

# Acting III

Theatre 451, 3 Credits  
Course Syllabus, Fall 2020  
Iowa State University

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“Know the rules well, so you can break them effectively.”  
**Dalai Lama**

**Course Description:** Analysis and practice of period scenes and texts.

**Prerequisites:** THTR 251 and 351 or equivalent

## **Instructor Information:**

**Instructor:** Amanda Petefish-Schrag

**Student Hours:** M & W 10-11:30AM, 2-3:30PM Additional hours may be scheduled by appointment.  
(This semester, all student office hours will be via Zoom or phone.)

**Office Phone:** 515-294-8179

**Office Location:** 0318 Carver

**E-mail:** apschrage@iastate.edu

**Meeting Information:** T R 2:10-3:25pm.

Synchronous Online Learning Activities will occur using Zoom.

Face to Face Learning Activities will be in Fisher 0213 (Fisher Theatre Stage)

## **Your Name and Identity Matters**

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me accordingly early in the semester so that I can make appropriate changes to my records.

This can also be done via the Student Inventory in our Orientation Module (Canvas).

## **Course Objectives:**

- Recognize the interrelationship between personal and period style.
- Identify the characteristics of personal style and acting style from various historical traditions/practices.
- Employ physical and vocal performance techniques related to period style.
- Apply components of personal style and acting style from various historical traditions/practices to practical acting situations and cooperative work processes.
- Generate specific, imaginative acting choices that work effectively for a variety of audiences.

## **Content:**

- The concept of “style” as a construct.
- The “character mask.”
- Period style explorations and projects from multiple dramatic traditions.
- Personal style exploration, analysis, and experimentation.

**Methods of Instruction:** This class involves intellectual and experiential exploration of acting style and techniques. The plan of study for this course includes reading and analysis activities; demonstrations, explorations, discussions, and laboratory activities designed to help students put theory into practice;

rehearsal activities; performance presentations, response, and reflection. Both online and face-to-face learning activities will be used.

**Text Information:**

Barton, Robert. *Style for Actors*

Bates, Jaisey. *Sing*

Available through New Play Exchange\*

Behn, Aphra. *The Rover or The Banished Cavaliers*

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/21339/21339-h/files/rover.html>

De Vega, Lope. *Fuente Ovejuna*

[https://archive.org/stream/fuenteovejuna00vega/fuenteovejuna00vega\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/fuenteovejuna00vega/fuenteovejuna00vega_djvu.txt) OR

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1njkgg>

De Castro y Bellvis, Guillén. *The Force of Habit*

<http://diversifyingtheclassics.humanities.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Force-of-Habit.pdf>

Euripides. *The Trojan Women*.

[http://classics.mit.edu/Euripides/troj\\_women.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Euripides/troj_women.html)

Izumi, Julia. *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea*

Available through New Play Exchange\*

Osborne-Lee, Azure D. "Not Here for the Bard: Candor from a Shakespeare Detractor"

<https://howlround.com/not-here-bard>

Robinson, Leajato. *The Sh-ames (Shakespeare Games)*

Available through New Play Exchange\*

Shakespeare, William, adapted and translated by Caridad Svitch. *King Henry XIII*

Available through New Play Exchange\*

Williams, Olivia. *Wax (a monologue)*

Available through New Play Exchange\*

\*Plays available from New Play Exchange may be accessed through Parks Library using the following link:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/iastate.edu?url=https://newplayexchange.org/dashboard>.

**Course Organization and Evaluation:**

This course is arranged into learning modules that each contain multiple activities/projects. (See Canvas). In most modules, you will be able to select from a "menu" of learning activities/projects that will help you reach the course learning outcomes.

The modules are sequential, meaning you must complete activities in one module before moving on to the next.

