Independent Study: Character Analysis Intensive

THR 491
Instructor: Stephanie Murphy
Spring 2018
Time: Monday 11-11:50am
Room: GFA 223
Email: murphysa3@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 12:30-1:30pm

Credit Hours: 1

Course Description: One semester hour/lecture hour per week. In-depth approach to character analysis based on Antony Sher’s documentation of his preparation for playing Richard III in Year of the King. Student will analyze Sher’s method, choose a role, and prepare for it using a similarly personalized approach. This will include daily journal entries and culminate in a character analysis that can be brought into a hypothetical rehearsal process and a prepared audition for the role.

Prerequisite: None

Required Materials:
1. Year of the King: An actor’s diary and sketchbook by Antony Sher
2. Audition by Michael Shurtleff

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.”
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. 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
- Participation: 200
- Journal: 300
- Character Analysis: 200
- Audition: 200

Grade Distribution:
- 900-1000= A
- 800-899= B
- 700-799= C
- 600-699= D
- 599 or below = F