

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL INTERPRETATION Course Syllabus – Spring 2022

Course Title: Oral Interp **Course:** THEA 358 **Format:** Hybrid
Credits: 3 **Meeting Times:** T/Th (12:40 - 1:55pm)
Classroom: Pearson 2115 **Instructor:** Tiffany Antone (She/Her/Hers)
Email: TLAntone@iastate.edu **Phone:** 515-294-1144 **Office:** CARVER 0328
Office Hours: T/Th 2-3 and virtually by apt (More in-person office hours will be added after Feb 15)

CONTACTING ME:



- I make every effort to respond to email within 24 hours, Mon-Fri, however, I tend not to check my work email after 7pm. If you have a concern about something due the next day, don't wait till the last second to email me about it.
- When emailing me, please address me by name. (Never begin professional/academic emails with "Hey" or "Yo")

- If you have problems with Canvas, please contact the IT department for assistance.
- I will hold both in-person and virtual office hours this semester. In-person meetings will take place either outside or in the Theatre office conference room.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *ORAL INTERPRETATION, 13th edition by Timothy Gura*
**Additional reading materials (open source and online articles) will be posted in Canvas*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles of oral interpretation and storytelling, with practice in literary analysis and performance.

OVERVIEW

The benefits of performance are often discussed in terms of the audience, of the public community that views it. But performance is not only what happens in front of an audience. For the performer, the act of performance can also be a method for learning and exploring, another way of knowing. The process calls for critical and creative thinking, skill-building, analysis, and interpretation in order to make artistic choices that effectively communicate meaning and intention. This interdisciplinary course provides the opportunity for students to actively explore the creative process and engage in the study of written texts in the context of embodying and bringing these texts to life. Readings, discussions, and assignments focus on analysis, interpretation, and performance of texts as a way of knowing, as a way of communicating, and as a way of sharing understanding and meaning.

LEARNING GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Students who fully commit to and engage in the work of this course:

- Will be able to identify specific qualities in literature and analyze the pieces selected in terms of intellectual and emotional content.
- Will be able to identify the vocal and physical qualities needed to best communicate these pieces of literature to an audience.
- Will improve performance skills through the practice of interpreting literature before an audience.
- Will sharpen critical abilities through listening to and engaging with the



performances of others.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is hybrid, which means it will take place both online AND in-person.

Please see the orientation module in Canvas for additional technology information.

CLASSROOM CONSIDERATIONS:

We will spend time in class learning and practicing various movement, voice, and breathing techniques.

We will try to conduct big breath-work days outdoors, weather permitting. Make sure to dress comfortably/ wear sunscreen on those days and make health a priority!



FACE MASKS ENCOURAGED: Because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, all students are encouraged—but not required—to wear face masks, consistent with current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Further information on the proper use of face masks is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>.

VACCINATIONS ENCOURAGED: All students are encouraged to receive a vaccination against COVID-19.

Multiple locations are available on campus for free, convenient vaccination. Further information is available at: <https://web.iastate.edu/safety/updates/covid19/vaccinations>. Vaccinations may also be obtained from health care providers and pharmacies.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING ENCOURAGED FOR UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS: Classrooms and other campus spaces are operating at normal capacities, and physical distancing by faculty, staff, students, and visitors to campus is not required. However, unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to continue to physically distance themselves from others when possible

FEEDBACK: Each student will be expected to not only receive, but also give constructive feedback. Emotionally and socially prepare yourself to enter into a room in which all *constructive* feedback has a place and is encouraged. Listening to/working with feedback is a fundamental part of our personal evolution, both as presenters and as human beings. Don't be afraid to ask questions when feedback is confusing & remember that feedback in this class is always designed to help you progress through the material.

COLLEGIALITY:

It is VITAL that students display respect towards one another in this class. Creative work does not flourish in harsh, negative, or overly critical environments. In this class we will practice outstanding audience skills and hone the art of giving/receiving creative feedback. Students who do not give their attention to/respect their peers' work will lose points.

Students are responsible for living the tenets established in ISU's Principles of Community: Respect, Purpose, Cooperation, Richness of Diversity, Freedom from discrimination, and the Honest and respectful expression of ideas. Visit [ISU's Principles of Community](http://www.diversity.iastate.edu/principles-of-community) website (<http://www.diversity.iastate.edu/principles-of-community>)

GRADING

Oral Interpretation is a creative skill, but also a technical one. This is a participation-based and individualized growth-oriented class. While performing is the goal of an actor, a class in acting can benefit other aspects of your life, both professionally and personally. Students will be graded on completing each assignment's required creative and technical elements as well as each student's growth and progress as a performer.

