

**COURSE SPECIFICATION**  
**DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	Performance and Theatre Arts
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	6
<b>Course Title:</b>	Classical Acting
<b>Course Code:</b>	THR 6210
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Michael Barclay
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	160
Lectures:	17
Seminar / Tutorials:	5
Screenings:	10
Practical Acting Tasks:	53
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall/Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

**Course Description:**

Styles of performance for the interpretation of Classical texts will be taught and practiced. As well as studying the history of Classical Greek Drama, Elizabethan, Jacobean, Restoration and Classical 17th Century French Drama, students will learn techniques of stage speech and movement appropriate for performing plays from these historical periods. Key texts by Ancient Greek dramatists such as Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides will be studied as well as texts by Marlowe, Shakespeare, Webster, Racine and Molière.

**Prerequisites:** THR 5210

**Aims and Objectives:**

The course aims to introduce students to the history of Ancient Greek Classical drama and to explore how these texts can be interpreted in a modern context.

Students will also concentrate on Elizabethan and Jacobean drama and explore the interpretation of these texts. This will be amplified by the series of master classes and workshops undertaken by the Shakespeare's Globe theatre.

Students will explore a number of texts from various historical periods (Classical, Renaissance and Restoration) which will serve as the material for acting exercises.

**Programme Outcomes:**

6A(i), 6B(i), 6B(iii), 6B(iv), 6C(i), 6C (ii), 6D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Demonstrate a comprehensive range of knowledge relating to major dramatic works from the pre-modern canon and the historical periods from which major works of drama have emanated (i.e. Ancient Greece, Renaissance Europe, Elizabethan and Jacobean England)
- Demonstrate a current understanding of major dramatic works from the pre-modern canon and to discuss these works from the actor's point of view, contrasting approaches to modern realistic texts with the actor's analysis of period plays
- Demonstrate the ability to use specific skills in stage movement for classical acting, including movement in period costume
- Demonstrate the use of voice and speech appropriate for the performance of classical drama.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply new techniques and processes to their own performances and explore their individual talents in stylized period performance with an emphasis on Ancient Greek plays in translation and verse drama from various other pre-modern periods

**Indicative Content:**

An introduction to Ancient Greek Drama with focus on the Theban Plays of Sophocles. English Renaissance Drama specifically late 16<sup>th</sup> Century English Drama.

The Jacobean Revenge Tragedies as a genre. An introduction to Classical French Drama. An Introduction to Restoration Theatre.

The Comedy of Manners.

Acting, voice and movement techniques relating to performing Classical Drama.

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Norms approved at Academic Board.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course will be taught in the form of a workshop. Students will attend lectures on key historical periods of classical theatre history and be introduced to the major dramatists of each period. The theatrical conventions, styles and practice of each period will be examined. Students will then perform selected monologues and scenes from each period. 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.

Students will also attend a series of specialized workshops at Shakespeare's Globe. These will focus on Period Movement, Period dance, singing songs in Shakespeare's plays, voice work related to playing at Shakespeare's Globe. This will culminate with a presentation on the stage of The Globe Theatre.

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Indicative Text:**

Benedetti, Jean, *The Art of the Actor: The Essential History of Acting from Classical Times to the Present Day*. Routledge, 2007.

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 Learning	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of Learning Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of Indicative content	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Updating of Indicative texts	LTPC 30/5/14	

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