

Advanced Modern Acting
Theatre 420 Sec.001
Spring 2012

Instructor: Kaiulani Lee
Department phone: 993-1120
Office hours: By appointment

Class Objective:

This is a scene study class.

Class Requirements:

1) Scene work:

Students will work on three scenes, choosing two and partnering at least one. Students may also prepare a monologue for an audition piece. Scenes should be no longer than 10 minutes and monologues should be a minute and a half. All material must be approved by me.

2) Analysis:

Students will use a simple and full proof character analysis composed of five questions. These questions will be answered in three to five pages and turned into me at the first rehearsal of each scene.

3) Reading:

Read six plays you've never read before. First two plays must be read by January 30th; all plays must be completed by February 13th. We will discuss play choices in class.

4) Live Performances:

Students must attend at least three theatre performances, two by a professional theatre company and one by GMU players. Write a short reaction paper for each performance, paying close attention to acting styles and whether or not you think the production works. The first paper is due by February 20th, the second by March 19th, the third is due by April 16th.

5) Audition:

Everyone must audition twice during the semester and write a short page on the experience.

General Requirements:

1) Attendance 100%! We only meet once a week and there is no text. Work is done in class and your scene partner is dependent on your being there. Therefore, attendance is mandatory and unexcused absences will not be permitted.

2) No unexcused lateness.

3) All written work must be typed.

4) Dress comfortably, support one another, and take Risks!

Grading:

Each unexcused absence will lower your grade. Any and all lateness will also be reflected in your grade.

A 100% attendance and on time completion of all assignments. Student is committed, actively engaged, prepared for classroom work, and working to potential.

B The above, but with an unexcused absence. Failure to see a production, arriving late, working under individual potential, will also result in a grade drop.

- C** Two unexcused absences or haphazard preparation. Regular lateness, minimal commitment, or resistance to direction and growth.
- D** Three unexcused absences, unenthusiastic, an obstacle to classroom progress.
- F** More than three unexcused absences, rarely completing assignments, unprepared, chronic obstacle to group progress.

Recommended Reading (read at least one):

- 1) *An Actor Prepares*. By, Costantin Stanislavski.
- 2) *The Actors Handbook*. By, Constantin Stanislavski.
- 3) *A Dream of Passion*. By, Lee Strasberg .
- 4) *Sanford Meisner on Acting*. By, S. Meisner and D. Longwell.
- 5) *Acting. A Handbook of the Stanislavski Method*. Compiled by, Toby Cole.
- 6) *Respect for Acting*. By, Uta Hagen.
- 7) *Challenge for the Actor*. By, Uta Hagen.
- 8) *True and False*. By, David Mamet
- 9) *Towards a Poor Theatre*. By, Jerzy Grotowski
- 10) *And Then You Act: Making Art in an Unpredictable World*. By, Anne Bogart.

Policies and Practices:

Honor Code: To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: *Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.*

GMU student information and resources: <http://www.gmu.edu/mlstudents/>

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Students must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester, and the specific accommodation will be arranged through the Disability Resource Center.

An incomplete grade (IN) is used only if the student requests it in writing. An IN counts as a failing grade until completed, and it automatically turns into an F if a grade is not turned in by the deadline in the Schedule of Classes.

Please direct any questions about the above information to:

Linda Miller, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs (lmille6@gmu.edu)

Victoria Salmon, Assistant Dean, Graduate Programs (vsalmon@gmu.edu)

Alice Watts, Academic Coordinator (awatts@gmu.edu)

ETHICS, UNIVERSITY POLICIES, HONOR CODE:

As a courtesy to others in the class, and in accordance with George Mason University policy, please turn off all beepers, cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. Also, please refrain from using Instant Messenger or email during class.

Copyright Law

Each student is individually responsible for his or her own work on assignments and creative projects. A willingness to learn from and share ideas with other students is important and equally important is that students do their own work. The use of other

artists' images, videos, sounds, music is allowed as long as your inclusion of these creative works falls within the realm of "fair use" as described by copyright law. Students should always cite their sources. Try to use original source material as often as possible.

Honor Code

The Honor Code, as stated in the George Mason University Undergraduate Catalog, applies to all students in this class. The Honor Code requires that the work you do be your own. As a university faculty member, I have an obligation to refer the names of students who may have violated the Honor Code to the Student Honor Council, which treats such cases very seriously.

Using someone else's words, ideas, music or art without giving them credit is plagiarism, a very serious Honor Code offense. It is crucial to understand how to avoid plagiarism when using material from other sources. No grade is important enough to justify cheating, for which there are serious consequences. If you feel unusual pressure about your grade in this or any other course, please talk to me or a member of the Counseling Center staff.

GRADING:

Letter grades will be assigned based on the George Mason University undergraduate grading system in which a letter grade of "A" is equal to 4.00 grade points, "A-" equals 3.67 grade points, etc. See the Academic Policies section of the *University Catalog* (available online at www.gmu.edu) for more information.

Grading Standards: What makes a project or other assignment an "A"? (B, C, D, F)

Grading Standards:

- A grade of "A" is given for superlative work that demonstrates a profound commitment to the course material, and further, employs this material as a springboard for independent thought and work.
- A grade of "B" is given for very good work that completely fulfills all the requirements of the course in a conscientious and dedicated manner, and that demonstrates mastery of the course content.
- A grade of "C" is given for work that fulfills all the requirements of the course in a satisfactory manner, but that falls short of demonstrating rigor and mastery.
- A grade of "D" is given for work that is unsatisfactory in content, but meets the standards of submission.
- A grade of "F" is given for work that fails to fulfill the requirements of the course.

All communications regarding this course must occur via Mason email accounts.

GMU Add/Drop Policy: The last day to drop this class with no tuition liability is **2/8/2011**. The last day to drop this class without Dean's permission is **2/25/2011, by 5pm**. The selective withdrawal period is 2/28/2011 – 4/1/2011. It is the student's responsibility to check to verify that they are properly enrolled as no credit will be awarded

Honor Code, Copyright, & Computing Policies: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George*

Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

You are expected to adhere to all University policies and guidelines during your participation in this course. All work must be your own. Inappropriate use of the work of others is a George Mason University Honor Code violation. Please review the University's website for information on the following: Honor Code and Judicial Procedures; Copyright/Fair Use; and Responsible Use of Computing.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Students must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester, and the specific accommodation will be arranged through the Disability Resource Center.

GMU Email Accounts

Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. The GMU email accounts are the official accounts for this class.

Writing Center: Students in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should make use of the services of the Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). These services are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis.

Other Mason resources: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/freshman/resources.html>

University Policies: University Catalog can be accessed catalog.gmu.edu

University Libraries "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) caps.gmu.edu or (703) 993-2380

University Policies

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

You are encouraged to sign up for the Mason Alert System by visiting the website <https://alert.gmu.edu>. Emergency information is posted in each classroom explaining what to do in the event of crises. Further information about emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert>.

NOTE: Cell phones, pagers and alarms must be turned off in class. Exceptions will only be made in advance or in case of emergency.