****It is very important to remember that since this a performance based course, grading is often subjective. In a performance class, it can be tempting to compare yourself to your peers. In other classes, you don't watch your peers perform their homework, so you don't have this temptation. The work we do in theatre is done out loud, in-person, and in front of an audience. Remember then, that each person's prior experience (or lack thereof) will effect the work they bring to class, and that we enter this class at different places on our theatrical journey as a result. It is important to keep this in mind and resist the urge to evaluate your own progress based on that of your peers'. Additionally, do not seek perfection in regards to your performances—perfection is just a myth. Your progress/process is more important than a final, "perfect" product.** (See "Do Over" Days below)**

Remember: In Theatre, creative risk taking will always yield bigger rewards than "playing it safe". In this class, we will strive towards boldness, creative freedom, and practicing public vulnerability in order to create dynamic public performance! It will also be FUN! Bring your sense of adventure and get ready to step outside your comfort zones!

COURSE GRADING SCALE

A-to A= 90-100% Exceptional work: Always prepared; extensive outside-of-class preparation; self-motivated. Active, positive contributor to class. Punctual; always present. Demonstrates significant improvements in skill and knowledge during semester.

B-to B+ = 80-89% Good work: Always prepared; significant outside-of-class preparation, self-motivated. Punctual; always present. Positive contributor to class. Demonstrates notable improvement in skills and knowledge during semester.

C-to C+ = 70-79% Average work: Generally prepared; adequate outside-of-class preparation; often self-motivated. Often contributes to class. Punctual; almost always present. Demonstrates some improvement in skills and knowledge during semester.

D-to D+ = 60-69% Below average work: Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation; rarely self-motivated. Seldom contributes to class, and/or may have negative attitude. Sometimes late; some absences. Little skill and knowledge improvement demonstrated during semester.

F = 59% and below. Unacceptable work: Rarely prepared and lacks adequate outside-of-class preparation; not motivated. Does not contribute to class and/or may have negative attitude. Not punctual; several absences. Virtually no demonstrated growth in skills and knowledge.

(+ and -grades will be assigned on the following scale: percentages ending in a 0-2 will result in a -; percentages ending in 7-9 will result in a +. Example: 70-72%=C-, 73-76%=C, 77-79=C+)

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION POINTS

This is a performance-based class and attendance is mandatory*. Theatre is a collaborative art. To learn to perform, you must be here and participate. The participation and enthusiasm of each member in this class contributes to the success of the whole. Show up (on time), engage with class discussions, invite one another into the conversation, and be present for one another!

PARTICIPATION POINTS WILL BE AWARDED USING THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

Exceptional (100pts) - Student has ZERO absences and is an active, positive contributor to class.

Above Average (90pts) - Student has accumulated no more than three absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

Good (80pts) - Student has accumulated no more than four absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

Average (70pts) - Student has accumulated no more than five absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

Below Average (60pts) - Student has accumulated no more than six absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

*Excused Absences do NOT count against your Participation grade - these include school sanctioned absences, absences due to medically documented illness, or family emergencies. Remember that you have up to three absences before this grade dips below an "A". **Please do NOT come to class if you are contagious with anything!**

**Extenuating Circumstances: Students experiencing family crisis or prolonged medical absences may be offered an additional assignment to help make up a deficit of participation points on a case by case basis and at the discretion of the professor.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due in class on the day assigned. Work due on the date of campus-sanctioned activity absences must be turned in prior to the absence date. Students are responsible for making up all work missed because of absences.

Each assignment will be covered in class with detailed guidelines given for each. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they are completing each assignment as outlined in order to earn full points. Assignments will be discussed in class AND posted in Canvas. Please make sure you have this course bookmarked in Canvas, with course notifications turned ON

PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS are graded using the following scale:

Above Average work - Student meets all assignment objectives with aplomb, or only a few minor missteps.

Average Work - Student is mostly meeting assignment objectives, There is clear effort and intentionality in their work, even if the performance is "unpolished."

Not Yet There - Student has shown up for their performance, but is missing key objectives and/or under-prepared. Student has room for improvement and is encouraged to continue working on the assignment in order to take advantage of "Do-Over" days for the opportunity to earn a higher grade.

