

Montgomery County Community College  
 THA 250  
 Acting Shakespeare  
 3-2-2

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an upper level course in acting technique, investigating the performance of Shakespeare's plays through scene work and related exercises. Tools of the actor which will be stressed are commitment, simplicity, listening, focus, concentration, play, imagination and openness. Students will be required to attend live theatre performances. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- THA 105 Introduction to Acting I: Improvisation and Fundamentals with a minimum grade of "C"
- THA 106 Introduction to Acting II: Scene Study with a minimum grade of "C"

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Interpret characters drawn from Shakespeare through application of movement, voice and imagination with freedom and expression.	In Class Rehearsal of Sonnets, Monologues & Scenes Warm Ups Acting Exercises Lecture/Demonstration In Class Participation	Sonnet Presentation Monologue Presentation Scene Presentation
2. Apply scansion and illustrate meter in the work of Shakespeare, both written and spoken.	Readings Lecture/Demonstration In Class Acting Exercises In Class Rehearsals of Monologues, Sonnets, and Scenes	Written Papers Scanned Sonnets and Monologues (that is: with <i>scansion</i> noted) Sonnet Presentation Monologue Presentation Scene Presentation
3. Apply skills to the creation of a public performance or presentation of Shakespeare (sonnet, monologue, and scene), using proper theatrical etiquette and professionalism.	In Class Rehearsal of Scenes Acting Exercises	Sonnet Presentation Monologue Presentation Scene Presentation

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Analyze Shakespearean texts (sonnet, monologue and scene) to determine artistic and aesthetic choices used to interpret and communicate the writer/creator's vision (text analysis).	In Class Discussion Readings	Written Exercises Response Papers
5. Utilize appropriate research techniques to create an original performance of Shakespeare's work.	Research Project	Sonnet Presentation Monologue Presentation Scene Presentation
6. Utilize appropriate research techniques to contextualize Shakespeare's work against the cultures and historical period which created it; exploring the history and evolution of the work, and other cultural expression.	Research Project	In Class Research Presentation
7. Apply specific techniques and methods for freeing the imagination to the creation of a performance of Shakespeare's work with respect to those techniques and methods.	Reading In Class Discussions Acting Exercises In Class Rehearsals	In Class Demonstrations Personal Exercises
8. Engage with live theatre and theatre artists to experience and understand theatre arts in practice.	Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) and /or Seminars, Talk Backs with Theatre Professionals	In Class Discussion or Response Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

## SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

All movement classes will include warm-up exercises for body, voice and imagination. Each class will emphasize a particular concept or skill.

1. Course Introduction
2. Reading Text for Meaning
3. Scansion: Discovering Meter and Its Uses
4. Learning Lines: How to Memorize
5. Table Work and Text Analysis
6. Introduction to the Elizabethan Worldview
7. Connecting Breathing to Punctuation
8. Supporting the Line: Body and Voice
9. Critical Analysis for Actor:
  - Evaluating Plot
  - Interior, "Self-View" of Character
  - Exterior, "Perceptions" of Character
  - Researching and Using Critical Analysis
  - Arc of the Character
  - Discovering Action in Text
  - Substitution
  - Text tools and rhetoric for Shakespeare's work
10. In-Class Rehearsals
11. Viewing and Critique of Monologue, Sonnet, and Scene Work.
  - a) Observation
  - b) Aesthetic value
  - c) Analysis
12. Demonstrations thru Specific Stage, Film, and Television Examples

## LEARNING MATERIALS:

Required text:

Van Tassel, Wesley. (2000). *Clues to Acting Shakespeare*. Allworth Press.

Or

Alternate texts as appropriate to the course

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

## COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Michael Whistler Date: 10/24/2008

VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: John C. Flynn, Jr., Ph.D. Date: 2/25/2009

Revised by: Michael Whistler Date: 2/10/2013

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:  
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 2/15/2013

Revised by: Timothy Gallagher Date: 12/15/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 1/8/2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. F. W. S.", located in the upper left quadrant of the page.

*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*