Acting III
Theatre 451, 3 Credits
Course Syllabus, Fall 2018
Iowa State University

"We talk and act a bit differently in bed than at work, or at a bar, or at a cocktail party, or at a PTA meeting. The idea of 'just being yourself' is a total abstraction, for we are many selves and we wear many masks." - Robert Cohen

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Amanda Petefish-Schrag
Office Hours: M 9:30AM-NOON & 2-3:30; T & R 9:45-10:45AM. Additional hours may be scheduled by appointment.
Office Phone: 515-294-8179
Office Location: 0318 CARVER
E-mail: apschrag@iastate.edu

Meeting Information:
Time: T R 2:10pm-3:25pm
Room: Carver 0318

Course Description:
Analysis and practice of period scenes.

Course Objectives:
- Identify and apply the characteristics of acting style from various historical dramatic traditions to practical acting situations.
- Develop and enhance physical and vocal performance techniques related to period style.
- Expand the ability to make specific, and imaginative acting choices within the context of personal and period style.
- Continue developing confidence, trust, and sensitivity to self and others through cooperative work processes.

Content:
- The concept of “style” as an acting construct.
- The “character mask.”
- Period style explorations and projects from the following dramatic traditions: Greek Tragedy, Elizabethan Drama, Restoration/Georgian Comedy of Manners, Modern “isms”
- Personal style analysis.

Methods of Instruction:
This class involves intellectual and experiential exploration of acting style and techniques. The plan of study for this course includes:
Reading assignments
In-class demonstrations
Laboratory activities designed to help students put theory into practice
Home assignment
Lectures

Textbook Information:
Barton, Robert. Style for Actors
Shakespeare, William. Julius Caesar (First Folio) http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/doc/JC_F1/scene/1.1/
Course Evaluation:

- Participation and Preparation: 15%
- Scene Projects: 35%
- Script/Character/Verse Analysis: 30%
- Culture and Style Quizzes: 10%
- Personal Style Analysis: 10%

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is vital to success in this class. As with any rehearsal or performance, absences affect both the individual student’s progress and the progress of the class as a whole. Plan to be on time, dressed in comfortable clothes and shoes that allow you to move, bend, sit on the floor, etc. You will be expected to participate fully in class exercises and to rehearse and memorize performance projects outside of class time.

A note on electronics: To allow for full engagement in class activities, cell phones and other electronic devices must be silenced and put away before the start of each class session.

Students are allowed one unexcused absence in the course. Each subsequent unexcused absence will lower the “Preparation and Participation” grade by 15%. It is possible to achieve negative points in this category.

Arriving late to class more than once will impact your attendance grade.

An excused absence is defined as: 1) a medical emergency or illness, 2) death in the immediate family (grandparents included), 3) university sanctioned activities. Official documentation and advance notification is required for an absence to count as “excused.”

Assignments: Assignments are due in class on the day assigned. Late assignments drop one letter grade for each day they are late. Save your work, have ink in your printer, keep your dog from eating your thumb drive, etc. Work due on the date of campus-sanctioned activity absences must be turned in prior to the absence date. The student is responsible for making up all work missed because of absences.

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 and consistent 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 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 0-1 will result in a -; percentages ending in 8-9 will result in a +. Example: 70-71%=C-, 72-77%=C, 78-79=C+)

Final grades will be submitted to the registrar by 10am on the Monday after final exams. After this date and time, a grade will only be changed if there has been a mistake on the instructor’s part.
Please note:
The theatre explores the full range of human experience and perspectives. Some of the assigned plays, performances, and class discussions in this course will cover sensitive material that may be offensive to some people. Critical analysis, exploration, and discussion of class material is a vital part of achieving the course objectives, and students will be encouraged to share their opinions and perspectives on material covered throughout the semester.

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.

Academic Dishonesty: All work should be your own. Cheating, plagiarism (copying or paraphrasing the ideas of others and passing them off as your own), and other forms of academic dishonesty are very serious issues. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of the assignment to dismissal from the university. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.
http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html

To avoid plagiarism, document the source when using words or ideas from another person’s work, (including printed, spoken, and electronic sources).

To document direct quotations in APA or MLA style, writers must:
1. include quotation marks around the material or indent it within the text to indicate their use of the source;
2. provide appropriate parenthetical notation;
3. include the name of the author (if available) or the title (if no author is given) either in the introduction to the quotation or within the parenthetical citation.

