

Southeast Missouri State University

Department: Department of Theatre & Dance **Course No.:** TH 330

Title of Course: Acting III **New**

I. Catalog Descriptions and Credit Hours of Course:

An advanced Stanislavski and RSC-based exercise/scene-study course designed to give actors assistance in handling period texts, particularly those written by William Shakespeare. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisite(s):

TH 115; TH 120; or consent of instructor.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- To give actors assistance in handling both verse and prose in period texts, particularly those written by William Shakespeare;
- To expose students to specific exercises which address the difficulties of combining a Stanislavski-based contemporary approach with the demands of heightened language and style.
- To further incorporate the use of self-evaluation as a primary means for improvement;
- To enhance actors' rehearsal and performance technique in handling both set speeches/soliloquies and scene-study.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- To attend all classes and participate fully in all discussions and exercises;
- To complete all outside assignments in a timely fashion and to the best of their ability;
- To maintain a productive and collegial environment;
- To remain open and respectful of new and conflicting ideas;
- To respectfully challenge existing thought and accepted ideas;
- To take risks with all creative and intellectual endeavors.

V. Course Outline:

Week 1	The Two Traditions: Elizabethan & Modern Acting
Week 2	Shakespeare's Sonnets
Week 3	Using the Verse
Weeks 4 – 5	Using the Prose & Set Speeches & Soliloquies
Week 6	Shakespeare in Production
Weeks 7 – 8	Workshop & Presentation of Scene Study #1
Weeks 9 – 10	Contemporary Shakespeare
Weeks 11-12	Workshop & Presentation of Scene Study #2
Weeks 13 – 15	Rehearsal of Elizabethan Showcase
Final	Elizabethan Showcase

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

- *Playing Shakespeare*, by John Barton
- *Shakescenes*, edited by John Russell Brown
- *Acting with Style*, by John Harrop & Sabin R. Epstein
- *Shakespeare without Fear*, by Joseph Olivieri

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- Participation (20%)
- Sonnet (5%)
- Scene Study #1 (20%)
- Analysis/Journal #1 (5%)
- Scene Study #2 (20%)
- Analysis/Journal #2 (5%)
- Elizabethan Showcase (25%)