



<b>TERM:</b>	Autumn 2018	<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Aubrey Helene Neumann
<b>CREDITS:</b>	3	<b>OFFICE:</b>	Drake 2046
<b>LEVEL:</b>	U	<b>OFFICE EMAIL:</b>	neumann.102@osu.edu
<b>CLASS TIME:</b>	Wed/Fri 11:10-12:30	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Wed 12:30-1:30, By appointment
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Drake 107		

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**“One cannot always create subconsciously and with inspiration.  
No such genius exists in the world.”**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Yet with preparation and hard work an actor can generate moments of conscious creativity, which may in turn facilitate inspiration. Or so claimed Stanislavski, the much-lauded father of modern acting. This intermediary acting class explores Stanislavski’s teachings as set forth in his seminal text *An Actor Prepares*. Through exercises and scene studies, analyses and reflections, you will develop and hone your abilities to imagine, communicate, and interact with your fellow actors. You will in turn use these abilities to generate moments of conscious creativity and make space for greater discoveries.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- To integrate Stanislavski’s teaching into your own work through exercises, rehearsals and performances
- To analyze the work of others utilizing the framework developed by Stanislavski
- To reflect on your own artistry and professionalism through discussions and journaling

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*An Actor Prepares* by Konstantin Stanislavsky

All readings not in the above texts will be posted on CARMEN.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

*Actions: The Actors’ Thesaurus*, Marina Calderone.

**REQUIRED PRODUCTIONS:**

You are required to attend the following two productions:

- *Twelfth Night; or What Your Will* by William Shakespeare edited by Christopher Matsos  
Directed by Lesley Ferris, September 28 - 30, 2018, Thurber Theatre
- *Michael von Siebenburg Melts Through the Floorboards* by Greg Kotis  
Co-Directed by Jennifer Schlueter and Karie Miller, October 17 - 27, 2018, Roy Bowen Theatre

## **REQUIRED PRODUCTIONS (CONT):**

Student tickets can be purchased directly from the OSU Theatre box office located in the lobby of the Drake Center or online. For more information on Ohio State productions, ticket purchasing, or The Usher Volunteer Program (free tickets!) go to [theatre.osu.edu](http://theatre.osu.edu). GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY AS SHOWS DO SELL OUT!

SAVE YOUR TICKET STUBS! To receive full credit, you must turn in a digital copy of your signed ticket stub as proof of attendance along with your Production Response Paper.

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **Participation and Preparedness (25pts):**

In addition to the attendance policy below, daily participation points will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Being on time, present, and offering thoughtful comments throughout the course
- Committing to each exercise, from the warm-up to rehearsal to performances
- Giving your full attention during class discussions, exercises, and the work of other actors
- Creating a safe space through appropriate, generous, and kind behavior
- Being off book by the "Off Book" date, as specified in the calendar below
- Bringing appropriate materials to class (including books, scripts, and props)
- Wearing clothes you can move in
- Refraining from distracted or distracting behavior during class
- Refraining from using any electronic devices once class has begun

### **Reading Responses (25pts):**

For each chapter assigned, you will complete a brief reading response in which you:

- Identify a quote from the reading and briefly explain why you chose that quote (include page number)
- Write a question for the class pertaining to the reading

Quotes and questions should arise organically. If it appears that a student is only ever reading a part of the chapter, they will be asked to redo the assignment. You may choose to handwrite or type your response. In either case, responses must be uploaded to Carmen by the start of the class period on the day the chapter is due. LATE RESPONSES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

### **Journal (30pts):**

Each week, you will complete a journal assignment in which you:

- Answer the weekly question posed on Carmen by your instructor
- Reflect on your work both in and outside of class

Entries should be handwritten in a notebook and must be a minimum of ten good sentences in length. Journals will be turned in to the instructor three times over the course of the semester, as specified on the calendar.

These journals are meant to help you! If you find the question intriguing, spend a lot of time with that. If you'd rather answer the question in a single sentence and spend the rest of the entry describing an activity or discovery, do that!

**Production Response Papers (10pts x 2):**

For each production, you will write a response paper analyzing the performances in light of what we have been learning in class. Each paper must be typed and a minimum of three, double-spaced pages in length. Papers with signed ticket stubs must be uploaded to Carmen within a week of the production closing, as specified on the calendar. See handout on Carmen for more details.

**Classic Scene Materials and Contemporary Scene Materials (40pts x 2):**

For each scene study, you and a partner will prepare a short scene, as specified by your instructor. For each scene, you will complete the following activities/materials:

- Character Analysis
- Obstacle/Tactic Analysis
- Two Out-of-class Rehearsals
- Performance

The Character Analysis and Obstacle/Tactic Analysis serve as preparation and must be uploaded to Carmen as specified on the calendar. See handouts on Carmen for more details.

You are required to rehearse at least twice outside of class for each scene. Rehearsals must be at least an hour in length. Your journal entry for that week should specify the time and location of your rehearsal as well as what you and your partner accomplished. Bullet points are acceptable but do not count towards the length of your journal entry.

Your performances are expected to be polished and well rehearsed, while also incorporating the skills we have been working on in class. Rubrics will be added to Carmen prior to the performances.

