Audition/Design Portfolio  
THR 420  
Instructor: Stephanie Murphy  
Fall 2016  
Time: Friday 9-10:50  
Room: GFA 311  
Email: murphysa3@sfasu.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 4-5pm, Wednesday 12-4pm

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description: One semester hour, two hours lab per week. Organization, preparation, and presentation of the audition process. Organization of the portfolio, resumes, presentation of designs and interviewing.

Prerequisite: Lower-division theatre core of permission of instructor

Program Learning Outcomes Supported in this Course:  
This course applies at an introductory level to the following Program Learning Outcomes as identified by the School of Theatre:

1. The student will demonstrate competence in one or more theatre specialization. (All degree plans)  
2. The student will be able to present an effective presentation appropriate to the student’s specialization. (BFA)

Student Learning Outcomes for this course (and supported PLO’s):  
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Show competence in the selection of audition material, interview techniques, and resume writing.  
2. Present an effective audition and resume.

Required Materials:
1. Audition by Michael Shurtleff  
2. Students will be required to procure headshots. Headshot quality must meet a certain minimum standard, being at least acceptable for an “entry level” non-union theatre cattle-call audition, determined at the subjective discretion of the instructor. Headshots do not need to be printed or reproduced, but a digital copy must be provided by the posted due date  
3. Students will be required to compile a professional portfolio, including headshots, multiple resumes in differing formats, and other materials as assigned.  
4. Students will be required to build a professional website including portfolio materials as needed.  
5. Students will be required to wear proper attire for mock auditions, propriety being determined at the subjective discretion of the instructor. Failure to wear proper attire may result in the student being disallowed from presenting, and receiving a zero (0) for the assignment.
School of Theatre Attendance Policy:
A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. To this end, regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered or assigned.

I. It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health, family emergencies, student working the University Series, and other situations of similar importance.

Excused absences from theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation from the teacher, sponsor, or physician involved upon the first day of the student’s return. In the case of absences caused by university-sponsored events, inclusion in the university’s public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence.

II. A total of seven excused and/or unexcused absences in Tuesday-Thursday classes or 10 excused and/or unexcused absences in Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes will result in the student receiving a failing grade. Excessive unexcused absences will affect a student’s grade.

III. The student will be allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences in Tuesday-Thursday classes or three unexcused absences in Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes.

IV. In the case of missed classes, the student will be held responsible for the successful completion of assigned work and/or projects.

University Attendance Policy (excerpt):
“…students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences...Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for a maximum of three weeks’ worth of absences during a semester...depending on the nature of the missed work. Make up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence in accordance with the course syllabus.”

Classroom Policies:
1. No texting, or cell phones allowed during class.
2. The theatre is a collaborative art form, and maintaining a safe environment for experimentation is essential. There may be choices made, or exercises performed by your classmates that seem strange or silly. You as an ensemble have a responsibility to be respectful of one another’s process. I reserve the right to remove you from class for the day if you create a physically or emotionally unsafe environment for your classmates.
3. While Texas state law allows for the concealed carry of a firearm with a Concealed Handgun License (CHL), open display of a firearm in class will result in a call to campus police, immediate dismissal, and failure of the course. Referring to a concealed firearm (real or fabricated) in an attempt to create a threatening or hostile environment will result in a call to campus police, immediate dismissal and failure of the course. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
4. Unless otherwise specified, wear clothing suitable for movement and floor work with. Avoid accessories that may distract from or hinder your movement. Sweats or workout clothes are always a safe bet. Miniskirts and uber-skinny jeans not so much. If your clothing choices leave you unable to participate I cannot give you credit for it!
General Notes:
1. Assignments are due on the date listed. If absent and emailing a written assignment, it must be sent by the start time of class in order to receive credit.
2. Theatrical scripts may contain strong language that might be considered offensive to some: profanities, violence, sexual terms or references to religious deities. Please see me privately by the end of the first week of class if this is a problem for you.
3. Physical contact may occur from time to time with fellow students in class. I may also have to adjust parts of your body for proper alignment and to release tension while working. Please see me privately as soon as possible if this presents a problem or if you feel uncomfortable.
4. If you have a disability or physical injury that hinders you from participating in class activities please see me privately as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to accommodate you.
5. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Grading Criteria:
- A—Excellent. Always well prepared. Actively pursues improvement and highly self motivated. Active, positive contributor to class.
- B—Good. Always prepared. Pursues improvement and self motivated. Contributor to class.
- C---Fair. Generally prepared. Interested in improvement and often self motivated. Often contributes to class.
- D---Poor. Often not prepared. Shows little interest in improvement and is rarely self motivated. Seldom contributes to class and has negative attitude.
- F---Unacceptable. Lacks adequate outside preparation. Virtually no interest in self improvement and not motivated. Does not contribute to class; negative attitude.

Grading Breakdown:
Your final grade will be computed as follows
- Final Audition 100
- Participation, Exercises, Attendance 200
- Final Portfolio 200
- Contemporary Audition 100
- Classical Audition 100
- Self-found Audition 100
- Kobayashi Maru Audition 100
- Cover Letter 50
- Career map 50

TOTAL 1000 Points

Grade Distribution:
- 900-100= A
- 800-899= B
- 700-799= C
- 600-699= D
- 599 or below = F
Schedule:

9/1  Introduction/Course Overview/Type
    Type exercise/elevator pitch
    Prep 2 contemporary contrasting monologues

9/8  **Present elevator pitch and monologues**, discuss type
    **Read guideposts 1-4**

9/15 Materials: Headshot, resume, website, reels, arsenal/Unions and casting calls
         **Write cover letter**
         **Write 1, 5, 10, 25 year plan**

9/22 Present plans/talk classical auditions
         **Prepare 2 classical monologues (copied or typed)**

10/6  **Present classical pieces**
      **Read guideposts 6-10**

10/13 Cold readings
      **Read guideposts 11-12**

10/20 Improvisation in auditions: Have no fear.
      **Read Profiles Theatre article on D2L. Be prepared to discuss.**

10/27 Discuss Profiles article. Safety, self-advocacy, union protection, ethics/red flags, boundaries
      **Self-producing work/side hustles: Find an example and discuss**

11/3  Commercials: What they do and why we need them.
      **Find an audition in market of choice and prepare**

11/10 **Audition of choice**/Website/Social Media
       **Prepare website**

11/17 TBD

11/24 **THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS**

12/1  Present website/online presence
       **Prep for Kobayashi Maru**

12/8  **Present Kobayashi Maru**

**WEDNESDAY, 12/13: FINAL EXAM IS AT 10:30AM. WEBSITE AND PORTFOLIO DUE.**