Syllabus
Acting III THTRE 451
Iowa State University
Fall 2013

Course: THTRE 451 (3 credits)
Time: 2:10-3:25 PM, T-R
Room: Pearson 2140

Instructor: Matt Foss
Office: 2236 Pearson
Office Hours: TBA
Email: mfoss@iastate.edu (quickest and most efficient way to get in contact with me)

Course description:
Analysis and practice of Shakespeare text.

Required Texts:

*Macbeth*: Applause First Folio Editions (Folio Texts)

*Macbeth* (Arden Shakespeare: Third Series)
By William Shakespeare,

*Shakespeare Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary: A Complete Dictionary of All the English Words, Phrases, and Constructions in the Works of the Poet* (Volume I and II) by Alexander Schmidt
ISBN: 9780486227269 & 9780486227276

Assignments and Grading:

All assignments go towards your total points for the semester. The estimated percentage of how daily and semester assignments comprise your grade are as follows:

**Daily Participation and Attendance—50 %**

The material of the course is experiential in nature. Therefore, attending each class is fundamental to your success in this course in addition to a focused, curious and courageous participation in class activities. **Attendance and class participation points cannot be made up.**

There is a strictly enforced attendance policy for this course. The collaborative nature of theatre requires commitment of all individuals to the group. Punctuality is also extremely
important to the health of a career in the professional theatre. Attendance is taken for every class.

You are allowed two absences without penalty (Two tardies are equivalent to one absence). Every aggregate absence after the second will result in an automatic reduction of one letter grade for the class. Six total absences will result with you being asked to drop the course.

Additionally, all assignments will be turned in on time. Assignments received late will have grades lowered by one half grade for each class session past due date.

Arriving to class unprepared to work will also result in the loss of daily points. In addition, quizzes, both announced and unannounced, may be used as an accountability tool for course material. Assigned readings are designed to augment and articulate the exercise work we are doing during class time.

**Studio and Performance Work—50%**

This class if focused on creating experiences that will help you to develop skills, awareness, methods and techniques for your theatrical work. As this is process orientated, you will be graded on the quality of your effort and engagement with the work, your discipline and courage in the course activities, and the progress you make throughout the semester. Since this is an acting class, participation and performance is a major component of the course. Despite the subjective nature of this form of evaluation, competition is not helpful for the foundational work we will be doing. Evaluations of your performances will be based on your individual effort, progress and achievement throughout the process and your ability to apply our studio work into performance. The majority of our effort will be focused on the foundational skills in developing a system of acting. The remaining time will be given to an introduction to audition skills and applying what you have learned to the necessary evil of monologues.

A 400 point given circumstances quiz that is administered the first two weeks of class serves a crucial purpose for our semester’s course of work. It not only constitutes a large portion of your points in your studio grade but is vitally important for your scene, etude and monologue work.

**Classroom Policies:**

**Decorum:** Students in this class will feel safe to succeed and fail. Any behavior or action that acts contrary to that safety will result in that individual being asked to leave the class.

**Attendance:** Again, attendance and promptness are vital for all theatre classes. The collaborative nature of theatre requires commitment of all individuals to the group. You are allowed two absences without penalty (Two tardies are equivalent to one absence). Every absence after the third will result in an automatic reduction of one letter grade for the class. Six total absences will result with you being asked to drop the course.
All assignments will be turned in on time. Assignments received late will have grades lowered by one half grade for each class session past due date.

Attendance and class participation points cannot be made up.

**Cell Phones:** All phones are to be turned off. Failure to comply will result in loss of Class Participation points. If the problem persists, you will be asked to leave the class for that day and counted absent.

**Dress:** Unless specified, please wear clothes and shoes that you can actively move and work in: tee-shirts, sweats or workout pants and appropriate shoes. Skirts, dress shoes and any clothes that will limit your ability to participate in the work will result in the loss of Class Participation points.

**Academic Integrity:** All work should be your own. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of the assignment to dismissal from the university. Acknowledge all sources in your writing.

**Cell Phones:** All phones are to be turned off. Failure to comply will result in loss of Class Participation points. If the problem persist, you will be asked to leave the class for that day and counted absent.