

THEA-115: ACTING SHAKESPEARE

Effective Term

Fall 2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Drama/Theater Arts (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

THEA - Theater Arts

Course Number

115

Department

Theater Arts (THEA)

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Acting Shakespeare

Short Title

Acting Shakespeare

CB03 TOP Code

1007.00 - Dramatic Arts

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Update textbook and DE learning activities.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This course is designed to provide a basic approach to the creation of effective dramatic presentations of the plays of William Shakespeare. Students will study Elizabethan and contemporary stage technique; and develop skills dealing with interpretive, vocal and physical demands of contemporary Shakespearean performance.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites**SECTION D - Course Standards****Is this course variable unit?**

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval**Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Analyze Shakespearean text.
2.	Show a cultural and artistic appreciation of Shakespeare performance.
3.	Demonstrate basic Shakespeare performance skills.
4.	Perform Shakespearean text for peer, professional or academic review.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Demonstrate an ability to understand, interpret, analyze and perform Shakespearean's texts.
2.	Apply the principles necessary embody Shakespeare's texts.
3.	Demonstrate a knowledge of the development of the Elizabethan theatre.
4.	Compare and contrast Elizabethan and contemporary stage technique.
5.	Experiment with historical period and contemporary theater in relation to Shakespeare's texts in performance.

Course Content

1. Introductions of Shakespeare and his texts
2. Shakespearean acting, then and now.
3. Developing the physical/vocal instrument.
4. Study of the Elizabethan period.
5. The Elizabethan Playhouse.

6. Shakespeare's language.
7. Blank verse. Meter and rhythm. Vocal work (freeing the voice).
8. Articulation and resonance. Imagery. Sound and Sense. Staging (approaches and problems).
9. Speaking with the body. Developing a sense of style. Working through intention.
10. Shakespeare's use of prose. Finding the textual, physical and vocal dynamic.
11. The use and play of irony. The tone of irony. Shakespeare's music.
12. Exploring a character. Clues in text and language. Heightened language and emotion.
13. Shakespeare and modern acting technique.
14. Continue to build on Shakespearean performance skills.
15. Blocking and design.
16. The Shakespeare audition. How to prepare a monologue. Presentational and representational styles.
17. Shakespeare's women.
18. Problems in presentation.
19. Cross-gender roles.
20. Shakespearean characters in historical context.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	Presentation of topics involving Shakespeare, Acting and Performance.
Group Work	Collaborative learning: Small groups analyze Shakespeare's texts.
Critique	Oral and written critiques of student presentations of memorized text.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Essays/Papers	Complete a written analysis of Hamlet's "Advice to the Players" speech.
Performances	Performance skills: Explore the vowel sounds in Cordelia's first speech to King Lear.
Projects	Research projects.
Homework	Written assignments.
Exams/Tests	Mid-term and final projects.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Students will complete specific reading assignments from course textbook.

For example:

Read Chapter Two of the textbook regarding heightened language. List ten different skills discussed in the chapter.

Read Chapter Three of the textbook about scansion and scan your monologue.

Writing Assignments

Students will be given written and performance assignments to complete.

For example:

1. Analyze, memorize and perform one of Shakespeare's sonnets.
2. Write a three-page typewritten comparative analysis of Elizabethan and Modern acting. The essay should take into account historical context, artistic trends, and demands of the text as discussed in your textbook and supplemental reading.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Scott Kaiser

Title

Mastering Shakespeare: An Acting Class in Seven Scenes

Edition/Version

2nd Edition

Publisher

Independent

Year

2022

ISBN

979-8793251532

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Bertram Leon Joseph

Title

Acting Shakespeare

Edition/Version

Paperback

Publisher

Hassel Street Press

Year

2021

ISBN

1013655044

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update

No

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No