

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	Performance and Theatre Arts
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Modern Acting: Style and Technique
Course Code:	THR 6215
Course Leader:	Michael Barclay
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	15
Seminar / Tutorials:	5
Screenings:	5
Practical Acting Tasks:	20
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall/Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

With a focus on European and American playwrights, students are introduced to theories and practices for performance of modern plays, from Ibsen, Chekov, and Wilde, to contemporary writers such as Shaffer, Genet, Pinter and others. Class work includes exercises in interpreting, rehearsing and performing from modern texts.

Prerequisites: THR 5210

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to afford students the experience of developing characters and exploring acting styles based on the canon of modern dramatic literature.

Programme Outcomes:

6A(i), 6A (ii), 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 Modern canon and the critical responses to them.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the range of theories of acting which have evolved during the late 19th and 20th Centuries.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply a range of performance skills in use of voice and body for onstage performance in Modern plays.
- Demonstrate the ability to organize and manage scenes with a sophisticated understanding of the influence of the Modern director on Modern approaches to acting.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply new techniques and processes to their own performances and engage in self-reflection and use feedback effectively.

Indicative Content:

- An exploration of the methods and theories, developed at the Moscow Arts Theatre and how these can be applied to current performance practices.
- Realistic acting for the camera and its influence on stage acting.
- An exploration of emergence of *Theatre of Cruelty* and how this can be applied to current acting styles.
- Expressionist Drama and Political Theatre in Germany and how these movements impact on modern acting styles.
- Post World War II theatre in England and its stylistic impact on modern acting styles.
- An exploration of styles associated with mid-20th Century theatre in the United States.
- A survey of contemporary directing and acting.

Assessment:

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

Teaching Methodology:

Theatre workshop techniques including practical exercises and 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:

Mosely, Nick, *Acting and Reacting: Tools for the Modern Actor*. Routledge, 2005

Pickering, Kenneth and Jayne Thompson, *Naturalism in the Theatre, Its Development and Legacy*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

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	Rewrite of Indicative texts	LTPC 30/5/14	