

Theatre 384

Course Syllabus – Spring 2017
Scene Study II

Instructor: Tyler Marchant

Course Time: Tuesday & Thursday 3:00 – 4:50pm

Classroom: NFAC 283

Office: NFAC 212

Email: tyler.marchant@uwsp.edu

Phone: 346-2530

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1pm – 2pm, or by appt.

Final Exam: Final Exam will be given during classes due to Senior Showcase

Required Texts:

Rental:

None

Purchase:

The Plays of Anton Chekhov

By: Paul Schmidt

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- apply and adapt new and learned acting styles and analysis.
- effectively trust your scene partner.
- integrate and utilize improvisation.
- create a performance using the work of early realism including Chekhov.
- work collaboratively to perform scenes utilizing methods & skills gained during the semester.

Coursework:

Each student will perform **three scenes** as well as a series of exercises for the class. Additional class work will vary depending on both the size and progress of the class. Students should understand a significant amount of time will be needed outside of class for rehearsal of acting material used throughout the course.

Each student will keep a **confidential** Artist Notebook to be turned in at any point at the instructor's request. You must bring your notebook to every class. **Artistic Notebooks must be designed/decorated on the front cover before the second week of classes begins, and designed/decorated on the back cover for class on May 4th.** Failure to provide notebook upon request will result in loss of 50 Total final points towards your final grade for each occurrence (as well as a zero for any assignment connected to the journal that is missing at the due date).

Notebooks should be divided clearly (and labeled) into five sections. These sections include:

1. Notes/Discussion/Assignments. This should include notes from lectures and discussion that occurs afterward. Include assignments, due dates, and notes from your reading of assigned pages.

2. Feedback. This should include notes/thoughts about the work of your classmates, as well as reflections upon your own performances.
3. Rehearsal Log. This should include:
 - a. Goal for your rehearsal.
 - b. How long did you rehearse, and where?
 - c. Was the goal achieved? Yes or no, and WHY?
 - d. What is the new goal for the next rehearsal? What will you bring new to the next rehearsal opportunity?
4. Artistic Prompts. I will ask you a question each day of class. Please write the question and answer it before the next class session.
5. Inspiration & Reflection. This is your “golden box.” This might include quotes, clippings, drawings, any material (visual or written) related or unrelated to your current work that you wish to save for future reference. This is not a diary. It’s an artistic journal. Ideas you might include (this is just to get you thinking – this can be anything you want it to be!):
 - a. Conversations about theatre/art/life that you have with others.
 - b. Information about new shows that are opening. Reviews. Reflections on the work you see at the university production season, and at work you see outside the university.
 - c. Images. What do you see that inspires you that you might create yourself, or see somewhere that capture you? Perhaps an image from the internet, magazine or news article. Or maybe it’s a watercolor or drawing that you make for yourself.
 - d. Stream of consciousness writing.
 - e. Reflections on your ongoing process of acting.
 - f. Challenges and achievements.

Recording your observations and ideas on a regular basis is a good habit to develop. You will find that if you imagine that you are writing for yourself, and not to meet a class requirement, this section of the notebook will be very useful to you. You must show a consistent commitment to this section of the journal and you should plan to have a minimum of three entries per week.

There will be specific assignments given in class that must be included in the notebook, and there should be an entry *for each class session* – even if you miss class, you are responsible for getting the notes and including those in your notebook. **In order to get full credit for the notebook, you must have each class dated as well as numbered in order for clear identification within the first section of the Artistic Journal. (Ex. 9.18.08 Class # 3)** I should be able to go through your notebook and clearly see each class entry. **Each new class should start on the top of a new page.**

Your notebook will be used as a reference for you and the instructor, and will be graded based on depth and scope of the work within the five sections. For each class not outlined or assignment not completed in notebook, 50 points will be taken off your Total final points.

Grading:

Grading will be out of 1000 points.