Orientation Module	1-35 pts possible
Module One: What is Style?	1-50 pts possible
Module Two: Who am I? (Personal Style)	1-125 pts possible
Module Three: What World is This? (Exploring and Analyzing)	1-600 pts possible
Module Four: Who am I Now? (Creating and Adapting)	1-600 pts possible

**Grading Scale:**

A 930 pts and above	A- 900-929 pts
B+ 870-899 pts	B 830-869 pts
C+ 770-799 pts	B- 800-829 pts
D+ 670-699 pts	C 730-769 pts
F 599 and below	C- 700-729 pts
	D 630-669 pts
	D- 600-629 pts

**Engagement and Participation:** In this course, you will have multiple opportunities to choose your own learning activities and projects from our course “menu” (located in our Canvas modules). You are welcomed and encouraged to consult with me as your course instructor when choosing learning activities. If you have a particular passion or area of interest, let me know so that we can work together to find learning projects that are both relevant and connected to your goals and needs for the semester.

Active course engagement is vital to success in this class. Prepare to participate every week in the online activities (asynchronous and synchronous) – both those that are required - these are largely found in the first few weeks of class - and those that you select. Prepare necessary materials in advance of synchronous online learning activities such as discussions, explorations, and performances; stay active in threaded discussions and other online opportunities to share and reflect on your work and progress.

Participate in face to face learning activities as you are able and feel comfortable doing so. I understand that the realities of Covid-19 may result in increased anxiety or concern about in-person learning. This is valid. If you feel unsafe, or uncomfortable meeting in person, you can opt for an alternate learning activity at any time – you do not need my permission, a diagnosed illness, or a doctor’s excuse. Please do, however, let me know if you are ill and unable to participate for an extended period so that I can help you moving forward.

When participating in Face-to-Face activities, you must wear a mask at all times. Many of our face-to-face activities will happen outside, so please dress for movement and comfortability whatever weather conditions happen to be occurring that day. If you are feeling ill, (even a little ill) it is important that you stay home.

#### **Class Climate and Content Warning**

All of us should feel responsible for creating a space that exemplifies the tenets of ISU’s Principles of Community: Respect, Purpose, Cooperation, Richness of Diversity, Freedom from discrimination, and the Honest and respectful expression of ideas.

Our course readings, discussions, and performances sometimes focus on mature, and potentially challenging topics. Navigating these topics might trigger strong feelings and responses —anger, discomfort, anxiety, confusion, excitement, humor, laughter, and tears.

In these interactions, be respectful (even when you strongly disagree) and mindful of the ways that our identities position us in the classroom. Likewise, if you have a trigger that you would like me to know so I can help you with a specific warning, please share if you feel comfortable. You don’t have to share details - just what content might be harder for you to engage with during the course.

**Learning Projects:** Consider your own schedule and needs when choosing projects. Since many of our learning activities and projects are performance-related, pay attention to the due dates listed in Canvas. Late projects will be accepted when possible, but with a ten percent grade reduction per day. \*

*\*If you miss a due date because of illness, let me know so I can help you determine an alternative performance opportunity, or amendment to the project.*

#### **Course Schedule: Overview**

(This is a very broad overview. Consult **Canvas** to get more specific details on weekly schedule, module menus, individual project due dates, online and face to face activity dates, as well as changes and updates.)

Week One (8/17-21) Complete Orientation Module in Canvas

*Friday 8/21 Last day to drop full-semester or first half-semester courses without the drop appearing on the permanent record or counting toward the limit of dropped courses.*

Week Two (8/24-28) Complete Module One – What is Style?

Week Three (8/31-9/4) Complete Module Two – Who Am I?

Week Four (9/7-11) Begin Work on Module Three – What World Is This?  
Select and begin Exploration and Analysis Activities from module Menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Five (9/14-18) Continue Work on Module Three – What World Is This?  
Exploration and Analysis Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Six (9/21-25) Continue Work on Module Three – What World Is This?  
Exploration and Analysis Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Seven (9/28-10/2) Continue Work on Module Three – What World Is This?  
Exploration and Analysis Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Eight (10/5-9) Continue Work on Module Three – What World Is This?  
Exploration and Analysis Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Nine (10/12-16) Continue Work on Module Three – What World Is This?  
Begin Work on Module Four – Who Am I Now?  
Select Creating and Adapting Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Ten (10/19-23) Complete Work on Module Three – What World Is This?  
Continue Work on Module Four – Who Am I Now?  
Creating and Adapting Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

