Acting III-Period Styles (Shakespeare)
TH 3353-010 | Spring 2021

Instructor Information
Ashley Meyer, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate
Director of University Theatre
Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu
Office: Carr EFA | Room 164 | Direct line: 325.486.6191
Office Hours: | T/TH 1:00-4:30PM (virtual or phone call unless necessary in-person meeting), or by appointment

Course Meeting Information
Mondays and Wednesdays | 2:30-3:45PM | Carr E/FA 241A/and online meetings

Required Text
Playing Shakespeare | John Barton | any Edition | Anchor Books (e or hardcopy is acceptable)
No Fear Shakespeare: Sonnets | William Shakespeare and John Crowther | Sparks Press (any version acceptable)
All of Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets may be found at http://shakespeare.mit.edu/
Instructor will provide additional readings throughout the semester that will be made available as hard copies or through BlackBoard.

Course Description
An exploration of special problems the actor encounter with dramatic text form various periods. Shakespeare remains the most produced playwright in the world and therefore, it is important for student actors to learn how to work with the heightened language of this important dramatic poet. Additionally, the skills acquired will translate to other texts and acting traditions that rely on heightened language including Greek, Neoclassical, etc.

Course Content
In each module, students will focus on developing the technical and imaginative skills necessary to perform Shakespeare with increasing difficulty as the semester progresses. In Section 1, we will use the Sonnets to learn scansion and imaging skills. In Section 2, we will apply scansion skills and other techniques to character and argument in a soliloquy or monologue. In Section 3, we apply the accumulated lessons of the previous two sections and add moment-to-moment work in scenes, drawing together Shakespeare acting tradition and our own. Goals are achieved through group and partner exercises; individual coaching; and assignments that include reading, writing, and performances of and memorized text.

Required Theatre Performances
Attendance is required for both of ASU Theatre’s spring virtual productions. If you are involved in the production(s), you will write your report from the perspective of being involved and the same observations.

Rams’ Words, an evening of new works by ASU Students | Online streaming production
March 4-6 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM March 7

El Suenos Fantasticos devised experience by the ASU Theatre Company |Online streaming production
April 29-May 1 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM on May 1

Box Office • Ticketing Information
Modular, ASU Auditorium, and Studio Theatre Productions:
Angelo State University Theatre | Carr Education-Fine Arts Building, 2602 Dena Dr, San Angelo, TX 76904
Box Office:
https://angelostatetickets.universitytickets.com/ or call 325-942-2000
All ASU students receive free admission for plays and musicals. Login with your ASU Ramport ID and password to see the student ticket option.
Sneak Peek Performances:
One free sneak peek performance will be available for students for each show, the night before “opening night.” No ticket is needed for this.

A sold-out performance is not an excuse for not seeing a production. Please obtain tickets ahead of time.
Course Specific Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1) Broaden their repertoire of performance material with selections from Shakespeare’s canon.
2) Compare and contrast the tradition of acting Shakespeare to our modern acting tradition inspired by naturalism.
3) Analyze a piece of Shakespearean text using scansion and dictionary work to delve into a sense and meaning.
4) Deploy different techniques, tools, and exercises, such as feeding in, direct address, or resistance, to discover character, action, and argument working in Shakespeare’s plays.

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes

This course will use a "point system" for all work, including tests and participation. There are 1000 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Assignments</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play Report</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Reflections</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonnet Scansion and Performance</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Soliloquy Scansion and Performance</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Scene Scansion and Performance</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The methods of assessment described below are followed by the correlating outcomes that they access.

1) **Play Reports:** Worth fifty (50) points. The play report will be written about one of the productions produced this semester at Angelo State University (Original One Acts or RENT). All written assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical and spelling errors, double spaced, one-inch margins on all sides and twelve-point font Times New Roman. (Handouts to follow) (Outcomes 2 and 4)

2) **Personal Reflections:** Students complete three (3) self-reflections throughout the semester. These reflections will be an opportunity to share with the instructor your discoveries, ideas, inspirations, questions, and frustrations learned/gleaned in our work together, as well as your practice work outside of class. These reflections should be no less than three (3) pages of double-spaced text, though you should feel free to write more if you wish. Single space your name and course information at the top of the first page. Margins must be no larger than 1 inch; font must be no larger than 12 pt. (Handouts to follow) (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)

3) **Sonnet Scansion and Performance:** Students will complete scansion for a sonnet of their choosing, rehearse in class, and perform the memorized and rehearsed piece. (Handouts to follow) (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)

4) **Final Soliloquy Scansion and Performance:** Students will complete scansion for a soliloquy of the instructor’s choosing, rehearse in class, and perform the memorized and rehearsed piece. (Handouts to follow) (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)

5) **Final Scene Scansion and Performance:** Students will complete scansion for a scene with a partner of the instructor’s choosing, rehearse in class, and perform the memorized and rehearsed piece. (Handouts to follow) (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)

6) **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class, including asking questions, answering questions, initiating classroom discussion, and participating fully in all classroom activities with a positive attitude. Students are also expected to demonstrate growth in all objective areas on a daily basis. Theatre training is a collaborative process, involving shared responsibilities. The central role of the instructor is to support students in this work. The theatre faculty will always do their best to clarify the intention of the work. However, it must be understood that acting is a psychophysical process and that intellectual understanding is not always the key factor. Students have a responsibility to enter the training process with a spirit of spontaneity, inquiry and a sense of discovery. If a student is ever confused about the intention of an exercise or a direction, the faculty encourages her or him to bring that particular concern to their attention as soon as possible. Students will never be penalized for questioning the process. Open discussion is a vital component of life in a university; it strengthens the relationship between faculty and students, actor and director.
If your final point count is between two grades, participation will be taken into account to raising or lowering the grade.

