

**PERIOD ACTING I (THEATRE 481)**  
**FALL 2017**  
**TR 11:00 – 12:50**  
**NFAC 283**

**INSTRUCTOR: STEPHEN TROVILLION SMITH**  
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**OFFICE: NFAC #171**  
**OFFICE HOUR: 2:00 – 2:55 THURSDAYS**

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### ***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- integrate all previous voice, movement and acting work into a method that will meet the expanded demands of classical theatre, especially the works of William Shakespeare.
- utilize scansion and rhetorical devices to analyze and interpret verse.
- apply and adapt learned script analysis techniques to classical drama.
- utilize research to create a character set within a specific period not our own.
- create a performance using a process-based method that is not simply geared to result but to exploration and risk.
- work collaboratively using the theatrical vernacular (including rhetoric) to facilitate achievement of these learning outcomes.

### ***COURSEWORK***

- We will begin with group classroom presentations of research involving THE ELIZABETHAN PERIOD. These will focus on English political history, social life, theatre (architecture, costuming, etc.) and drama (Shakespeare, Marlow, et al).
- While presentations are being researched, we will study and discuss SCANSION and RHETORIC. *There will be a written rhetoric test following our discussion.*
- During research, study of rhetoric and presentations, you should choose and memorize a SONNET. We will work with the sonnets to learn to use heightened language to express heightened emotion.

## ***COURSEWORK CONTINUED***

- While we are working with the sonnets, you should choose a MONOLOGUE. We will work with monologues to learn to use heightened language to express heightened emotion within the context of a specific character developed from the given circumstances.
- While we are working on the monologues, you should choose a SCENE. We will use scene work to learn the use of heightened language and emotion within the context of character to relate to a scene partner.
- Sonnets will be worked once in class. You should hand in a scanned copy of your sonnet on the day you perform it. The sonnet must be memorized.
- Monologues will be worked twice in class and must be memorized. You must email me an electronic copy of your Planes of the Role paper for the monologue by 5:00 p.m. the day before your first showing. On the day of the first showing, you will hand in a hard copy of the monologue with scansion marked and your planes of the role paper that includes a one paragraph synopsis of the play up to the point of your monologue. Your paper should also include your intention for the scene, your emotional prep and any other research you wish to include. After the showing and notes, you will receive the materials back for rehearsal and revision. At the second/final showing, you will hand in the scanned copy of your monologue, your planes of the role paper with synopsis and a bulleted list of the notes you received after your first showing. Your planes paper should be updated to include any changes made necessary by your notes and your rehearsal choices. *If you are missing your scanned copy of the monologue or any part of your paper including the bulleted list of notes for my reference during your second showing, your grade will be lowered one full letter.* The paper will be graded and returned to you; your grade will be a synthesis of your research (the paper and scansion) and the showing (how you used your research and rehearsal to create a character/performance).
- Your scenes will also be worked twice in class and must be memorized. The process for your scene is the same as the monologue (including electronic pre-submission of paper) with one addition: *your planes of the role paper must also include a rehearsal log documenting the time you spent working with your scene partner.* If you are missing any of the required materials for either showing (see above) your grade will be lowered one full letter. Your grade will again be a synthesis of your research and the showing.

## ***SCENE REHEARSAL POLICY***

It is up to you to determine how much time you need to present a memorized scene with carefully considered choices and effective staging. It is recommended that at least four hours are necessary to present an adequate first showing and the same amount to integrate the notes from the first showing before presenting the final performance of the scene. If you feel that your scene partner is not fulfilling their obligation in some way during the rehearsal process (not showing up, not being prepared, etc.) you should speak first to them and then to me. *If you do not do so and your performance suffers, you may not come to me afterwards and ask for a grade accommodation.*

## ***COSTUME, WEAPON AND PROP BORROWING POLICY***

You may not borrow a costume, weapon or prop unless it is integral to your monologue or scene and unavailable to purchase through regular means (for example: a weapon, corset, etc.). I must first approve the object to be borrowed and then you must send an email to Cece for the costume piece, Jared for the weapon and/or Sarah for the prop. I must be copied on the email. You are responsible for following any additional procedures set by Cece, Jared and/or Sarah, especially affecting safe storage and timely return of the object borrowed.

## ***GRADING***

- Grading will be based on:

Rhetoric Test and Sonnet	25%
Monologue	25%
Scene	25%
Attitude, Presentations, Peer Feedback	25%

## ***ABSENCE POLICY***

You are allowed two absences per semester. These excused absences are to cover illness or family emergency. These absences are in addition to official university holidays and university condoned religious holidays. Following the second absence, your grade will be lowered one grade level for every additional absence.

## ***PHYSICAL CONTACT***

This class may require physical contact. You should be aware that you may be physically touched by others in the class and/or me. Please let me know if this is an issue for any reason.

## ***OFFICE HOUR***

My office hour is 2:00 – 2:55 on Thursdays. If you cannot make this time, you may schedule an alternate time by speaking to me after class or by email. Do not consider a meeting confirmed until we have communicated directly.

## ***EMERGENCY PROCEDURES***

- See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Procedures at [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures) for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.
- See safety procedures at <https://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/preparedness/default.aspx>

## ***REQUIRED TEXT***

The Riverside Shakespeare, Second Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston, New York.