*Friday 10/23 Last day to add/drop full-semester courses or withdraw without extenuating circumstances.*

Week Eleven (10/26-30) Continue Work on Module Four – Who Am I Now?  
Creating and Adapting Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Twelve (11/2-6) Continue Work on Module Four – Who Am I Now?  
Creating and Adapting Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Thirteen (11/9-13) Continue Work on Module Four – Who Am I Now?  
Creating and Adapting Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

Week Fourteen (11/16-20) Continue Work on Module Four – Who Am I Now?  
Creating and Adapting Activities from module menu (see dates in Canvas)

### **Finals Period – Monday, 11/23 @ NOON – Personal Inventory Reflections**

#### **Inclusive Course Design**

I am committed to creating a course that is inclusive in its design. If you encounter barriers, please let me know so we can determine if there is a design adjustment that can be made or if an accommodation might be needed to overcome the limitations of the design. I am always happy to consider creative solutions as long as they do not compromise the intent of the assessment or learning activity. You are also welcome to contact the Student Accessibility Services (515-294-7220) to begin this conversation or to establish accommodations for this or other courses.

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**University Policy Statements:** The instructor of this course abides by University policies and regulations concerning attendance, academic honesty (including plagiarism), and all others as stated in the current Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

**COVID-19 health and safety requirements:** Students are responsible for abiding by the university's COVID-19 health and safety expectations. All students attending this class in-person are required to follow university policy regarding health, safety, and face coverings:

- wear a cloth face covering in all university classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other in-person instructional settings and learning spaces. Cloth face coverings are additionally required to be worn indoors in all university buildings, and outdoors when other people are or may be present where physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others is not possible. Students with a documented health or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a cloth face covering should consult with Student Accessibility Services in the Dean of Students Office.
- ensure that the cloth face covering completely covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the side of the face.
- practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
- assist in maintaining a clean and sanitary environment.
- not attend class if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- not attend class if you have been told to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official.
- follow the instructor's guidance with respect to these requirements.
- Failure to comply constitutes disruptive classroom conduct. Faculty and teaching assistants have the authority to deny a non-compliant student entry into a classroom, laboratory, studio, conference room, office, or other learning space.

These requirements extend outside of scheduled class time, including coursework in laboratories, studios, and other learning spaces, and to field trips. These requirements may be revised by the university at any time during the semester.

In accordance with university policy, instructors may use a face shield while they are teaching as long as they are able to maintain 8 feet of physical distance between themselves and students during the entire instructional period. Some form of face covering must be worn at all times in learning spaces regardless of the amount of physical distancing.

Faculty may refer matters of non-compliance to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action, which can include restrictions on access to, or use of, university facilities; removal from university housing; required transition to remote-only instruction; involuntary disenrollment from one or more in-person courses; and other such measures as necessary to promote the health and safety of campus. It is important for students to recognize their responsibility in promoting the health and safety of the Iowa State University community, through actions both on- and off-campus. The university's faculty asks that you personally demonstrate a commitment to our Cyclones Care campaign. Iowa State University's faculty support the Cyclones Care campaign and ask you personally to demonstrate a commitment to our campaign. Your dedication and contribution to the campaign will also protect your family, classmates, and friends, as well as their friends and families. Our best opportunity for a successful fall semester with in-person learning and extramural activities requires all of us to collaborate and fully participate in the Cyclones Care campaign.

**Academic Dishonesty:** 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.

**Access Statement for Students with Documented Disabilities:** 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 work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), by contacting SAS staff via email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu), or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit of the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

**Prep Week:** This class follows the Iowa State University Prep Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook.

**Harassment and Discrimination:** Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email [eooffice@iastate.edu](mailto:eooffice@iastate.edu)

**Religious Accommodation:** Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office at 515-294-1020 or the Office of Equal Opportunity 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](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu)

**Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating all students' well-being.** We welcome and encourage students to contact the following on-campus services for their 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 ISU Police Department 515-294-4428.