

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Spring 2-1-2016

THTR 421.01: Acting IV

Bernadette Sweeney

University of Montana - Missoula, bernadette1.sweeney@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Sweeney, Bernadette, "THTR 421.01: Acting IV" (2016). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 7496.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7496>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

THTR 421 Acting VI 3 Credits

Term: Spring 2016 **Time:** 2:10- 4:00 pm MWF **Location:** Scheiber 123

Dr. Bernadette Sweeney

Bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu

Mcgill 212c

Office Hours: Tuesday 12.35-2.45, Friday 11.00- 12 Noon.

Description:

This advanced acting class and studio are designed to examine and explore the requisite skills for acting Shakespeare through the study of and performance of his comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances.

Objectives:

- To develop the skill for working with verse and heightened prose
- To examine character expression through language, motive, action, movement, relationship, and conflict
- To develop textual analysis of Shakespeare's plays
- To develop a framework for character development through subtext and imagery

Texts:

Shakespeare's Advice to the Players by Peter Hall

Speaking Shakespeare by Patsy Rodenburg

Playing Shakespeare by John Barton (In paperback or in 9 Episodes on dvd featuring some of the UK's greatest actors. Available on reserve at the UM Library or streaming on youtube.) **You are assigned this to be studied outside of class and then incorporated in our discussions and practice as pertinent.**

In addition, you will be assigned plays that we will select as a class to read, analyze, rehearse, and perform.

Other assigned reading will include various articles, essays, and reviews that relate to specific topics with which we deal in class. (We will incorporate ideas from and borrow freely from various texts on acting.)

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.

Procedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following School of Theatre & Dance regulations. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing during the class are not permitted. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances. Students are encouraged to wear appropriate movement attire to class. There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Attendance and Promptness

Acting is participatory: there is no way to learn without doing, no adequate substitute for a missing partner, and no way to "make up" a missed experience. School policies will be strictly enforced.

Cell Phones Please turn off your cell phone in class. My phone will be set to vibrate in case an emergency text message should be sent by the University.

Movement Clothes

Please wear clothing to class that does not restrict movement: tight-fitting and restrictive clothing and anything too revealing (showing skin) will not be acceptable. No hats will be permitted in class. Hooded sweatshirts, hats, and hair that cover the face are detrimental to proper evaluation by the instructor, so remove them before work commences. Please be sure to clean your shoes appropriately before you enter the building to keep our floors as clean as possible. **For this class please work in gym shoes.**

Personal Comfort

The study of acting often requires the instructor or peers to touch each other or be in close proximity. We all have bad days when we do not want such contact. Feel free to bow out of a particular exercise if you are having a "Wounded Warrior" day. If deemed necessary by the instructor, any student with such issues will be asked to meet with the head of the Performance & Practice Program and the instructor to discuss how we might better facilitate you through the course.

Graded Course Requirements: Rehearsal Journal (10%), Participation (40%)
Soliloquy Work and Presentation, Scene Work and Presentations 5 in total (50%)

Note: As this is a studio class the outcomes are based on participation and attendance is mandatory. The collaborative and creative processes of theatre are the foundation of our class. Mutual feedback and a free exchange of ideas are necessary. Your attendance supports the work; your absence has an effect upon the work of the entire class. No unexcused absences are permitted.

Schedule:

Week One		Introduction; <i>Shakespeare's Advice to the Players</i> ; 'Prologue,' 'Advice to the Players,' 'On A Personal Note;' Study <i>Playing Shakespeare</i> on dvd
Week Two		<i>Shakespeare's Advice to the Players</i> - 'Blank Verse,' through 'Scansion;' Study <i>Playing Shakespeare</i> on dvd
Week Three		<i>Shakespeare's Advice to the Players</i> - 'The Caesura' through 'Bawdy;' Study <i>Playing Shakespeare</i> on dvd
Week Four		15 February President's Day Holiday <i>Shakespeare's Advice to the Players</i> - 'The Actor's Work On Himself' through 'Telling;" Soliloquy Selection; Study <i>Playing Shakespeare</i> on dvd
Week Five		Speech Measures and Analysis; 'Focal Points'; 'Head,' Heart,' 'Gut,' 'Groin;' Soliloquy Rehearsal
Week Six		Soliloquy Rehearsal and Presentation/Critique
Week Seven		Comic Scene Rehearsals
Week Eight		Comic Scene Rehearsals; Presentation/Critique
Week Nine		History Scene Rehearsals
Week Ten		History Scene Rehearsals; Presentation/Critique
Week Eleven		Spring Break
Week Twelve		Romance Scene Rehearsals
Week Thirteen		Romance Scene Rehearsals; Presentation/Critique
Week Fourteen	T	Tragedy Scene Rehearsals
Week Fifteen		Tragedy Scene Rehearsals
		Tragedy Scene Presentation/Critique
Finals week		Rehearsal Journals Due

PLAYS: *As you Like it, The Tempest, Richard III, King Lear*