Assignments:

Participation/Collaboration/Ensemble Building	100 Points
Scene Performance #1	200 Points
Scene Performance #2	200 Points
Scene Performance #3	200 Points
Exercises	100 Points
Quiz/Journal	200 Points

Total	1000 Points
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***Please note: assignments and/ or points assigned per project may alter due to class size, overall class achievement, and/ or other unforeseen circumstances.*

Range in Percentile	Grade Letter
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
60-64	D
0-59	F

Grading Criteria:

The evaluation of this course will be given through the traditional “A” through “F” grading system. It is imperative that each of these letter grades is clearly defined in order for students to understand why a particular grade was given. It is also important to realize that grades are derived from objective evaluation and should not be perceived solely as negative feedback. The following is an index of the criteria for each letter grade:

A (90 – 100%) The student demonstrated an intellectual understanding of the material covered and incorporated the intellectual work into his/her performance. The student attended and actively participated in class and completed the assignments within the given time frame. The student was consistently prepared for class and showed strong improvement throughout the semester.

B (80 – 89%)The student understood and completed the assignments, but was unable to rectify some of the smaller problems. The student completed the assignments

well, exceeding the minimum requirements. The student was present during class and actively participated. The grade of “B” is very good: above average improvement.

C (70 – 79%) The student attended and participated in class, followed through on feedback, and made an effort to finish requirements. He/She improved enough to fulfill the minimum requirements. The grade of “C” is average.

D (60 – 69%) The student attempted to complete the assignments, but was unable to achieve some of the requirements. The “D” grade reflects the minimal amount of effort/improvement to receive a passing grade.

F (below 60%) The student did not attend all the class periods nor did he/she adhere to the assignment guidelines. The student did not adequately participate in class. No improvement was seen.

Class Policies:

- Attendance at all Faculty directed Theatre & Dance productions is mandatory.
- **Department Costume and Property Collection Use:** Students may use costumes or properties for class purposes. A student may not borrow a prop or costume unless it is integral to their classwork and not readily available (for example: a weapon or corset could be borrowed, a coffee cup could not). The instructor of the course must first approve the object to be borrowed and then the student must send an email to Wendy Dolan for costume piece or Scott Wirtz-Olsen for the prop or Jared Hanlin for any weapons. The instructor must be copied on the email.
- Everything handed in must be **typed** (unless otherwise stated) **stapled** if more than one page and with your name on it. Failure to do so, will be ½ (50%) **late penalty**.
- Absolutely no flip-flops or high heels (unless using specifically in scene work.)
- Class requires regular attendance and participation. After two absences, **whether excused or unexcused**, your grade will be dropped one letter grade per absence.
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- Attendance on performance days: Failure to deliver your performance on the assigned day results in a zero for that performance assignment. In addition, you must be on time the day you present your performance. If not, you will not present your performance. **There will be no make-up performances.** If you are performing in a scene and your partner(s) does not attend the performance day, the instructor will make arrangements **ONLY FOR THE MEMBER(S) OF THE GROUP WHO WERE PRESENT AT THE ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED PERFORMANCE TIME.**
- Be on time for class (Two late arrivals equal one absence).
- **No late assignments are accepted.** Failure to hand in an assignment at the beginning of class on the due date will result in a zero for that assignment.
- Dress appropriately for your class/performance – you may get dirty you will get sweaty.

- All performances must be memorized, unless otherwise noted.
- You will lose 25 points from your Total grade points if your cell phone or pager disrupts the class.
- Active listening and participation are required.
- You are responsible for the information sent to you in your UWSP e-mail. Please check your UWSP e-mail daily for class updates.
- Students are responsible for all relevant policies according to the University Catalog and the UWSP Student Handbook.
- All papers must be typed, double-spaced, using MLA style. All sources must be cited. In addition, all papers will be graded on grammar, proper citation, and content.
- All students are expected to prepare for class by completing all the necessary readings for class and being prepared for all class assignments.
- You must have the full script for any monologue and/or scene assignments/performances you work with in class.
- Do your own work. Plagiarism, with print or Internet sources (using another person's ideas or expressions in your writings or speeches without acknowledging the source) carries severe penalties, ranging from a zero for the assignment to failure of the course. Please see UWSP guidelines and academic misconduct policies for further information.