THR 491.2: Independent Study  
Spring 2020  

Rick Jones

Course overview:
This course will cover acting theories related to the “American method.” We begin with the work of Konstantin Stanislavsky and use such texts as An Actor Prepares as a guidepost against which to compare the work of US-based acting (and directing) theorists such as Lee Strasberg, Stella Adler, Harold Clurman, Robert Lewis, and Uta Hagen.

Contacting me:
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Program Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will have achieved mastery of the following Program Learning Outcome as identified by the School of Theatre:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of theatre history and a variety of theatrical styles. (All degree plans.)

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
• Articulate the most significant realistic acting theories of the 20th century.
• Identify and differentiate the leading US-based proponents of Stanislavskian theory.
• Describe the significant companies, productions, etc., involved in the development of the “American method.”

Course Schedule:
We will meet at least bi-weekly at a time of mutual convenience to discuss readings, which will be determined over the course of the semester.

Grading Considerations:
• Discussion of readings: 50%
• Research paper due at the end of the semester: 50%

Writing:
Part of the expectation of this course is that your writing level be appropriate to an upper-level course in the humanities. If you are not confident of your writing ability, make arrangements now to take advantage of the university’s various writing assistance
programs. Start with the Academic Assistance and Resource Center (AARC) on the first floor of Steen Library.

**Academic honesty:**
The following are the responsibilities of students regarding upholding academic honesty, as described in the official policies of Stephen F. Austin State University and the School of Theatre:

“It is the responsibility of the student to abstain from cheating. Dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations, written assignments, in or out of class, alteration of records, or illegal possession of current examinations or keys to examinations shall be considered cheating....

“Courtesy and honesty require that any ideas or materials borrowed from another must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of another as one’s own is plagiarism. The subject matter of ideas thus taken from another may range from a few sentences or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement is also considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

“The School of Theatre expects students to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own or knowingly allowing someone else to represent your work as his/hers constitutes academic dishonesty. Such behavior is antithetical to our work as scholars, as artists, and as members of a community founded on trust and mutual respect. It is an insult to faculty and an affront to honest students.

“Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of a specific project to failure of the course, suspension from the production season for up to one year, and referral to university authorities for further action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the university.”

**My policy:** I am going to trust you not to cheat. That means I won’t be hovering over your shoulder during tests, etc., but it doesn’t mean I won’t be vigilant. It also means that if you do get caught cheating or plagiarizing, I will treat it as a violation of personal trust. You won’t like the result. If innate honesty isn’t enough to keep you from plagiarizing, let my reputation for detecting and prosecuting plagiarists fill you with dread.
Disabilities, religious observance, etc.:
Any student with a mental, physical, or emotional condition which might interfere with his/her performance in this course should both consult the Office of Disability Services and contact me immediately.
If your observance of a religious holiday will prevent you from attending class, please contact me immediately so we can make appropriate arrangements.
There will be no make-up exams given, unless a medical excuse or some other official documentation is presented to the instructor.