAL-CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLAY AND ONE PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THE ACTOR’S PERFORMANCES. THE THIRD PARAGRAPH SHOULD MENTION HOW YOU WOULD ACT A PARTICULAR SCENE IN THE PLAY DIFFERENTLY!

**Life and Literature Performance Series**

*Passion Play* by Zahria Moore and *Safe* by Georgia Douglas Johnson

Studio 4 at McKee Gymnasium

7:30 pm: September 19, 2018

7:30 pm: September 20, 2018

7:30 pm: September 21, 2018

7:30 pm: September 22, 2018

2:00 pm: September 23, 2018

*Songs for a New World*

By Jason Robert Brown

Studio 4 in McKee Gymnasium

· 7:30 pm: October 11, 2018

· 7:30 pm: October 12, 2018

· 7:30 pm: October 13, 2018

· 7:30 pm: October 18, 2018

· 7:30 pm: October 19, 2018

· 7:30 pm: October 20, 2018

· 2:00 pm: October 14, 2018

*Fever / Dream*

By Shelia Callaghan

Rhynsburger Theatre

· 7:30 pm: October 31, 2018

· 7:30 pm: November 1, 2018

· 7:30 pm: November 2, 2018

· 7:30 pm: November 3, 2018

· 2:00 pm: November 4, 2018

ticket information

general admission tickets: $16

early bird discount tickets: $14

tickets can be purchased online, at the mu box office, or by phone:

online: https://theatre.missouri.edu

mu box office: the mu theatre box office is located in the rhynsburger theatre lobby (at the southwest corner of hitt street & university avenue) and is open 2-5p mon-fri and one hour before performances.

by phone: call (573) 882-play. phone purchases can be made with payment by visa/mastercard/discover card. (note: if you receive the answering machine during regular box office hours, employees are assisting other customers. please leave your name, phone number, the show you wish to attend, and the number of tickets you will need. a box office employee will return your call at the first available opportunity.)

early bird discount: $2 discount on tickets purchased one week (or more) prior to the production. early bird discount is not available online.

the rhynsburger theatre

505 hitt st.

columbia, mo 65211

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism, copying of assignments, and cheating will not be tolerated.  Violating the University-wide policy on academic honesty will result in automatic failure of the assignment and possible failure of the course. Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity.

## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, please notify both the instructor and Disability Resources and Services no later than the second week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 216 William Pitt Union. [www.drs.pitt.edu](http://www.drs.pitt.edu). This information is confidential and the instructor may not discuss it in the class unless you choose to do so.

DIVERSITY CLAUSE

All participants of this class, both students and instructors, are required to help promote and maintain, at all times, a positive atmosphere in which everyone displays and receives respect, tolerance, and encouragement regardless of race, gender, religion, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDIA POLICY

In accordance with “The Pitt Promise: A Commitment to Civility,” The University of Pittsburgh Student Code of Conduct, and the professional standards and expectations of our field, students, staff and faculty in the Theatre Arts Department agree to the positive, responsible and respectful use of social media, including: zero tolerance for public aspersion upon students, classes, facilities; the un-approved posting of production videos or photos, per Equity guidelines; cyber bullying. Additionally, any recording of rehearsals or performances shall be carried out in accordance with AEA guidelines for professional productions. For the full policy, please go to our homepage, play.pitt.edu. For additional information, please refer to http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittpromise; http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/

studentconduct, www.actorsequity.org.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to observe the University of Missouri's Code of Academic Integrity. Any acts violating this policy (copying from another's quiz or exam, using unauthorized materials during academic exercises, submitting plagiarized work), will be reported to the Provost and subject to disciplinary action. The inclusion of any published material (in print or online) within a paper you hand in without proper citation is plagiarism. If you have any questions about what constitutes "plagiarism" or how to cite published (incl. internet) sources, please see undergraduate handbook and/or instructor. Do not collaborate with classmates on written assignments unless specifically asked to do so.

Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offenses and will be dealt with seriously. Any students caught cheating will face class sanctions, including (at the very least) a zero on the assignment, and a probable F for the course, depending on the size of the assignment and the severity of the offence. No assignment which receives a zero for cheating/plagiarism may be dropped as “lowest grade.” It is your responsibility to understand the undergraduate handbook. For further details concerning the university's policies and procedures, including consequences for adverse actions, please see undergraduate handbook at: http://mbook.missouri.edu/

**Intellectual Pluralism:** The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to the Department Chair or Divisional Leader or Director of the Students Rights and Responsibilities at: http://osrr.missouri.edu/ All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Notice:** If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker or extended time on exams), students must also register with Disability Services http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

**Students with Disabilities**:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center(http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Relevant resources:

MU’s Accessibility Policy - http://bppm.missouri.edu/chapter1/1\_025.html.

The Adaptive Computing Technology Center - http://actcenter.missouri.edu

ET@MO - http://etopics.missouri.edu

The Guide to Assisting Students in Distress

(http://studentaffairs.missouri.edu/documents/mizzou-red-folder)

Technology in the Classroom: University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under Section 240.040 of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters

**SYLLABUS CONTRACT**

*To be signed after reviewing the syllabus and returned to instructor to keep on file.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (print name) have read the syllabus and course timeline for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and understand the classroom policies, expectations, and rules as stated in the syllabus and timeline.  By signing this form I agree to comply with the policies, requirements, expectations and consequences, accept the outline for this class, and acknowledge the instructor’s right to adjust the timeline with due notice.

SIGNED:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATED:   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_