

**ORI 2000 - Oral Interpretation of Literature
SPRING 2015**

Instructor: Christie Robinson

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Room: MCCA 2186

Section/Period: Per. 8 (3-3:50pm)

Office Hours: 11am-12pm, MCCC, 3rd floor

Course Objectives:

- To develop communication & performance skills through oral presentation of literature
- To provide you with a greater appreciation of quality literature & performance
- To develop awareness of yourself in various aspects, such as physically, vocally, mentally, and emotionally
- To develop your critical thinking and analytical skills in identifying what works and doesn't work in performance

The Fundamentals of Performance include the ability to:

- Stand calmly and confidently
- Speak loudly and clearly enough to be easily understood
- Make eye contact with the audience
- Communicate thoughts and ideas with intention and purpose
- Utilize movement when natural

We will work towards building these fundamentals with a wide variety of tools, designed to develop your expressive potential in the reading of literature before an audience.

Course Content:

- Students will participate in exercises during class that are designed to develop the major skills required for acting. Students will be expected to prepare outside of class for these exercises and their scene work.
- Students will perform a series of pieces for the instructor and the class. It is imperative that you work on these scenes outside of class to prepare them for presentation.
- Students will also prepare written analyses in order to strengthen their performances and allow them an opportunity to articulate what it is they are trying to demonstrate in their pieces. There will also be in-class workshops for each of the pieces prior to the performance. A final scene presentation will occur during the last week of classes.
- In addition, Students will be required to complete short writing assignments and complete quizzes on shows viewed and material covered.

Required Course Materials:

- This Syllabus, ORI 2000 Fall or Spring Manual (to be purchased at Target Copy for Approximately \$5), Course Outline and *Oral Interpretation* (Guira, Lee)
- Readings will be provided for you by the instructor on all aspects of performance techniques which you will be required to read and discuss in class.
- Poems, narratives, monologues, stories, etc. collected by the student. Copies must be made. Library West has an extensive collection of literature including one-act and full length plays which can be searched for by title and/or playwright.
- 3-Ring Binder containing syllabus, class manual, handouts, presentation pieces, notes (notebook or loose-leaf paper) and any other material applicable to class.
- Appropriate apparel for class: clothing to move in; on workshop and performance days clothes must be appropriate to the presentation piece.
- Appropriate writing utensils: pencils, pens, highlighters, etc.
- Access to internet, email and Sakai for class information, updates, grades, performance material.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be taken daily. Due to the nature of this course, attendance is MANDATORY. *You are allowed two unexcused absences.* If more than two absences occur, **30 points** will be deducted from your participation grade for each additional absence. Please use these allowed absences wisely as *absolutely NO exceptions will be made.* There are NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES so do not miss a day you are work-shopping or performing. The ONLY excused absences allowed are religious holiday (student must write a letter saying such and provide it to the instructor at least one week prior to the absence), medical emergency (accompanied by a doctor's note on letterhead) and mandatory school requirements (which must be approved by the instructor and a letter from the appropriate authority must be provided at least one week ahead of time). Failure to provide the appropriate documentation at least one week before an excused absence will result in an unexcused absence. Students must provide any missed assignments at the following class period for an excused absence. Missed workshops or performances with an excused absence will be made up the following class period.

***Excused Absences:** In order for an absence to be excused, you must turn the proper written documentation. (Ex: team travel, band, academic field trips, doctor's notice, etc.) See above for further details.

***Tardy Policy:** In addition to your 2 allowed absences, you will be given 2 opportunities to be late. Upon your 3rd tardiness, **20 points** will be deducted from your participation grade. Please note that it is *your responsibility* to notify the instructor after the class that you arrived late. If you come in late and the instructor is unaware, you will receive an absence for that day. If you arrive late, DO NOT come into the room while another student is performing – please be respectful!

