

TPP 4140 ACTING 4

Acting Shakespeare!

Wed/Fri 12:30 – 1:50

3 credits

Fall, 2022

Prof. Ted deChatelet

(officially it's "Edward", don't let em fool ya)

Office: AL 179

Office hours: W/F 2:00-3:15 **or by arrangement**

Classroom: PA 107

Email: edechatelet@fau.edu



Course Description

Advanced work in acting heightened language, specifically Shakespeare. This class will be part technical and part practical. Technically, we will learn iambic pentameter scansion, rhetoric, antithesis, imagery, and scene scoring focusing on verse text. Practically we will learn how to apply the technical aspects to the imaginative, physical and vocal creative acting work.

This is an advanced acting class for the future acting professional. We will work towards maintaining truth while reaching for the vocal and physical size needed to handle heightened texts. Scene study and monologue work will be accompanied by vocal and physical exercises to help meld the technical with the practical. Reading and watching performances of Shakespeare plays will be a critical part of the learning process.

Instructional Method

In-Person Instructional Method. Attendance is mandatory.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Students that have successfully completed Acting 3, or permission from the instructor

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Using Shakespeare's texts as a main tool, students will develop a confident working method of performing heightened language works. They will be able to break down the text on a technical level and then apply that to their imaginative work. A thorough study of at least two Shakespearean scenes and two monologues will be explored. Through individual monologue work, and scene study, students will form a technical and imaginative process of creating fully rounded characters on a heightened language level.

- You will be required to attend every class and participate or observe as instructed. Scene study and monologue work will involve individual class time with instructor.
- Your active and enthusiastic participation in exercises, rehearsals, presentations and discussions is required.

- Scene work and monologue work will require memorization and rehearsal time outside of class. A minimum of 3 hours a week of outside rehearsal time will be required.
- You will prepare and fully memorize at least two assigned Shakespearean scenes and present this work to the class with at least two showings of each. Each presentation will need to reflect forward motion and growth from the previous showing.
- You will prepare at least two fully memorized monologues of Shakespearean characters of your choice. These will be no longer than 2 minutes in length each with two showings.
- You will read each play your scenes and monologues are from in their entirety and turn in a *LEGIBLE* copy of your scored text for each first showing.
- You will watch 3 additional videos/productions of performances of Shakespeare’s plays and turn in a 1-2 page response paper on each.
- You will actively observe other student’s work and provide feedback in a constructive way with guidelines given to you by the instructor.

This class will be highly physical at times. If you have any physical problems that may keep you from participating fully please notify the instructor. Also, realize that some physical contact between instructor and student may be necessary during exercises and demonstrations. At times, scenes may require personal or physical intimacy with another student based on that scene’s requirements (i.e. fight scene, love scene). Please inform the instructor if there is any issue that causes you discomfort.

Course Evaluation Method

Students will receive a grade for every scene and monologue showing. Award of points will be determined by the instructor and will be based on preparation, class participation leading up to scene showings, expected components: written (i.e. scene scoring/scansion, papers on videos), performance (i.e. playing actions, use of rhetoric), proper attire (for classroom as well as scene work), improvement, written work, overall attitude, peer support, and enthusiastic participation.

Course Grading Scale

Scene 1 first showing	5%
Scene 1 written work	5%
Scene 1 second showing	10%
Scene 2 first showing	5%
Scene 2 written work	5%
Scene 2 second showing	10%
Monologue 1 first showing	5%
Monologue 1 second showing	10%
Monologue 2 first showing	5%
Monologue 2 second showing	10%
Papers (3 total)	15%
<u>Final Exam: Selected Work</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total:	100%

Final Grade Breakdown

92.5-100%	A
89.5-92.4	A-
87.5-89.4	B+
82.5-87.4	B
79.5-82.4	B-
77.5-79.4	C+
72.5-77.4	C
69.5-72.4	C-
67.5-69.4	D+
62.5-67.4	D
60.5-62.4	D-
Below 60.5	F

***See Attendance Policy Below for how attendance affects the grading scale**

Policy on Makeup Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes

Late work will be accepted with a 5% penalty per day (if you turn in written homework 3 days late and that work earned a 95 (A) in quality, 15% would then be deducted (3 x 5%) and result in a grade of 80 (B-). Missed scene work will only be rescheduled for excused absences. If a scene partner has an unexcused absence on the day of their showing, the scene will be rescheduled so the attending scene partner may receive feedback. The non-attending scene partner will also receive feedback but with a maximum grade of 60 (D-). Also, note that grades of Incomplete ("I") are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances. .

Classroom Etiquette Policy (if applicable)

Touch – This class will be highly physical at times. If you have any physical problems that may keep you from participating fully please notify the instructor. Physical contact between instructor and student and between scene partners will be necessary during exercises and demonstrations. At times, scenes may require physical intimacy with another student based on that scene's requirements (i.e. fight scene, love scene). Please inform the instructor if there is any issue that causes you discomfort. I will always ask your permission to touch you and it will never be in the groin or breast area. You, as the student, have every right to say NO, **and this will not affect your grade**. We will then work together to communicate an alternative way of understanding what is often a kinesthetic and tactile experience. Touch between students must be established with consent, clearly stating any boundaries.