To document a direct quotation in an oral presentation, speakers must:
1. say the word “quote” to verbally replace written quotation marks; and
2. include the name of the author (if available) or the title (if no author is given) either immediately before or after the quotation.
3. outline oral presentations consistent with the above rules for written material.

If you paraphrase facts and/or ideas of others, by fully considering the ideas, then stating them in your own words and sentence structure; you must still credit the sources.

Disability Accommodations: Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact (instructor name) to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with (instructor name), you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the Disability Resources Office, located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu. Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

Dead Week: This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week guidelines as outlined in http://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/#deadweek

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.

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.

Contact Information:
If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu
**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 8/21</td>
<td>Introduction to course/ “What is Style?”</td>
<td>Read Chapter 1 &amp; 2 for 8/23</td>
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<td>TR 8/23</td>
<td>Playing With Style</td>
<td>Read Chapter 4 for 8/28</td>
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<td>T 8/28</td>
<td><strong>Greek Culture and Style Quiz</strong></td>
<td>Read <em>Oedipus</em> for 8/30</td>
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<td>TR 8/30</td>
<td>Greek Tragedy Exercises</td>
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<td>T 8/28</td>
<td><strong>Greek Culture and Style Quiz</strong></td>
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<td>TR 8/30</td>
<td>Greek Tragedy Exercises</td>
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<td>T 9/4</td>
<td>Greek Tragedy – Mask Work</td>
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<td>TH 9/6</td>
<td>Greek Tragedy Scene Work – *Oedipus Actor/Style Analysis DUE by 5PM</td>
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<td>T 9/11</td>
<td><strong>Greek Tragedy Scene Performances and Critiques</strong></td>
<td>Read Chapter 5 for 9/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 9/13</td>
<td>Elizabethan Culture and Style Quiz</td>
<td>Introduction to Elizabethan Drama</td>
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<td>T 9/18</td>
<td>Elizabethan Exercises</td>
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<td>TH 9/20</td>
<td>Elizabethan Exercises</td>
<td>Read <em>Julius Caesar</em> for 9/25</td>
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<td>T 9/25</td>
<td>Shakespeare’s Language Physicalized</td>
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<td>TH 9/27</td>
<td>Shakespeare’s Language Physicalized</td>
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<td>T 10/2</td>
<td>Language - Verse and Scansion</td>
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<td>TH 10/4</td>
<td>Language - Verse and Scansion – *Julius Caesar Actor/Style Analysis DUE by 5PM</td>
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<td>T 10/9</td>
<td><em>Julius Caesar</em> Scene Workshops</td>
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<td>TH 10/11</td>
<td><em>Julius Caesar</em> Scene Workshops</td>
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<td>T 10/16</td>
<td><em>Julius Caesar</em> Scene Performances and Critiques</td>
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<td>TH 10/18</td>
<td><em>Julius Caesar</em> Scene Performances and Critiques</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6,7 for 10/23</td>
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<td>T 10/23</td>
<td>Restoration/Neoclassic Culture and Style Quiz</td>
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<td>TH 10/25</td>
<td>Introduction to Restoration/Comedy of Manners</td>
<td>Read <em>School for Scandal</em> for 10/30</td>
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<td>T 10/30</td>
<td>Comedy of Manners Exercises</td>
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<td>TH 11/1</td>
<td>Comedy of Manners Exercises</td>
<td><strong>Comedy of Manners Actor/Style Analysis DUE - Friday 11/2 by 5PM</strong></td>
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<td>T 11/6</td>
<td>Comedy of Manners Workshops</td>
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<td>TH 11/8</td>
<td>Comedy of Manners Workshops</td>
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<td>T 11/13</td>
<td><strong>Comedy of Manners Scene Performances and Critiques</strong></td>
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<td>TH 11/15</td>
<td><strong>Comedy of Manners Scene Performances and Critiques</strong></td>
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<td>T 11/19-23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9 for 11/27</td>
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T 11/27   The “Isms” Genre and Style Quiz
TH 11/29   “Isms”

T 12/4   “Isms” & Adapting Style
TH 12/6   Personal Style Analysis/Chapter (Concluding) Due/Discussion

Final Exam Period – Monday, 12/10, 12:00-2:00 p.m.: Ism Scene Exercise