No late assignments will be accepted without an excused absence. In the event of an excused absence, late assignments will be accepted no later than one class period after the date in which it was due. Assignments can be emailed if necessary. There are no make-up days for your workshop or final performances without an excused absence. In the event of an excused absence, workshop and final performances may be made up no later than the following class period. If you miss, you forfeit your points. You may not switch days with someone from another workshop (scene performances are negotiable). Please look at the calendar thoroughly.

Dress Code:

Dress appropriately and comfortably, wearing clothes and shoes that allow you to move with ease. On workshop days, dressing in sweats, t-shirts, comfortably fitting jeans, etc. are fine. On presentation days, the appropriate professional attire and/or costume is required.

Performance Pieces:

The method of how to select each piece will be discussed in class. The pieces you work on and present **MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTOR.**

Required Viewing:

You are required to attend 3 UF School of Theatre and Dance production listed below. You will be required to write a two page critique of the acting (on one to two actors) to show you understand the concepts you have been learning. This is not a report. I will hand out guidelines for the paper before the show opens. The papers are due in class on dates slated in the course calendar (Please see the calendar). **YOU MUST STAPLE YOUR TICKET STUB TO YOUR PAPER.** All students must arrive at least 10 minutes before the show begins. **DO NOT BE LATE.** Some shows do not allow late seating. **DO NOT TEXT** ever during the show. Ever. You will be given ticket vouchers for the UF shows. The cost to you will be \$2 for each show.

UF Production Dates:

Metamorphoses – January 23 – January 29 (Constans Theatre)

Gator Tales – February 13 – February 22 (Black Box Theatre, McGuire Pavilion)

The Comedy of Errors – April 3 – April 12 (Black Box Theatre, McGuire Pavilion)

Extra Credit:

Each student may write a critique on performances that are not part of the semester's required viewing. These must be performances with acting involved –please approach the instructor before attending and writing the critique. To receive the full 25 points, you must turn in a two page double-spaced critique (not a report) with ticket stub. These performances can include, but are not limited to, productions at the Hippodrome State Theatre, Across Town Rep, Gainesville Community Playhouse, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, or any other performances that you are interested in. Limit – 1 paper (25 points).

Workshop Days:

On Workshop Days, you *must* have the following:

- a. TWO copies of your scored script. One for you – one for the instructor.
- b. Character Analysis
- c. Preparation
- d. Dressed in rehearsal clothes appropriate to the scene and the character.

Performance Days:

You will be assigned a day on which to perform your piece for the class. When you arrive, you *must* have the following prepared items:

- a. Suggestion of Costume encouraged or appropriate dress
- b. TWO copies of your final scored script/piece with any changes made. One for the student, one for the instructor.
- c. Display of thorough preparation and rehearsal. Workshop discussion and other suggestion from the instructor and class should be fully worked into the piece. Although memorization is not required, it is strongly encouraged that the student be highly familiar and comfortable with the material.

Final Note:

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor, and *it is your responsibility* to make note of any changes discussed in class. Please feel free to approach me with any concerns you may have about this class.

Class Conduct:

When you are not working in front of the class, you must give your full attention to your fellow classmate who is working. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE of cell phone use (including texting), sleeping, eating, drinking, doing work for other classes, newspaper reading, or disruptive talking in this class. If you engage in any of these behaviors, you will be ejected by the instructor and counted as absent for the day.

NOTES MUST BE TAKEN BY HAND - no laptops, netbooks or tablet computers can be open once class has begun.

Special Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (392-1261). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty:

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in

all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

The instructors of this course fully support the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. We, the members of the University of Florida Community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student guidelines for ethical behavior can be found at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

The Student Conduct Code is available at
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/>

I have carefully read over the Fall 2014, ORI 2000 Syllabus. I AGREE to all the rules and regulations of the class as outlined in this syllabus. Please return this form to your instructor. This form serves as a contract between student and instructor.

PRINT NAME: _____

UF ID# _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

UPDATE: _____

UPDATE: _____

UPDATE: _____