THE 345 STAGE DIALECTS 22453
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2014
Location: PAC 126
Time: TR- 12:30 – 1:45 PM
Instructor: Joe Reynolds, MFA
Office Location: PAC 134
Office Hours: MWF 3 PM – 4:30 PM and by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5336
University Email Address: Joe.Reynolds@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) required: HARROP ACTING WITH STYLE
These plays: The Bacchae by Euripides.  The Country Wife by William Wycherley  Tartuffe by Moliere.  The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde.  A Doll’s House by Ibsen.  Man and Superman by Shaw.  And a one play by Shakespeare TBA.

Suggested Outside Reading/Listening:  see if you can find a few of these online for cheap or at the library.
Malcolm Morrison, Classical Acting, Heinemann, 1996.

Course Description:
Experimentation and experience with classical dramatic literature, analysis and performance. Course work includes the following styles: Greek, Elizabethan, Restoration, Realists and Nonrealists.

Objective: The objective of this course is to provide the student with experience in the performance techniques used in the acting of period plays, classic plays and plays written using heightened language.
Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify heightened versus naturalistic text.
2. Analyze verse imagery, meter and rhyme.
3. Integrate heightened text into not only the voice but body as well.

Attendance: Attendance and promptness are a requirement for all theatre classes. The collaborative nature of theatre requires commitment of all individuals to the group. Punctuality is also key to the health of your career in the professional theatre. Attendance is taken for every class. You are allowed three absences without penalty. (Two tardies are equivalent to one absence). Every absence after the third will result in an automatic reduction of one letter grade for the class. Six total absences will result with you being asked to drop the course. The quizzes and exams must be taken on the date listed in the syllabus to get full credit.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

ASSIGNMENTS: Students will prepare reports on plays and acting techniques of specialized periods.
QUIZZES: Short quizzes covering the plays, acting techniques and lectures.
MONOLOGUES
SCENES
FINAL PROJECT

Grading
Assignments 10%
Quizzes 10%
Monologues 10%
Scenes 50%
Final Project 20%
Total: 100%

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student’s overall grade in the course:

A 90%-100% (Exceptional Quality Work)
B 80%-89% (Above Average Quality Work)
C 70%-79% (Average Quality Work)
D 60%-69% (Below Average Quality Work)
F 0%-59% (Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the University or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION
eCOLLEGE: You are required to have working access to the course eCollege site, as provided by the University. The syllabus and some materials may be distributed through eCollege. I use the grade book in eCollege, where I will post grades for individual assignments. The grade book conveniently provides your current percentage in the class, although be aware that it may not necessarily include an attendance deduction, which might be deducted from your point total.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT
Contacting the instructor:
Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can’t make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties with this class, let me know. Don’t be intimidated. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it fairly frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:
University Specific Procedures:  *ADA Statement*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

Course Outline and Calendar

Week 1:
January 13 - 17: Introduction to the Class--read through course syllabus and discuss general expectations. Discussion: Standard American Dialect for the stage. **PLAYING TRAGEDY.**

Read The Bacchae.
Study the Handouts.

Week 2:

**Monologue #1:** Choose a speech to perform in front of the class from The Bacchae using “good speech” for classic plays and the techniques discussed for playing tragedy. Perform speeches on Tuesday, February 3.

Week 3:

**Quiz #1 on Tuesday, January 28 covering IPA and techniques for playing tragedy.**

NO CLASS ON Thursday, January 29**TH**. (TETA CONFERENCE) Memorize your speech.
Week 4:  
**Monologue #1 Tuesday, February 3** perform speech from *The Bacchae* using standard American dialect for the stage. No late speeches accepted.  

**Homework:** Read *The Country Wife*  
**SCENE #1:** Choose a scene partner and 5 - 7 minute scene. Rehearse scene.

Week 5  
February 10 - 14: Acting, Text and Style.

**SCENE #1:** Perform on Tuesday, February 10: *The Country Wife.*

Week 6  
February 17 - 21: Neoclassical Comedy.

**Read Tartuffe**  
**SCENE #2:** Choose a scene partner and 5 – 7 minute scene. Rehearse.

Week 7  
February 24 - 28: Neoclassical Comedy.

**SCENE #2:** Perform on Tuesday, February 25 *Tartuffe*

Week 8  
March 4 Comedy of Manners: Oscar Wilde. **Read The Importance of Being Earnest.**  
March 6 Stage Dialects: British RP. **Choose a scene partner for Earnest.**

**QUIZ #2 ON Thursday, MARCH 6**

Week 9  
March 10 - 14: No class.

Week 10  
March 17 - 21: Comedy of Manners. Continue with British Dialect.

**SCENE #3:** Perform on Thursday, March 20 *The Importance of Being Earnest.*

Week 11  

**ASSIGNMENT #1:** Write a 3 – 5 page paper reviewing acting techniques

Week 12  
March 31 - April 4: George Bernard Shaw: **Read Man and Superman.**

**SCENE #4:** Perform on Thursday, April 3 *A Doll’s House.*  
Choose a MONOLOGUE from *Man and Superman.*

Week 13  
April 7 - 11: Brecht. Level Work. Discuss Final Projects.
ASSIGNMENT #1: due April 10.

Week 14
April 14 - 18: Mamet. Work on Final Projects.

MONOLOGUE #2: Perform on Tuesday, April 15 Man and Superman.

Week 15
April 21 - 25: Work on Final Projects.

Week 16
April 29 – Work on Final Projects.
May 1 – Perform Final Projects for audience.

Week 17
No class.