



Acting Shakespeare I THEA 4313

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

Instructor: Jay Stratton
Class: M, W 10:30-11:50
Fox D071
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Office Hours
Anytime by appointment
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Required Texts: we will read LOTS of Shakespeare. The good news is, you can get the stuff anywhere including online.
We will also read two other plays – I will provide.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should:

1. Be able to read Shakespearean language more easily and more 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. Develop a greater understanding of the plays of Shakespeare and his peers.

Grading

Play Reading Responses (25% [5 plays at 5% each])

Over the course of the semester, we will read and analyze three plays by Shakespeare, one by one of Shakespeare's peers, and one contemporary play in verse. You will write a response to each play.
Details to follow.

Shakespeare Scene Performance #1 (15%)

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

Shakespeare Scene Analysis (5%)

You will write a brief analysis of your first Shakespeare scene.
Details to follow.

Monologue Performance (15%)

You will prepare a new classical monologue.

Monologue Analysis (5%)

You will write a brief analysis of your monologue.
Details to follow.

Shakespeare or Other Classical Scene Performance #2 (15%)

You will be paired with one or more partners to perform a final scene by Shakespeare or another classical playwright.

Participation (20% 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.

This includes creating a supportive environment for the student led class activities.

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

There are two ways to earn extra credit in this class. In descending order of value they are as follows:

1. Have perfect attendance. (Please see the attendance section in class policies.)
2. You will be awarded extra credit if you attend live performances of departmental shows you are not otherwise involved in and provide proof of your attendance. *Newies, Humans, Oedipus El Rey, Mama Mia*, and the World Dance Alliance performances are all eligible and there is no limit.

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice



Acting Shakespeare Class Policies

Communication: I rely heavily on email for communication. You **MUST** check your student email daily.

We will use Blackboard to store our plays and other documents.

There are two ways to submit written work: my favorite way to receive written assignments is a **WORD DOCUMENT** attached to an email. I also happily accept hard copies of written work. No other channel but these two is acceptable unless you make prior arrangement with me.

Attendance: The best way to trash your grade is with bad attendance. In the professional world, actors always show up and they are always on time. Nothing less is acceptable. Class starts on time; one minute after is late.

Please note, if you set your bag down and then go to the restroom and are not present for the start of class, you are late.

In this class, *absent and late are the same thing*. **You may be absent or late 3 times**, no questions asked. On your fourth attendance issue, your final grade will be reduced one letter grade. On your sixth attendance issue, your final grade will be reduced two letter grades. If you have eight or more attendance issues, you cannot receive a passing grade in the course.

At my discretion, an absence may be excused for legitimate medical reasons, professional obligations, or family emergency. The request for an excused absence must be asked for in writing. I may also ask for some kind of proof of the circumstances.

If you have an absence, you are still responsible for missed work. Absences do not change the due dates of assignments.

At my discretion, a student with **perfect attendance** may be given a *bonus to their final grade!*

The Space: No food or drink is allowed in the studio during class. The only exception is unflavored water. Water is allowed and encouraged.

Phones and Electronics: All phones and electronics should be turned off for the duration of class. If you take out a phone, tablet, or other electronic device without permission during class, you may be asked to leave and the day will count as absence. If a phone rings during class, you may be asked to leave and the day will count as absence. You may use a tablet or laptop to take notes, but not a phone. 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.

Touching: This course will require touching; however, safety is the first priority. ‘Safety’ in this instance refers to both physical safety and respect for personal boundaries. If you have trouble with being touched or touching someone else, tell me immediately. Absolutely no one should be touching anyone in an inappropriate manner. If you feel unsafe for any reason, tell me immediately, and we will adjust the exercise accordingly.

Attire: Wear clothes you can move in to every class. Be prepared to work BAREFOOT in every class, and be prepared to take off shoes and socks without complaint. You may be asked to participate in yoga or other physical activity. If you are not prepared to do so, you will not participate in class that day. No hats, hoods, head wraps, etc. No large earrings, loud jewelry, or tongue piercings. No JEANS. Trust me on this. If you wear a piece of attire for religious reasons, please come talk to me and give me something in writing; an exception will be made! If you have a legitimate MEDICAL reason not to work barefoot, let me know at the start of class.

Late Work: Written work is due by the beginning of class the scheduled calendar day. 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.

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