

Syllabus for  
**COM 232—Acting Styles**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2003

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An advanced course requiring no background in styles of acting. Covers the history, background, and various acting styles of period dramas from the Greeks through the Comedy of Manners. Students rehearse and perform the various scenes in class.

Prerequisite: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The course is designed to acquaint the students with three (3) acting styles of the important eras of theatre history. They will learn the techniques of acting in verse plays and the styles required for various genres. They will develop their own repertoire of scenes from Greek Tragedy, Shakespeare, and Comedy of Manners and will present them to a live audience. Students will better understand the role of religious faith in the formation of various styles to be studied. Each performance will be video taped for later viewing and possible portfolio inclusion.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. demonstrate the acting technique of each period and style covered.
2. demonstrate a character, handle verse, and perform the required acting style for these various genres of period dramas.
3. create a character for the stage under the pressures of a deadline and perform before a live audience.
4. critique his or her performance by viewing videotape of that performance.

B. Unit Objectives (Applicable to both Unit I—Greek Tragedy, Shakespeare and Unit II—Comedy of Manners)

As a result of successfully completing these units, the student will be able to do the following:

1. create and perform a character with the appropriate style of acting for each period. This includes posture, gesticulation, movement, and speech required for each style.
2. discuss the distinction between each style at every level of endeavor and demonstrate an understanding of how religious faith played a role in the development of a particular style.
3. perfect and perform these styles in rehearsal and performance.

IV. TEXTBOOK—None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.

6. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, Students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.
2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
  - a. inform the professor before the event.
  - b. arrange to complete missed work within one week.
  - c. not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
  - d. present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the day the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
5. **Literacy**—The Communication Arts Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
  - a. Regular attendance in class and for outside rehearsal of scenes, performances of two (2) acting scenes along with memorization of blocking and lines (70% of grade).
  - b. Final exam scene (20% of grade).
  - c. Type written class lecture notes (10% of grade).
2. Other Policies and/or Procedures

Any examination not taken at the scheduled time due to an excused absence must be made up at a time arranged with or by the instructor. Generally, tests missed for an unexcused absence cannot be made up. The University's \$10.00 late-test fee must be paid in advance.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

**UNIT I**

- |        |    |   |
|--------|----|---|
| Week 1 | a. | Introduction of Course, Review Style                          |
|        | b. | Greek tragedy exercise and discussion of Greek lifestyle      |
| Week 2 | a. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal <u>Oedipus</u>                        |
|        | b. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal <u>Oedipus</u>                        |
| Week 3 | a. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
|        | b. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
| Week 4 | a. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
|        | b. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
| Week 5 | a. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
|        | b. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
| Week 6 | a. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
|        | b. | Greek Tragedy—Rehearsal                                       |
| Week 7 | a. | Shakespeare exercises and discussion of Elizabethan lifestyle |
|        | b. | Shakespeare—Rehearsal   |
| Week 8 | a. | Shakespeare—Rehearsal   |
|        | b. | Shakespeare—Rehearsal   |
| Week 9 | a. | Shakespeare—Rehearsal   |
|        | b. | Shakespeare—Rehearsal   |



R. Lewandowski

Name of Instructor

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Spiritual Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication
4. Analysis
5. Problem Solving
6. Valuing in Decision-making
7. Social Interaction
8. Global Perspectives
9. Effective Citizenship
10. Aesthetic Responsiveness

COM 232

Course No.

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Become aware of different performance styles throughout history.

Perform a scene/character from each style.

Develop a repertoire of scenes for acting styles.

Have a knowledge of three acting styles (Greek, Shakespeare, Comedy of Manners) and the spiritual dimensions of those styles.

Acting Styles

Title of Course

COURSE GOALS

Create and perform a chapter from each style.

Discuss the distinction between each period.

Be able to demonstrate gesture, movement, and speech of each period.

Communication Arts

Name of Department

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS

STIMULI:

Three rehearsed and performed scenes.

Videotaping and evaluating each scene.

Live performance before an audience.

CRITERIA:

Criteria stated in the syllabus for the class.