

**THTR – 422-001 Advanced Acting**  
**11:50AM – 1:30AM T/TH Fall 2017**  
**Located in Klinger-Neal Theatre**

**Professor:** Taylor Clemens, M.F.A.  
**Office:** Charles City Hall 204  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment Only

**Email:** clemenst@morningside.edu  
**Office Phone:** (712) 274-5186

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

- Chekhov, Anton, Trans: Paul Schmidt. *The Plays of Anton Chekhov*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1999. Print. ISBN: 978-0-06-092875-9.
- Ionesco, Eugène. *The Bald Soprano and Other Plays*. New York: Grove Press, 2002. Print. ISBN: 978-0-8021-3079-2.
- Pinter, Harold. *Complete Works: Volume One*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990. Print. ISBN: 0-8021-5096-9.
- Schmidt, Alexander, and Gregor Sarrazin. *Shakespeare-Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary: Volume 1*. New York: Dover, 1986. Print. ISBN: 0-486-22726-X.
- Schmidt, Alexander, and Gregor Sarrazin. *Shakespeare-Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary: Volume 2*. New York: Dover, 1986. Print. ISBN: 0-486-22727-8.
- Shakespeare, William, and Neil Freeman. *The Tragedie of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. New York: Applause, 2000. Print. ISBN: 1-55783-378-8.

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:**

- Clothing that do not restrict movement.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A studio experience that gives the advanced student an opportunity to work on period characterization and production styles. 4 credits.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Students will:

- Learn to analyze and critically evaluate characters and elements of a play script.
- Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of various theatrical genres and historical periods.
- Develop creative capacities that reflects the themes and moods of a theatrical work.
- To acquire skills in working with others as a member of a acting ensemble.

## **ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS:**

According to Theatre Departmental Policy, your grade will drop by 50 points for each unexcused absence after the first 3. Excused absences include participation in a college sanctioned event. Any other absence from class is considered unexcused. If you are sick or know you are going to be gone from class, please email me and let me know.

NO ABSENCE, whatever the reason, relieves the student of responsibility for completing all work assigned. IT IS UP TO THE STUDENT TO FIND OUT WHAT WORK AND ASSIGNMENTS THEY MISSED.

Lateness is disruptive and disrespectful to your fellow classmates, and will lower your grade as follows: 2 tardies = 1 absence. If you enter the classroom more than 10 minutes after the official start of class, you will be marked absent for that day.

**If your coach/faculty does not send an email with a list of participants, the date of the event, and the time of the event, you will be counted absent. Please remind your coach/faculty to send an appropriate reminder that you are attending a school sanctioned event in order to be in compliance. All work must be finished by the next class period upon your return from the event.**

## **CELLPHONES/COMPUTERS & TABLETS:**

Please turn off all cell phones before coming into class. Students are not allowed to use their cell phones during class. If a student is caught using their cell phone during class they will be asked to leave class, and they will be counted absent for the day.

Students will not be allowed to take notes on a computer or tablet. There may be days that you will need your computer for a class activity; in such cases, students will be notified in advance when they need to bring computers to class.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY:**

Your work should be your own. Professionalism is expected from you. Should another person attempt to “borrow” your work – whether on tests or assignments, please let me know. The college does have a procedure for academic misconduct. The protection of academic integrity requires clear and consistent standards and definitions, as well as confrontation and sanctions when individuals intentionally violate those standards. The most important of the definitions is that of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty undermines the educational experience, lowers morale by engendering a skeptical attitude about the quality of education, and negatively affects the relationship between students and faculty.

Academic dishonesty is the intentional act of fraud, in which an individual seeks to claim credit for the work and efforts of another, or uses unauthorized material or fabricated information in any academic exercise.

Academic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to:

Forgery/fabrication/falsification/plagiarism of academic documents; (2) Intentionally impeding or damaging the academic work of others; (3) Assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty; (4) Cheating in the classroom; (5) Unauthorized attendance; (6) Multiple submissions; and (7) Unauthorized collaboration. Any academic misconduct may be reported to the Department Chair and Office of Academic Affairs and may result in a failing grade, suspension, or dismissal.

An instructor who suspects a student of violating the Academic Honesty Policy will consult with the department chair or another member of the department. If the violation is verified, the instructor will (as a minimum penalty) assign a grade of zero for the assignment. The maximum penalty is a failing grade in the course in which the violation occurred.

### **TIME EXPECTATIONS:**

An undergraduate student should expect to spend a minimum of two hours outside the classroom for every hour in the classroom. The outside hours may vary depending on the number of credit hours or type of course. More details are available from the faculty member or department office and in Morningside's *Curriculum Policies and Procedures Manual*.