Dress Code – Non-baggy movement clothing for class is required. Scene study requires rehearsal clothing such as skirts, character shoes, jackets, dress shoes etc.

Cell phones/electronic devices - Unless required for class, turn off and put away. You may only use cellphones during breaks or for the express purpose of taking notes. Please see the instructor **in advance** if there is an emergency reason why you might need your phone during class. If I catch you using your phone while your classmates are working/performing in front the class, I will lose my shit.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Due to the nature of the acting process this is a practical non-lecture class, therefore TPP 4140 is not eligible for recording.

The only exception would be if you would like to have someone record your work (with express permission from any scene partner/s) for your own learning purposes.

Florida Statute in 2021 states that students enrolled in a lecture course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Florida law allows an injured party to sue for damages, including attorneys' fees, totaling as much as \$200,000.00. Failure to adhere to these requirements may also constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Attendance Policy

Acting is not a skill you can learn from a book. This is an advanced acting class for the serious theatre student. **Attendance is mandatory.** Always being present, prepared, and on time is a part of your training. Practice professionalism.

All legitimate class absences must have an accompanying letter or proof of legitimacy to be considered excused (i.e. University letters requesting the student's participation, court orders, police reports, obituaries, doctor's notes). Reasonable accommodation will be made for students participating in a religious observance.

Except in the case of emergency, illness, without a doctor's note, will only be excused with prior notice. Failure to notify the instructor prior to the class that you will not be attending due to illness will result in an unexcused absence. Illness, without a doctor's note, may only be used as an excused absence twice in a semester. If there is a third absence due to illness, a doctor's note ***specifically stating the student was unable to come to class will be required.*** A note from FAU's health center or other such health center that only notates a date and time will not be accepted. Emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For every unexcused absence, the student's letter grade will be dropped one full grade.

Three unexcused tardies and/or leaving class early for unexcused reasons three times will be considered one unexcused absence. A doctor's appointment is not an excuse for arriving late or leaving early except in instructor-approved cases.

Unexcused absences cannot be made up or compensated for with additional course work. Missed practical work such as scene showings will only be rescheduled for excused absences.

*Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. **It is the student's responsibility** to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.*

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student

enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

Required Texts/Readings

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare

(any edition/online version is fine, just make sure it's the original text and not a "translation". "No Fear Shakespeare" is fine as a resource but it's not what we'll be doing in class.

Supplementary/Recommended Readings

Read the Shakespeare cannon. All of it. Start with the comedies/romances, then the tragedies, and finally the histories. Read a synopsis before you read the play. Read a synopsis of each scene before you read each scene if that helps. Look up the words you don't know. Elizabethan English is a language in which you are only semi-fluent. Don't beat yourself up if you don't understand everything. Learn the language. I promise it's worth it.

Additional Texts that are helpful:

Shakespeare's Words, A Glossary and Language Companion, by David and Ben Crystal, *Shakespeare Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary volumes 1&2*, Alexander Schmidt; *Shakespeare A-Z*, Charles Boyce; *Asimov's Guide to Shakespeare*, Isaac Asimov; *A Shakespeare Glossary*, C.T. Onions; *Speaking Shakespeare*, Patsy Rodenburg; *Speak the Speech*, Rhona Silverbush and Sami Plotkin; *Playing Shakespeare*, John Barton.

Course Topical Outline

W	8/24	Intro/Why Shakespeare Doesn't Suck
F	8/26	Speaking the Speech
W	8/31	Rehearse and Stuff
F	9/2	Rehearse and Stuff
W	9/7	Paper 1 Due
F	9/9	Mono 1, Performance 1
W	9/14	Rehearse and Stuff
F	9/16	Rehearse and Stuff
W	9/21	Mono 1, Performance 2
F	9/23	Rehearse and Stuff
W	9/28	Paper 2 Due
F	9/30	Scene 1, Performance 1
W	10/5	Rehearse and Stuff
F	10/7	Rehearse and Stuff
W	10/12	Scene 1, Performance 2
F	10/14	Rehearse and Stuff

W	10/19	Mono 2, Performance 1
F	10/21	Rehearse and Stuff
W	10/26	Rehearse and Stuff
F	10/28	Mono 2, Performance 2
W	11/2	Rehearse and Stuff
F	11/4	Rehearse and Stuff
W	11/9	Scene 2, Performance 1
F	11/11	Rehearse and Stuff
W	11/16	Rehearse and Stuff
F	11/18	Scene 2, Performance 1
W	11/23	Paper 3 Due
F	11/25	No Class – Thanksgiving Break
W	11/30	Work on Scenes/Monos for Final Exam
F	12/2	Work on Scenes/Monos for Final Exam
F	12/9	Final Exam (10:30am to 1:00pm)

Please Note! This is a TENTATIVE schedule and most likely will change! I will make every effort to keep you apprised both in class and in writing (via Canvas email) when changes occur! Your flexibility on this is greatly appreciated!