THEA 113
ACTING STYLES: Shakespeare
Pre-requisite: THEA 101 or Approval
Spring 2013

Professor Michelle Felten                     Office Hours                     Class Meetings
E-mail: mfelten@csus.edu                Shasta Hall 114                Shasta Acting Lab 249
Office Phone: 278-6280                      M/T 10-11 am                      M/W 1-2:40
Department Phone: 278-3569                   Friday by Appointment              3 Units

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
THEA 113 is designed to familiarize the advanced acting student with the very specific demands of playing Shakespeare. By providing vocal, physical, and analytical tools with which to approach this material in an intelligent and confident manner, the student will have the opportunity to incorporate the two traditions of heightened language and naturalistic acting into a dynamic and effective performance.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
*To attend class regularly.

*To treat the instructor, yourself, and your fellow classmates with respect at all times in order to maintain a positive and productive environment. Disrespectful Behavior includes: cell phones left on; texting; talking while an individual is speaking or performing; sleeping; laying down; wearing revealing clothing not suitable for class work; drinking (except water); eating; chewing gum; arriving late; leaving early; and excessive chattiness. Any of these may be cause for early dismissal from class at the discretion of the professor. Upon repetition, you may be dropped.

*To be prepared for all course work on due dates; to participate in all class discussions, activities and exercises; and to show-up for scheduled rehearsals with your scene partner. Note taking should be hand-written; no computer use in class.

*To dress appropriately and be ready to commit both physically and vocally at all times. Clothing for non-scene days should be easy to move in and non-revealing front or back. Unless otherwise noted, dress expectations for scene/monologue presentations are as follows: ¾ to full length skirts and low healed, hard soled shoes for women; slacks and hard soled shoes for men.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
*Attendance/Participation: Because the basis of this class requires participation, you are expected to attend every class meeting, prepared and on time. Guidelines for maintaining this requirement are as follows:

1. During the course of the semester you are allowed two absences for any reason and your grade will not be negatively affected. Each absence over two will lower your grade by 50 points or one-half of a letter grade.

2. 2 tardies= 1 Absence/Any late arrival greater than 10 minutes= 1 Absence.

3. Excused absences are only granted with official written documentation (w/in 1 week)
and in the event of illness, family emergency, or a university-sponsored event.

Note: Papers and documentation should never be sent via E-mail, as I cannot guarantee receiving them, or be responsible for printing them. Please no text messaging.

*Preparedness: (200 points) Over the course of the semester you will be expected to fully participate in class warm-ups, exercises, and activities. Complete memorization on presentation due dates or as assigned for final project, is a mandatory part of your scene preparation.

*Character Analysis: (100 points) A detailed typed scene/character analysis is required for both the monologue and two-person scene (50 pts. each). The content of each analysis should contain a brief description of the given circumstances and “moment before” in terms of plot, as well as a brief description of your character’s objectives, obstacles, and stakes for the scene/monologue. Students who do not complete their analysis in time to perform will receive a zero on each presentation until this assignment is complete. Guidelines for all written work are as follows: typed; single-spaced using 12 point font and one-inch margins; 2.5 pages minimum. All papers must be written in the first person as the character. Due dates are in the schedule.

*Scansion Work: (150 points) All performed script must be “scanned” via a line-by-line breakdown of the text identifying stressed and unstressed syllables; operative words, feminine endings, antithesis, etc. (50 pts. each)

*Scansion Test: (100 points) Students will be given a written test on the use of Shakespeare’s language and the metrical analysis of verse poetry.

*Monologue Work: (100 points) All students will research, choose and perform one monologue. Each monologue will be presented and graded, once as a “work-through” (50 pts.), and once as a performance (50 pts.), reflecting the incorporation of notes and suggestions for improvement

*Scene Work for Improvement and Presentation: (175 points) All students will present one scene over the course of the semester. Each scene will be presented and graded twice as a work-through (50 pts. each), and once as a performance (75 pts.) reflecting the incorporation of notes and suggestions for improvement in the areas of acting and heightened language use. Your ability to perform Shakespearean material is expected to improve over the course of the semester as you gain experience and confidence. Rehearsal space for scene work is provided in the Shasta 249 Acting Lab. The Studio Theatre space, in general, is reserved for directing projects.