This class will require students to meet for scene rehearsals outside of class time. You may check out rehearsal time in Klinger-Neal theatre by signing up on the calendar located in the hallway by the callboard. Please note that the Director/Stage Manager of any main stage production may bump you from the space for reasons related to the main stage show. Students in this class will be able to access Klinger-Neal theatre after hours by contacting Campus Security (712-274-5234). Student that access Klinger for rehearsals are responsible for any missing equipment or damage caused by themselves or others students they allow in the building. Also note that Klinger-Neal is monitored 24/7 by security cameras and security alarms in specific areas of the building.

### **ASSIGNMENTS/GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

1. **Weekly Play Response** (10 points per response)\*
2. **Chekhov Scene/Rehearsal & Character Work** (75 points)
3. **Sonnet Scansion/Translation** (30 Points)
4. **Sonnet Performance** (50 Points)
5. **Shakespeare Scene/Rehearsal & Character Work** (75 points)
6. **Pinter Scene/Rehearsal & Character Work** (75 points)
7. **Ionesco Scene/Rehearsal & Character Work** (75 points)
8. **Final Exam** (50 points)
9. **Class Participation** (100 points)\*\*
10. **Play Attendance & Critique** (50 points)\*\*\*

#### **\*Weekly Play Response (WPR):**

Every week students in this class will be required to read a play and write a 2 to 3 page analysis/reflection over it (MLA, Double Spaced, etc.). For each play Prof. Clemens will assign a specific focus for the paper. Focuses for the paper maybe things like: given circumstances, character analysis, actions & tactics, social & political implications, economic implications, language analysis, etc. THESE PAPERS SHOULD NOT BE A PLOT SUMMARY OF THE PLAY. If time permits, we will have a brief in-class discussion over they play each week. Please note that the final exam will be made up of multiple choice and essay questions over some of the plays. The weekly play responses make up 130pts or 18% of your final grade so make sure you put effort into them. Some of the plays will be from the required textbooks and others will be supplied as PDF on Moodle.

#### **\*\*Class Participation:**

Since this class has a heavily performance and partner based projects it is very important that you miss as little class as possible. Many classes will be spent working on your own scenes or watching and analyzing your classmate's scenes. If you miss a class, this directly effects the education of your scene partner and your classmates as well as has a negative impact on your final grade.

**\*\*\*PLAY ATTENDANCE & REVIEW:**

You are required to attend Morningside's two fall main stage productions and prepare a critique. Show 1: *Love, Sex, and The IRS* performs October 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm & Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm. Show 2: *Princess and the Pea* performs November 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm & Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm. This review should be between 3 and 4 pages, in MLA format (Times new roman, 11pt, double-spaced, etc) and should focus on all the components of theatre as viewed during the production you attend. You should discuss acting styles, directing, text (the written play itself), scenic design, costume design, music, lighting, and sound, among others. This is due no later than 1 week after the production closes. Students must also include a ticket stub and program.

**TURNING IN WORK:**

In the event of a class absence your assignment can be turned in to me in my office (or put in the file holder on my office door) by 5pm that day. I DO NOT ACCEPT EMAILED WORK. All late work will lose 10 points for each day it is late. This includes non-class days and weekends. Students will have 1 class period to make up any missed performances or in class rehearsal. After 1 class period, the student will receive an automatic 50% reduction on the final assignment grade.

**FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

A	=	658 – 710 pts
A-	=	639 – 657 pts
B+	=	610 – 638 pts
B	=	589 – 609 pts
B-	=	568 – 589 pts
C+	=	540 – 567 pts
C	=	519 – 539 pts
C-	=	497 – 518 pts
D+	=	468 – 496 pts
D	=	449 – 469 pts
D-	=	426 – 448 pts
F	=	425 pts and below

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

There are two ways to obtain extra credit:

1. Attend a theatrical event outside of the Morningside community and write a 3-4 page reflection paper on it. Reflections must be turn in within 1 week of the event and students must also turn in a program and the ticket stub from the event. Must be MLA format (11pt, Times New Roman, Double Spaced). Worth 10 points. (Maximum of 3 events or 30 points)
2. Prepare a full script analysis of one of the weekly plays. You must completely fill out and answer all questions found on the script analysis form on Moodle. See Prof. Clemens for more details. Worth 50pts.

**Students are limited to a maximum of 50 extra credit points. Also, if a Student has more than 3 unexcused absences they may not take advantage of the extra credit opportunities and any extra**

**credit already completed will no longer be valid.**

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES:**

It is the policy of Morningside College to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants for enrollment, enrolled students, applicants for employment, or employees. Morningside College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required providing equal opportunity to qualified individuals with disabilities enrolled at Morningside College who have qualified for admission by meeting standard institutional requirements.

