



## Acting Shakespeare THEA 4313

*He was not of an age, but for all time!*  
-Ben Jonson after Shakespeare's death

Instructor: Jay Stratton  
Class: M, W 1:30-2:50  
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Required Texts: we will read lots of Shakespeare and other classical texts. The good news is, you can get the stuff anywhere including online.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should:

1. Be able to read heightened and classical language more easily and quickly.
2. Understand the rules of scansion and be able to scan verse.
3. Be prepared to apply your contemporary acting skills to heightened language.
4. Have at least one ready to use classical monologue.

### Grading

#### Play Reading Responses (20% [4 plays at 5% each])

Over the course of the semester, we will read and analyze four plays by Shakespeare and other classical authors. You will write a response to each play.

There will be separate guidelines for each play posted to blackboard.

The submission process for this will be a word document attached to an email.

#### Live Classical Performance Response (10%)

You are required to see or participate one live performance of a classical play. This can include *As You Like It* at Madeline Park Shakespeare Festival, *Hamlet* or *Midsummer* at Shakespeare on the Rocks, or any other classical production you can get to that is above the High School level.

This assignment has a rolling due date, **but the response should be written *within one week of seeing the show***.

The submission process for this will be a word document attached to an email.

#### John Barton Video Takeaway Verbal Presentation (5%, [2 at 2.5% each])

Over the semester, we will watch all 9 John Barton videos. (They are super old but also frickin' awesome!) You will be required to offer a brief verbal response to two of the nine videos in front of the class. This response should focus on a key takeaway from the experience – what struck you? Why? What does it mean?

*Syllabus may change with appropriate notice*

### Paired Shakespeare Scene (20%)

You will be paired with a partner to perform a Shakespeare scene.

### Scary Halloween Monologue Performance (10%)

You will learn a scary Halloween appropriate Shakespeare monologue and present it to the class and possible guests on Halloween!

### Final Classical Verse Monologue Performance (15%)

For our class final, you will prepare and perform a classical monologue in verse. This may be a monologue by Shakespeare but does not have to be.

### Monologue Analysis (5%)

You will write an analysis for your final monologue.

There will be guidelines on blackboard for this analysis.

The submission process for this will be a word document attached to an email.

### Participation and Attendance (15% of grade)

You will be graded on your focus, willing participation, supportive attitude, and individual progress in daily class work. Respect and enthusiasm for the lessons and the work of your fellow actors is a crucial part of this class work. Attendance is also a key factor in this graded element.

### **Grading Scale**

You will be assigned a letter grade on each of the above assignments. Your final class grade is based on a weighted average of these grades (before any modification for attendance) according to the following scale.

A	=	3.50+
B	=	2.50 - 3.49
C	=	1.50 - 2.49
D	=	0.50 - 1.49
F	=	Less than .50

Extra Credit: As described above, you are required to see one classical play and write a response.

You may earn extra credit by seeing any additional show and writing an additional response. This includes any departmental show, UDT show, or any classical production above the high school level.

You may also earn extra credit if you attend the Martín Balmaceda Viewpoints masterclass and write a 350 word response on any takeaways from the experience.

*Syllabus may change with appropriate notice*



## Class Policies

**Attendance:** This class has mandatory in-person attendance. Your grade will be affected by any unexcused absences or lateness.

That said, the key to excused absence is written communication.

- If you are sick, you should not come to class and immediately send an email.
- If you have tested positive for covid, do not come to class and immediately send an email.
- If you (hopefully not) get into a car accident or have some other issue, immediately send an email.
- If you have any health or family crisis issue, attend to your needs and send an email.

In all these instances, the attendance issue will be excused.

If you need to be absent, you are still responsible for missed work. Absences do not change the due dates of assignments.

**Communication:** I rely heavily on email for communication. You must check your student email daily. We will also utilize Blackboard to centralize documents.

Note that most class assignments are required to be turned as an attachment to email. If you are not able to submit work this way, contact me immediately and we will work out an alternative.

**Touching:** Acting often requires touching. That said, permission for touch will be sought and boundaries will be respected. No violence or intimacy between actors will be required in this class. Students may choose to incorporate contact into their scenes or choose not to.

**The Space:** Please respect the space and keep it clean. No food or drink is allowed in the studio during class. Water, however, is encouraged.

**Phones and Devices:** You may use an electronic device to take class notes, but please do not use devices for any non class purpose.

If you need to work out of a script or side, you must have paper or book version of that material. You will not be allowed to read off tablet or phone.

**Attire:** Please wear clothes you can move in to every class. Please do not wear hats or head coverings except for religious purposes.

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**Late Work:** All written and online work is due on by the start of class on the listed due date. Work may be turned in at any time via email or in class as a hard copy. Written work turned in after the due date will be penalized 1 full letter grade. Written work turned in more than one week late will be penalized 2 full letter grades.

**Academic Dishonesty:** University Policy will be strictly adhered to and absolutely no academic impropriety will be tolerated. All transgressions of university policy including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, the unauthorized exchange of information for written assignments or tests, theft via the computer or infringement of the rights of other to academic freedom (i.e. disrupting class, disrespectful comments towards classmates or instructor) will result in a failing grade for this course as well as disciplinary procedures as adopted by the university and described in the current student handbook.

**Disabled Student Statement:** In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call [915-747-5148](tel:915-747-5148) for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you may have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and the Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.