**Final Performance (20pts):**

For your final performance, you and your partner will prepare a short scene, as specified by your instructor. You and your partner will prepare and rehearse the scene outside of class. The scenes will then be performed during the final exam period. Consider this an opportunity to show what you are capable of outside the classroom environment!

**Extra Credit (3pts x 2 possible):**

Option 1: You may choose to see any non-music production at the Wexner Center, Available Light, Short North Stage, CATCO, or The Lab Series and turn in a three-page response for extra credit (see handout for Production Response Paper on Carmen). Students may ask for the instructor's approval to see an alternative performance. Each paper is worth 3 points and will be due within a week of seeing the production.

Option 2: Students may also learn a 1-2 minute audition-style monologue and show it to a faculty member (Fox, Thompson, McClatchy, or Dugdale) for feedback. You will include notes from this experience as well as the instructor's signature in your journal (an additional page) for 3 points. Dates and times will be organized later in the semester.

Students may complete up to two papers OR one paper and one monologue for a total of 6 points.

**GRADING:**

Participation and Preparedness .....	25pts
Reading Response .....	25pts
Journal .....	30pts
Production Response Papers.....	20pts
Classic Scene Materials .....	40pts
Contemporary Scene Materials.....	40pts
<u>Final Performance .....</u>	<u>20pts</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>200pts</b>

Grading Scale:		
93 - 100.0		A
90 - 92.9		A-
87 - 89.9		B+
83 - 86.9		B
80 - 82.9		B-
77 - 79.9		C+
73 - 76.9		C
70 - 72.9		C-
67 - 69.9		D+
60 - 66.9		D
0 - 59.9		E

**ATTENDANCE:**

As this is a studio course, it is imperative that students attend in order to participate in exercises and rehearsals as well as to serve as an attentive, responsive audience for fellow classmates.

Attendance is required and you are expected to be on time to class. An attendance sheet will be available during the first 10 minutes of class. It is your responsibility to initial the sheet, as you would if you were part of a show. If you are more than ten minutes late to class, you will be marked absent. If tardiness becomes a problem, late arrivals will also affect your grade.

**Unexcused Absences:**

You are allowed TWO unexcused absences during the course of the semester. After two unexcused absences, each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a third of a letter grade reduction of your final grade. Should you miss more than four classes, your final grade will be reduced an additional full letter grade for each absence.

It is YOUR responsibility to contact the instructor to find out what you missed in class. You will not receive credit for work missed during unexcused absences but making up the work may be necessary to continue on with future assignments.

**Excused Absences:**

Excused absences are granted only with the following documentation:

- **Illness:** You must provide a valid doctor’s note that specifically covers all the days you missed. You must present your note on the day you return to class. I highly recommend that you **SAVE AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FOR A SICK DAY** in the even that you are unable to visit the doctor. No doctor’s note means it counts as an unexcused absence.
- **University-sponsored activity (such as athletics):** Present an original letter written by the person excusing you. This letter must mention you by name, mention the dates that you will be missing, and must be signed. Present this documentation **WELL BEFORE YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO MISS CLASS.**
- **Civic duties (such as National Guard):** Provide official documentation that specifies your name and the dates of your absence. Present this documentation **WELL BEFORE YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO MISS CLASS.**
- **Religious Holidays:** Provide written notification of date/event **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE ANTICIPATED ABSENCE.**

- **Severe Extenuating Circumstances:** If there is a severe circumstance, personal emergency, or personal condition that leads to your absence, I am open to discussing this with you. In order for me to consider elimination of an unexcused absence under these conditions, you must meet with me to discuss the circumstances of your absence.

For all absences, it is YOUR responsibility to contact the instructor to find out what you missed in class, and to make up work. Any work missed during an excused absence must be made up WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE ABSENCE.

#### **Excessive Absences:**

If any student misses four classes (excused or unexcused), s/he will be required to have a meeting with the instructor to discuss possible withdrawal from the course.

#### **CLASS CANCELLATION:**

In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency, I will contact you via e-mail and request that a note on be placed on the door. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

#### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Unless otherwise specified, for each business day an assignment is late 10% will be deducted from your grade on that assignment. AFTER 10 BUSINESS DAYS, LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED. If you are not able to turn in a late assignment via Carmen, you may email the assignment to your instructor, Neumann.102@osu.edu.

#### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

"It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term 'academic misconduct' includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

#### **STUDENT SAFETY:**

Some contents of this course may involve media that may be triggering to some students due to descriptions of and/or scenes depicting acts of violence, acts of war, or sexual violence and its aftermath. If needed please take care of yourself while watching/reading this material (leaving classroom to take a water/bathroom break, debriefing with a friend, contacting Counseling and Consultation Services at 614-292-5766, contacting Student Life Disability Services at 614-292-3307, and contacting the instructor if needed).