“DO-OVER” DAYS - This semester I will offer two “Do-Over” days for students wishing to pursue improved marks on their performance assignments. *This pertains ONLY to performance assignments and is not applicable to written work.*

LATE WORK POLICY

I understand that even in the best of times, students get overwhelmed and can fall behind. This semester will undoubtedly include challenges for many of us. If you encounter challenges (health related or otherwise) please message me so that I can do my best to help you stay on track. In general:

- Late work turned in up to 7 days past due date is eligible for 50% credit
- This policy ONLY applies to written assignments.
- This policy DOES NOT apply to in-class performances. If you are not in attendance on your scheduled performance day, you will receive a 0 on that assignment. Exceptions will only be made under extenuating circumstances (If you are sick/contagious or in case of medical/family emergency)

If you start to fall behind in this class, the best thing you can do is talk to me! I want everyone in this class to be successful - but I can only help if you let me know when you're having trouble.

KEEP IN MIND: Late work is only eligible for up to 50% credit. That means that if you do an outstanding job on the assignment, but it is late*, you can still only earn 50%. If you do a poor job on the assignment and turn it in late, you will most likely earn less than 50%. If you take advantage of this policy on too many assignments, it WILL negatively impact your grade and you may not pass the course.

**Don't Panic - Assignments coming in an hour or two past the due date/time will NOT be penalized. IF you have an EXCUSED absence for a performance day, it is your responsibility to communicate with the professor & your scene partner(s) a time to make up the performance before we move to the next assignment.*

FLEXIBILITY: As theatre artists, learning to be flexible—both physically and in life— is an asset. During this time of global uncertainty, it is important that we remember this and lean into it when necessary. Although the course syllabus has been carefully laid out, it is entirely plausible that we will need to be adaptive/responsive to circumstances outside our control. Changes will be clearly communicated. Let us foster a culture of grace and understanding in this class, so that we may overcome any challenges together.

PROJECT LIST:

Each assignment will be covered in class with detailed guidelines given for each. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they are completing each assignment as outlined and turning them in on time in order to earn full points.

Remember that this is 300 level course and is primarily project based. You will be working on multiple projects at once. It will benefit you to calendar your time well in advance of due dates so that you don't get overwhelmed.

*The following is a brief list of class projects/assignments. Additional details for each will be covered in class and posted on Canvas. *To avoid repetition in selections, all pieces need to be approved prior to performance by the instructor.**

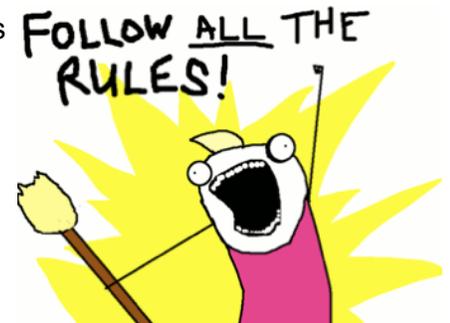
- **Personal Intro (25pts)**

Students will prepare and perform a short personal introduction

- **Bear Snores On (150 pts)**
Students will perform Bear Snores On
- **Monologue (150 pts)**
Students will select and perform a 1-2 minute monologue.
- **Lists! Assignment (100 pts)**
Students will create/perform list poems
- **Poetry (200 pts)**
Students will create a 6-8 minute poetry program revolving around a specific theme. These poems can be of a traditional or modern poetic style.
- **Group Performance (200 pts)**
Students will create a 8-12 minute group performance
- **Critical Analysis (125 pts in total)**
For the 3 primary performance assignments, you will complete a 1-2 page critical analysis of your selected work. (25 pts each) You will also complete a final, cumulative analysis/synthesis of the semester. (50 pts)
- **Performance Critiques (150 pts in total)**
In addition to these primary oral interpretation assignments, you will also turn in 2 short (2-3 pages) critiques of 2 different text-based performances attended this semester (75 pts each) A 3rd text-based performance can be attended/written about for 50 pts extra credit!
- **Process Reports (375 pts total)**
These are weekly creative challenges and/or reading responses designed to increase understanding/practice of course material, due each Sunday in Canvas. 25 pts each week.
- **Supplemental Assignments (125 pts)**
Students will complete supplemental assignments to support learning objectives and prepare for success on larger projects.