(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)

Grading
Grades will be calculated using a 1000-point scale. Please note that grades are not based on “talent” but rather on discipline, commitment, preparedness, work ethic, positive attitude, respect for the work and that of fellow actors, imagination, and attention to detail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-970</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>969-920</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>919-890</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>889-850</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>849-810</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>809-780</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>779-750</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>749-710</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>709-660</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>619-590</td>
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<td>589-550</td>
<td>D-</td>
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Content Disclosure
Courses within the Department usually deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

Physical Contact Policy
In drama, the actor becomes a medium as well as a creator of art. Stage life, which may involve actions such as touching, laughing, crying, kissing, dancing, flirting, threatening, dueling, and/or fighting, is not something the actor merely mimics, but necessarily experiences in and with his or her own body and mind. The ancient maxim of Horace, ‘in order to move the audience, the actor must first be moved himself,’ is as valid today as when Horace stated it two thousand years ago: stage performance involves not only the externals of body and voice, but also the internals of longings and emotions. Effective teaching in the drama disciplines, therefore, may often involve physical and/or emotional interventions that can be demonstrative, suggestive, and/or challenging. This has been true as long as theatre has existed. We will maintain all COVID safety precautions when engaging in necessary contact.

In-Course Technology Use
This course utilizes the following platforms: Blackboard, Ramport, and Zoom. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are familiar with the platforms and seek the necessary help you require if you have questions. Chapters for the readings and the chapter quizzes are all in Connect (the eBook). All lecture notes, recorded lectures, PowerPoints, and lesson materials are in Blackboard. In the event of technology issues, please maintain open and honest communication.

Flipped Classroom Expectations
Flipped classroom is a “pedagogical approach in which direct instruction moves from the group learning space to the individual learning space, and the resulting group space is transformed into a dynamic, interactive learning environment where the educator guides students as they apply concepts and engage creatively in the subject matter” (The Flipped Learning Network, 2014). According to the Angelo State University guidelines, students are expected to spend approximately two-three hours in preparation for each hour of lecture. The instructor anticipates that class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students. You will be expected to read the chapters, watch the pre-recorded lectures on Blackboard prior to arriving to classes by the designated deadlines. Class time is dedicated to applying the concepts of the course in practical and creative methods in addition to understanding how the concepts affect and involve all educational
disciplines. This means the preparation for each lecture is more in-depth on the parts of the instructor and the students. However, the learning results have proven to benefit the students when all parties put forth this effort. In our current pandemic, this also allows for the most flexibility across our diverse student cohort. In the event of a state-mandated transition to a solely online environment, there will be minimum disruption to our learning environment and progress as a class.

**Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class at Angelo State University**

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [Facial Covering Policy](#) to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

**Entering the Classroom**

Students coming into the classroom will enter through the double doors on the side of the classroom in the art hallway once the instructor allows entry. The previous course will be exiting through the double doors at the back of the classroom under the EXIT sign by the single door near the stairwell. When you enter, you will be expected to take a cleaning wipe located to the right and clean your learning space. You must maintain the social distancing rules and sit in the same designated seating area every class. When exiting the classroom, you will exit through the double doors. Attendance is taken using a variety of methods.

**Content Disclosure**

Courses within the Department deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, value judgements, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

**Electronics Policy**

I invite you to be physically and mentally present in our time together, and I request that you do not allow your devices to impact the learning environment, which involves many of us, in any negative manner.

**Course Workload**

According to the Angelo State University guidelines, students are expected to spend approximately two-three hours in preparation for each hour of lecture. The instructor anticipates that out-of-class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students.

**Late Work:** Because of the pacing of this course and performance-based nature of the work, performances, peer critiques, and exercises cannot be made up. Play reports will lose a letter grade for every day that one of them is turned in late. Pop reading quizzes must be made up within one week of missing a pop quiz.

**Attendance Policy**

Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed two (2) absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. General rule: If you arrive to class after attendance has been taken, you are tardy. Pop quizzes and tests must be made up within one week of the original date of the assignment. Performances and in-class rehearsals cannot be made up barring a medical emergency at the discretion of the instructor. In the event of COVID related attendance, please speak with the instructor to follow ASU protocols.

Medical emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Doctor’s appointments after an illness or injury will NOT count as an excused absence.
Please note: The only university-recognized excused absences are participation in official university business or for bona fide religious holy days. Participation in official university business must be documented by written notice from sponsoring faculty or staff member at least one week prior to the event.

**Observance of a Religious Holy Day**
Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

**ADA Statement**
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Office of Student Services at (325) 942-2191, Student Life Office, room 112 If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication, Mass Media, or Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU’s Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312 and can be reached at (325) 942-2710.

**Grade Appeal Process (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances)**
A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc

**Honor Code Policy**
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

**Civility in the Classroom**
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers, cellular phones or other text messaging devices, beepers, eating or drinking (except for water bottles), making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom.

In instances where a student is proved to be a distraction, the student will lose five points from their grade. Second occurrence will result in ten points removed. On the third occurrence, the student will be removed permanently from the classroom.

Additionally, in the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting.

In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class.
If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Dean of Students office.

**Sexual Harassment**

This course will observe the university's guidelines for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because theatre imitates human living, and because sexuality is part of life, some materials in this course may deal with sexual behaviors, situations and language. Those who are easily offended by such subject matter may want to reconsider taking this course.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

**Michelle Boone, J.D.**  
*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*  
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022  
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).
I have read the 3353.010 syllabus and understand its contents. I will fulfill the requirements necessary for the grade I want.

________________________
Student Name

________________________    ________________________
Student Signature            Date