While it is inherently impossible to make any public space completely "safe," there are things we can commit to in order to best care for our classroom and campus communities. Working towards safety does *not* mean that we aren't interested in engaging with difficult, complex material or that we are afraid to talk with depth and authenticity as we develop our thinking around tough topics. Working towards safety *does* mean that we create an environment in which we've made it possible to lean into complexity and to be intellectually and creatively daring because we've committed to looking out for one another the way any good Buckeye does. A "safe" classroom won't always be an easy classroom, but it should be a place where we model respect, generosity of spirit, and lean into curiosity about different perspectives and experiences. I encourage you to look for opportunities to learn, to speak with both care and confidence, and to imagine one another complexly.

**EQUAL ACCESS:**

Students with documented disabilities who have registered with the Office of Student Life Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. SLDS is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Ave; Tel.: 614-292-3307; VRS: 614-429-1334; Email: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); Web: [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu)

Disabilities come in all shapes and sizes. I myself take happy pills to keep me going. If you are concerned that a mental or physical disability is interfering with your work, please contact the Student Life Disability Services. The sooner you do this the better able I will be able to accommodate you in this class.

**TITLE IX STATEMENT:**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g. race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu).

As instructors, one of our responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. We also have mandatory reporting responsibility related to our role as an Ohio State employee. It is our goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussion or in your written work, and in one-on-one meetings. We seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, we are required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the University's Title IX Office. If we can be of assistance in helping you to make a report and in finding campus and community resources, please let us know. If you would like to access resources directly, please feel free to contact the Title IX office (see above). Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting Counseling & Consultation Services at 614-292-5766 or the 24-hour helpline from the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) at 614-267-7020.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY**, the [Safe Ride Service](#) is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 614-292-3322.

## COURSE CALENDAR

### Week 1

8/22 Introduction to Class & Syllabus  
**Due: Buy An Actor Prepares (STAN)**  
8/24 Discuss Merlin, Ensemble Building  
**Due: Merlin Reading Response (on Carmen)**

### Week 2

8/29 Contentless Scenes  
8/31 Discuss STAN 1&2, The First Test and When Acting is Art  
**Due: STAN 1&2 Reading Responses**

### Week 3

9/5 Action  
9/7 Discuss STAN 3&4, Imagination  
**Due: STAN 3&4 Reading Responses, In-class Journals**

### Week 4

9/12 Units and Objectives, Adaptation – Classical Scenes Assigned  
9/14 Discuss STAN 7&11, Introduce Obstacle/Tactic Analysis  
**Due: STAN 7&11 Reading Responses**

### Week 5

9/19 Concentration of Attention; Table Read Classical Scenes  
9/21 Relaxation of Muscles; In-class Scene Rehearsal  
**Due: STAN 5&6 Reading Responses, Obstacle/Tactic Analysis, Read Classical Play**

### Week 6

9/26 Exercises TBD; In-class Scene Rehearsal  
9/28 In-class Scene Rehearsal  
**Due: Character Analysis, One-Hour Rehearsal, OFF BOOK**

### Week 7

10/3 In-class Scene Rehearsal  
10/5 Discuss *Twelfth Night*; In-class Scene Rehearsals  
**Due: Twelfth Night Production Response Paper, One-Hour Rehearsal**

### Week 8

10/10 Perform Classical Scenes, Reflection  
**Due: In-class Journals**  
10/12 **\*\*\*NO CLASS AUTUMN BREAK\*\*\***

### Week 9

10/17 Individual Meetings – Contemporary Scenes Assigned  
10/19 Discuss STAN 8&9, Faith and a Sense of Truth  
**Due: STAN 8&9 Reading Responses**

### Week 10

10/24 Emotion Memory; Table Read Contemporary Scenes  
10/26 Discuss Communion; In-class Scene Rehearsals  
**Due: STAN 10 Reading Response, Obstacle/Tactic Analysis, Read Contemporary Play**

### **Week 11**

10/31

Communion; In-class Scene Rehearsals

11/2

Discuss Michael von Siedenburg; In-class Scene Rehearsals

**Due: Michael von Siedenburg Melts Through the Floorboards Response Paper, OFF BOOK**

### **Week 12**

11/7

Exercise TBD; In-class Scene Rehearsals

11/9

In-class Scene Rehearsals

**Due: Character Analysis, One-Hour Rehearsal**

### **Week 13**

11/14

In-class Scene Rehearsals

11/16

Contemporary Scene Performances, Reflection – Final Scenes Assigned

**Due: One-Hour Rehearsal**

**\*\*\*NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK\*\*\***

### **Week 14**

11/28

Table Read Final Scenes

11/30

Discuss On the Threshold of the Subconscious, Exercise TBD

**Due: STAN 16 Reading Response, Read Final Play**

### **Week 15**

12/5

Independent In-Class Rehearsals

**Due: OFF BOOK**

12/13 12:00 – 1:45 pm Final Scene Performance, Reflection

**Due: In-class Journals**

\*Everyday I'm journalin' – The calendar above only specifies the dates on which you will be submitting your journal. You are still required to complete weekly journal entries.

\*\*Unless otherwise noted assignments should be completed and submitted to Carmen BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. Assignments submitted after class begins will be considered LATE.

\*\*\* The course schedule, including reading and assignment dates, is subject to change based on the class's needs.

**“Art is search, not final form.”**

**- Eugene Vakhtangov**