

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	Performance and Theatre Arts
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Acting Skills
Course Code:	THR 5210
Course Leader:	Prof Michael Barclay
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	5
Workshops / Tutorials:	40
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall/Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description: An intermediate Performance skills course that focuses on developing the voice and body through group work consisting of improvisational exercises, the use of stage space, basic blocking, and the interpretation of character and text. Group interaction is an important aspect of this course.

Prerequisites: THR 3100

Aims and Objectives: The course aims to enable students to interpret and analyse character and text while at the same time becoming more effective and expressive actors.

Programme Outcomes:

5A (ii); 5B (i); 5B (ii); 5C (ii); 5C (iii); 5D (i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of well established theories and concepts to use in creating, interpreting and building a text based character.
- Demonstrate the ability to interpret performance texts from a different perspective.
- Demonstrate the use of a range of advanced performance skills including voice expression, spatial awareness and improvisational skills.
- Develop ideas and deliver work with limited supervision that reflects an awareness of professional codes of conduct within the collaborative activity of rehearsal and performance.
- Exercise a degree of informed critical self-reflection in the process of sustaining focus and concentration.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively within a team and adapt to different contexts, audiences and situations with a degree of flexibility and maturity.

Indicative Content:

- An exploration of how to analyze a character and interpret a theatrical text .
- An exploration of how to utilize Stanislavsky's Acting theories and how to apply these to character development
- An exploration of various approaches to interpreting Modern texts.
- An exploration of various approaching to interpreting Classical texts.
- An analysis of various Acting styles and how to apply these to Scene study.
- Utilizing Improvisation techniques in exploring character development.
- The role the actor's voice plays in performance.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University *Special Programme* Assessment Norms for Theatre approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

Theatre workshop techniques including voice and movement exercises as well as theatre games will be used alongside theoretical approaches to character development and interpretation. Students will be coached and directed in each of their presentation assignments and receive individual critiques and feedback.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Texts:

Esper, William and Damon Dimarco, *Actor's Art and Craft: William Esper teaches the Meisner Technique*. Anchor Books, 2009

Pierce, David Hyde, Uta Hagen and Frank Haskel, *Respect for Acting*. Macmillan, 2008

Stanislavsky, Constantin, *An Actor Prepares*. Methuen Drama, Bloomsbury Academic, 2013

Web Sites

<http://www.thestage.co.uk>

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Rewrite of Programme Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of Learning Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Updating of Indicative Texts	LTPC 30/5/14	