*Final Presentation: (175) All students will rehearse and perform a cut version of either a Shakespearean Play or a Shakespearean based performance piece as a final project. The final performance will be presented for an audience of faculty, staff, students and peers. Missing the final will result in course failure.

Students with Disabilities
If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours within the first two weeks of the semester.

Texts: Students are expected to seek out the texts required for scene/monologue assignments, which are readily available in the departmental and university libraries. In the event of a “group project”, in lieu of the second scene, scripts will be provided at a minimal cost of no more than $5.00 to class participants.
Grading: Grading in this class is based on attendance, commitment to class work and activities and improvement, rather than perceived “talent”. In scene work all students are graded as individuals.

Student's course grade will be determined as follows:
Participation/Preparedness 200
Character Analysis (3) 100
Scansion Work 150
Heightened Language/Scansion Test 100
Monologue Work/Performance 100
Scene Work/Presentation 175
Final Presentation/Performance 175
** One Time Extra Credit 20
Total 1000/1020

900-1000 A, 800-899 B, 700-799 C, 600-699 D, Below 600 F

This syllabus is subject to change depending on class size and progress.

ACTING STYLES: SHAKESPEARE Schedule, Spring 2013

January/February
M 28 Intros/Expectations; Verse/Prose, Assign Sonnets; Assign Monologues(Find 2 in verse)
W 30 Introduction to Shakespeare's Language: Operative Words (Sonnet Due-Bring 2 Copies)
M 4 Lexicon, Iambic Pentameter; Complete Sonnet “Scan” In class and Turn IN; Sonnet Cold Readings; (Monologue Choices Due)
W 6 Monologue Table Work (Bring 2 copies of each): Complete Scansion in class and Turn IN

** Cabaret AUDITIONS 02/4-6, 6 pm, University Theatre **

M 11 C/A Due for Monologues; Cold Read/Perform Monologues incorporating all Table-work
W 13 Work Memorized Monologues-All; Scene Partners Assigned

** Extra Credit: Mon. 11th & Thurs. 14th: KCACTF Showcase 5pm, Playwright's Theatre ($5)

M 18 KCACTF-TBA/No Formal Class Meeting
W 20 KCACTF-TBA/No Formal Class
M 25 Scansion Work Returned; Review for Scansion Test; Scene Choices Presented for Approval
W 27 Scansion Test; Monologues Final Performance; Scenes Approved; C/A for Scenes Assigned

March
M 4 Return Test/Discuss; Scene Scansion Work Done in Class and Turn IN
W 6 Two-person Scene Character Analysis Due
M 11 TBA
W 13 1st Scenes Presented for Class (Group I)

M 18 1st Scenes Presented for Class (Group II)
W 20 1st Scenes Presented for Class (Group III)

Spring Break, March 25- April 1, 2013-Catch up!

April
M 1 Holiday, No Class
W 3 Assign Final Performance Project; Read-Thru?

M 8 1st Scenes 2nd Time w/Improvements
W 10 1st Scenes 2nd Time w/Improvements

*Cabaret* Opens April 10th @ 8pm! University Theatre

M 15 Two-person Scene Performances
W 17 Final Project Scansion Due; Final Project Rehearsal

M 22 Final Project: Rehearsal
W 24 “

M 29 Final Project: Rehearsal
May
W 1 “

*Student Directed One Acts* Perform April 30- May 11, 2013

M 6 Final Project: Rehearsal; Memorization Due
W 8 “

M 13 Final Project: Rehearsal
W 15 “

Final: Monday, May 20, 2013
12:45-2:45 pm
Culminating Performance for Invited Audience