

#SHXCamp College Credit Course 2020
Topics in Performance: *Julius Caesar*
THEA-118

Course Description

This course augments and enriches the interdisciplinary approach to studying Shakespeare and classical performance participants receive at the American Shakespeare Center's online Theatre Camp program, #SHXCamp: an immersive three-week theatre intensive for high school students conducted entirely online. #SHXCamp participants attend academic lectures and performance master classes, observe the ASC acting troupes in rehearsals and performances, and create a multimedia-enhanced devised exploration of a play by Shakespeare or other early modern English playwright. Woven through this experience is access to the American Shakespeare Center's professional acting troupes, who serve as teachers and mentors throughout the three week program. The experience culminates in the participant's creation of an individual portfolio of work along with their individual contributions to the shared portfolio of their assigned show.

Course Objectives

This course builds on the training participants receive throughout the #SHXCamp experience through the focused exploration and application of the course topics: the practices employed by modern theatre practitioners in the preparation of early modern texts for performance. Specifically, this course delves into the plays of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries to examine different methodologies for cutting, rearranging, collating, or otherwise manipulating variant and various texts to create different desired narratives in performance. Participants will learn different theories of text preparation from multiple sources (including actors, academics, editors, and directors) and have multiple chances to put their own emergent theories into practice through course assignments.

Core Components

Performance Master Classes: Participants spend a minimum of 20 hours learning professional performance skills in classes, such as voice, stage combat, music, movement for the actor, and clowning. ASC camp staff, actors, directors, or professionals within the community teach classes six days per week.

Academic Lectures: Participants spend a minimum five hours in lectures ranging in topics from scansion and rhetoric; textual culture in the early modern period; Shakespeare's theatre and play-going in early modern period; source study of the plays; design technique and theory; and Elizabethan and Jacobean history.

Play Rehearsal: Participants spend approximately 55 hours in rehearsal focusing on language, early modern staging practices, acting skills, ensemble and collaborative work towards the creation of a dynamic and engaging multimedia-enhanced devised exploration of the play text. These explorations will take many different forms, but the play's text will be the foundation for all of them.

Credit Classes: In addition to the #SHXCamp program outline above, those seeking college credit meet an additional two or three times per week to complete two discrete units of study: "Director Dialogues" and "Practicums." Director Dialogues are with the session's show directors: each director will demonstrate their particular methodologies, techniques, and tactics for preparing text for performance using a selection from their play. With the course instructor, directors will discuss how the section under examination made its way from base to performance text.

Participants will apply the skills learned in the first unit by preparing their own pieces of text for performance in the second unit. The course instructor will draw Practicum assignments from the plays under consideration for the semester. Class participants will perform each other's cuts and participate in a discussion about methodologies led by the instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Improve vocal and physical techniques through training, rehearsals, and performances of early modern drama
- Provide introduction to textual history of early modern plays
- Investigate and reflect upon the implications of preparing text for performance
- Develop greater facility with early modern dramatic language
- Combine the text and performance training from the ASC Theatre Camp program with additional, focused discussions, demonstrations, and practice to give participants a well-rounded view specifically of the practice of preparing early modern text for performance
- Cultivate confidence and the knowledge needed for students to develop their own unique styles of text preparation.

Texts & References

Complete Works of William Shakespeare (any edition)
Scripts of the session's plays (provided by instructor)

Student Contribution

Expectations

Participants should participate consistently and enthusiastically in all course discussions and assist their classmates as needed. Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory for all participants. The instructor must approve exceptions. Participants should complete the following assignments thoroughly and thoughtfully, and submit them in a timely fashion.

Assignments

Process Journal of notes and reflections from rehearsals, workshops, lectures, performances, and credit classes (to be collected once a week).

Readings assigned by the instructor each week.

Practicum Assignments to be completed by drawing on the information from readings and class discussions. Over the course of the session, students will prepare three increasingly complicated pieces of text for performance – a monologue, a dialogue, and a short scene.

Final Project due after the session ends. Students will prepare a script (in part or in whole) for performance using the principles learned during the course.

Evaluation

- Weekly feedback from the course instructor about rehearsal, class, and seminar group participation
- Oral feedback on process journal entries
- Written evaluation of the final project
- Written evaluation from the director of the play

Course Grading Scale

The grading scale will evaluate student work as follows:

		A	100-93	A -	92-90
B+	89-87	B	86-83	B-	82-80
C+	79-77	C	76-73	C-	72-70
D+	69-67	D	66-63	D-	62-60
		F	59 >		

Course Schedule: Outline

Class 1: Introduction

Review syllabus, course expectations, assignments, and goals

Class 2: Director Dialogues (Part 1)

Director 1 and *Play Title*

Class 3: Director Dialogues (Part 2)

Director 2 and *Play Title*

Class 4: Director Dialogues (Part 3)

Director 3 and *Play Title*

Distribute text assignment #1

Class 5: Practicum #1

Presentation of text assignment #1

Distribute text assignment #2

Class 6: Practicum #2

Presentation of Text Assignment #2

Distribute Text Assignment #3

Class 7: Practicum #3

Presentation of Text Assignment #3

Class 8: Conclusion

Wrap-up discussion

Distribute final project assignment

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