GENERAL ETIQUETTE REQUIREMENTS:

- ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES or TEXTING...not even on silent. Disruption of class by either will result in a penalty of -25 points.
- A creative environment is one in which all students feel safe to fail – recordings of *any* kind (audio, visual, live-stream, etc.) are strictly prohibited and any student found to be in violation of this rule will be dropped one letter grade for the first offense, and dismissed from the class for the second. **The only exception to this is on performance days IF (AND ONLY IF) a student asks to have their performance recorded.**
- Laptops: If during class time you use a laptop for activities other than class work/taking notes, you will be required to shut it down and will not be permitted to bring the laptop to class again for the remainder of the semester.
 - *Many of you are future educators - I expect you to understand better than most how detrimental (and inconsiderate) it is to allow outside distractions to steal focus from our class time.*
- No eating during class
- No tobacco use in class.
- No sleeping in class.



- Material selected for performance in this class may contain strong language/mature content: profanities, violence, sexual terms, religious references and other mature themes/elements may be presented in this class. Creative mediums explore the human condition, and the human condition is not always pretty. Expect to examine material that challenges you as both a performer and as an audience member **It is a violation of copyright law to alter/change/omit copyrighted material. Keep this in mind when you select your pieces.** If you have any problems/questions about this please see me.
- When attending theatre performances (both for those taking place in-person and online) arrive on time, and be attentive & respectful.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: As a land-grant institution, we are committed to the caretaking of this land and would like to begin this event by acknowledging those who have previously taken care of the land on which we gather. Before this site became Iowa State University, it was the ancestral lands and territory of the Baxoje (bah-kho-dzhe), or Ioway Nation. The United States obtained the land from the Meskwaki and Sauk nations in the Treaty of 1842. We wish to recognize our obligations to this land and to the people who took care of it, as well as to the 17,000 Native people who live in Iowa today.

ACCESSIBILITY: Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to meet with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes. Eligible students will be provided with a Notification Letter for each course and reasonable accommodations will be arranged after timely delivery of the Notification Letter to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible. SAS, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu. Contact SAS by email at accessibility@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Please know that the following on-campus services are available for assistance regarding your physical, intellectual, occupational, spiritual, environmental, financial, social, and/or emotional needs:

- Student Wellness call (515) 294-1099 or via website (<http://studentwellness.iastate.edu>)
- Thielen Student Health Center call (515) 294-5801 (24/7 Medical Advice) or via website (<http://www.cyclonehealth.org>)
- Student Counseling Services call (515) 294-5056 or via website (<https://counseling.iastate.edu>)
- Recreation Services call (515) 294-4980 or via website (<http://recservices.iastate.edu>).
- Students dealing with heightened feelings of sadness or hopelessness, thoughts of harm or suicide, or increased anxiety may contact the ISU Crisis Text Line (Text ISU to 741-741) or contact the ISU Police Department (515) 294-4428.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARIZING: Plagiarism is defined as copying or paraphrasing the ideas of others and passing them off as your own. Cheating and plagiarism are very serious issues. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing in this class will automatically receive a “0” on the assignment and be

turned into the Academic Dishonesty Committee. Please see the student handbook for more information. If you have any question about whether you are plagiarizing an assignment, please ask me about it before you turn it in. The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office: <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

WRITING AND MEDIA CENTER ASSISTANCE: The Writing and Media Center (WMC) helps students become effective, confident communicators by supporting students during all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming to revising, as well as with oral, visual, and electronic communication. The WMC offers one-on-one and group consultations online—to register and schedule an appointment, see <https://iastate.mywconline.com/>. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.wmc.dso.iastate.edu> or emailwritectr@iastate.edu.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION: Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION: If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

PREP WEEK: This class follows the Iowa State University Pead Week guidelines as outlined in <http://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#examinationstext>

CLASSROOM DISRUPTION: At the discretion of the instructor, disruptive conduct includes a single serious incident or persistent conduct that unreasonably interrupts, impedes, obstructs, and/or interferes with the educational process. Disruptive conduct may be physical and/or expressive in nature and may occur in person or in a virtual setting. Examples of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following: speaking without being recognized, interrupting, or talking over others; arrival to class late or leaving early without instructor permission; the use of technology, such as cell phones, computers, or other devices, without instructor permission, particularly in uses unrelated to course content; creation of loud or distracting noises either carelessly or with intent to disrupt; eating, sleeping, or carrying out other personal activities in class that are unrelated to course content without instructor permission; non-protected malicious or harassing or bullying speech or actions directed at instructors or students, such as personal insults, ad hominem attacks, name-calling, other abusive or ridiculing comments, or threats; gratuitous use of cursing/expletives or other speech that is not relevant to class discussion; inappropriate physical contact or threats of inappropriate physical contact directed at instructors or students; refusal to comply with instructor's request for appropriate conduct.

HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu
