

**SPECIAL TOPICS IN DRAMA (ACTING GENRES, INDEPENDENT STUDY)**  
**THEA4317**  
**T 1:00-3:00, Room M404**  
**SPRING 2020**

Professor: Kim McKean  
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Office: Worrell 114  
Office Hours: T/Th 9:30-10:30 or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course is a practical study of monologue and scene work in heightened text. Coursework includes in-exercises, discussions, text analysis, monologue and scene work focused on playwrights including Chekhov, Strindberg, Pinter, Beckett, Wallace, Brecht, Genet, Shepard, Churchill, Kane, Mamet, and Ibsen.

**Learning Goals**

Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to:

- Articulate similarities and difference of different acting styles and genres, ranging from Russian to postmodern American drama.
- Demonstrate ability to connect to text of a myriad of styles
- Demonstrate ability to connect to and personalize ‘absurdist’ given circumstances
- Use full physical and vocal expressive range when acting in any style
- Demonstrate how pace and tempo affect performance
- Connect to (and share your work with) an audience when working on a myriad of styles.

**Required Texts**

*The Plays of Anton Chekhov* by Anton Chekhov  
*Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill  
*Ashes to Ashes and Other Plays* by Harold Pinter  
*Nine Plays of the Modern Theatre*  
*Four Plays* by Eugene Ionesco  
*Plays Four* by Caryl Churchill

**Recommended Texts**

*The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods* by Richard Brestoff  
*How to Stop Acting* by Harold Guskin  
*Playwrights and Acting: Acting methodologies for Brecht, Ionesco, Pinter, and Shepard* by James McTeague

**Evaluation Criteria**

All paperwork must be typed, double spaced, and printed.

1. Scene/Monologue 1.....	<b>10%</b>
2. Scene/Monologue 2.....	<b>10%</b>
3. Scene/Monologue 3.....	<b>10%</b>
4. Scene/Monologue 4.....	<b>10%</b>
5. Participation .....	<b>20%</b>
6. Work Responses.....	<b>20%</b>
7. Final.....	<b>20%</b>

## **Participation**

Active participation is vital to your growth as artists and to your success in this class. You will be expected to come to class on-time and fully prepared, actively engage in class discussions, and give your all to class exercises and scene work. Class periods will include exercises, scene work, and discussions. Absences, lateness, lack of preparation, or non-participation will lower your grade significantly—**each absence after TWO lowers your overall grade a whole letter grade. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.** Share your voice! We only get better by asking questions and taking risks.

## **Written Work Responses**

Over the course of the semester you will turn in three short papers or “Work Responses.” Responses can include questions/discoveries/responses to reading and in-class exercises, or something you noticed when working or watching a live theatrical production (related to course concepts). Specific due dates are listed below. Responses should be at least two pages, double spaced, and typed. No electronic copies will be accepted.

## **In-Class Exercises (Scene/Monologue Work)**

Includes all work done in class. You will be evaluated on preparation, work ethic, professional standards, and ability to apply course concepts. You are expected to memorize and rehearse your scenes outside of class.

## **Academic Integrity**

Any incident of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero on the assignment. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Please visit <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for more information.

## **Disability Accommodations**

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at UTEP provides students with disabilities, accommodations and support services to help them pursue their academic, graduation, and career goals. For more information, visit <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.

## **Subject Matter**

The scripts and scenes studied in this course deal with mature subject matters. Consequently, much of the discussion in class will require discussion of adult subject matter and language. If you have concerns, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. All classroom discussions must be held in a respectful and professional matter.

## **Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices allowed in class unless permission is given beforehand. Students using electronic devices in class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.