

Special Topics in Drama  
Theatre 490 Sec. 003T, T 1:30-2:20  
Spring 2012

Instructor: Kaiulani Lee  
Dept. Phone: 993-1120  
Office Hours: By appt.

### **Class Objectives:**

An exploration of both practical and theoretical ideas to help the young actor prepare for a life in the theatre. What happens after graduation? What does it mean to be an artist? What kind of an actor do I want to be? Is there work out there, and how do I get it?

### **Class Requirements:**

1. Show up!
2. Formulate and research answers to questions raised in class and present them to the class the following week.
3. Prepare and perform a minute and a half audition piece.

### **Grading:**

Credit will be based on attendance, participation and your presentations.

### **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](http://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](http://catalog.gmu.edu)

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

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) [caps.gmu.edu](http://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.