**If you have a documentable disability, please see me in private and I will arrange for you to meet the appropriate staff on campus to make these accommodations.**

## ADV. ACTING FALL 2017 SCHEDULE\*

DATE:		ACTIVITY	DUE:
TH	24-Aug	Introduction Day	
T	29-Aug	Review Day	
TH	31-Aug	Discuss Chekhov. Assign Chekhov Scene Project. Stanislavski Realism Activity	WPR1
T	5-Sep	In Class Chekhov Rehearsal (Groups 1-3)	
TH	7-Sep	In Class Chekhov Rehearsal (Groups 4-5). Discuss WPR2	WPR2
T	12-Sep	Guest Speaker: Matt Cook - Working for a Broadway Roadhouse	
TH	14-Sep	In Class Chekhov Rehearsal (Groups 1 & 2 [MEMORIZED]). Discuss WPR3	WPR3
T	19-Sep	In Class Chekhov Rehearsal (Groups 3 - 5 [MEMORIZED])	
TH	21-Sep	Final Performances of Chekhov Scene. Discuss WPR4. Start Shakespeare Workshop	Chekhov, Pick Sonnet, & WPR4
T	26-Sep	Continue Shakespeare Workshop. Scansion Activity	
TH	28-Sep	In Class Rehearsal of Individual Sonnets & Scansion Work. Assign Shakespeare Scene Project. Discuss WPR5	Sonnet Scansion & Translation, WPR5
T	3-Oct	Final Performances of Sonnets [MEMORIZED]. Discuss and Review Scansion for Each Groups Shakespeare Scene	Sonnet Performance & Scansion for Hamlet Scene
TH	5-Oct	Workshop Day: How to Handle Cold Readings in Auditions	WPR6
T	10-Oct	In Class Shakespeare Rehearsal (Groups 1-3)	
TH	12-Oct	In Class Shakespeare Rehearsal (Groups 4 & 5)	
T	17-Oct	Workshop Day: The Do and Do not's of Auditioning. Discus WPR6	PDF Readings, WPR7
TH	19-Oct	<b>FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)</b>	
T	24-Oct	In Class Shakespeare Rehearsal (Groups 1-3 [Memorized])	
TH	26-Oct	In Class Shakespeare Rehearsal (Groups 4 & 5 [Memorized]). Discus WPR8	WPR8
T	31-Oct	Final Performances of Shakespeare Scene	Shakespeare Scene

# ADV. ACTING FALL 2017 SCHEDULE\*

TH	2-Nov	Workshop Day: Basic Unarmed Stage Combat: Slaps, Punches, Kicks, and Falls. (Wear Movement Cloths). Discuss WPR7	WPR9
T	7-Nov	<b>ALL CAMPUS EVENT DAY (NO CLASS)</b>	
TH	9-Nov	In class Pinter Rehearsal (Groups 1 & 2). Discuss WPR10	WPR10
T	14-Nov	In Class Pinter Rehearsal (Groups 3 - 5)	
TH	16-Nov	In Class Pinter Rehearsal (Groups 1 & 2 [MEMORIZED]). Discuss WPR 11 & Absurdist. Assign Ionesco Scene.	WPR11
T	21-Nov	In Class Pinter Rehearsal (Groups 3 - 5 [MEMORIZED])	
TH	23-Nov	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)</b>	
T	28-Nov	Final Performance of Pinter Scene	
TH	30-Nov	In Class Ionesco Rehearsal (Groups 1 & 2). Discuss WPR12	WPR12
T	5-Dec	In Class Ionesco Rehearsal (Groups 3-5).	
TH	7-Dec	Discuss WPR13. Review Day. Open Rehearsal for Ionesco Scene	WPR13
W	13-Dec	FINAL EXAM/IONESCO SCENE PERFORMANCE: 12:45pm	

**\*SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Weekly Plays:

WEEK:	PLAY:	PAPER FOCUS:
WPR1:	<b>The Seagull by Anton Chekhov**</b> (Textbook)	Psychology of a Character
WPR2:	Street Car Named Desire by Tennessee Williams (Moodle)	Who has the power?
WPR3:	Gruesome Playground Injuries by Rajiv Joseph (Moodle)	Societal Significant
WPR4:	Miss Julie by August Strindberg (Moodle)	Who has the power?
WPR5:	<b>Hamlet by William Shakespeare**</b> (Textbook)	Psychology of Hamlet. Crazy or Not?
WPR6:	Lysistrata by Aristophanes (Moodle)	How can we apply this to today?
WPR7:	The Chairs by Eugene Ionesco (Textbook)	
WPR8:	The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov (Textbook)	Who drives the action?
WPR9:	<b>The Dumb Waiter by Harold Pinter**</b> (Textbook)	
WPR10:	Zoo Story by Edward Albee (Moodle)	
WPR11:	<b>The Bald Soprano by Eugene Ionesco**</b> (Textbook)	

# ADV. ACTING FALL 2017 SCHEDULE\*

**WPR12:** Richard III by William Shakespeare (Moodle)  
**WPR13:** Woyzeck by Georg Buchner (Moodle)