

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
321.15 ProvPlayers
Thursdays, 6:30-9:30
Fall-Winter 2011-2012

Instructor: Mari Raynard
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Theatre Classroom

SYLLABUS

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A team of 4-6 students will be selected on the basis of auditions to develop a repertoire of one-act plays to be performed in high schools and various organizations.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

To provide students with the opportunity to develop their theatrical abilities through the rehearsal process, characterization work, and performance.

C. COURSE TEXTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

All scripts and handouts will be provided in class.

D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance & Participation 15%

Theatre is always a communal enterprise. Therefore, class attendance is mandatory. More than 2 absences may result in a failing grade. Students are required to be on time to class, and encouraged to be five minutes early. Late arrival will affect the attendance grade. The instructor must be notified of all absences a week prior to the class to be missed. The participation grade will be determined by 1) the consistency of class participation, and 2) a cooperative approach to collectively making the plays the best that they can be.

2. Memorization 30%

Full memorization is required quickly in order to facilitate the rehearsal process. Memorization deadlines will be early, and they will be firm. Failure to memorize by the deadline may result in recasting.

3. Preparation Exercises 30%

1) Actor's Notebook – 15%

Students will be required to keep a journal while they develop each of their characters. More details will be provided in a class handout. Notebooks will be handed in for review every other week.

2) Play Analyses – 3 X 5 - 15%

For 3 of the plays (*Nothing in Common*, *A Bench at the Edge*, and *Normal vs. Weird*), students will provide an analysis of the script. This analysis will not be a summary of the story, but will instead explore the questions and

meanings of the script as indicated by the structure, themes, symbols, and characters. Each analysis should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced.

4. Live Theatre Attendance 10%

On October 18th the class will be attending the Prairie Theatre Exchange production of *BINGO!* by Canadian playwright Daniel McIvor. There is also a ‘talk-back’ session after the show, during which time audience members can ask the company (actors and director) questions. There will also be a backstage tour after the show. The cost per student of \$18.00 must be submitted to the instructor no later than Monday, Sept. 26th. Transportation will be provided, departing from Providence at 5:15pm. Failure to attend *BINGO!* will result in 0% for this portion of the grade.

5. Performances 15%

ProvPlayers will be performing at various venues throughout the semester, as well as a one-week tour of Manitoba high schools during Reading Week. This is the reward for all the hard work in rehearsals! The instructor will be in attendance for many of the performances. There may also be situations in which you will be traveling and performing independently. An integral aspect of a strong theatrical troupe is a team dynamic in which mutual trust and respect are present. This will be demonstrated most clearly in the cooperative spirit surrounding travel and performance. Therefore, the performance grade will be assessed based on each member’s cooperative attitude and ability to meet the flexibility demands inherent in touring performances. We’re all in this together!

E. GRADING SUMMARY

Excellent	4.0	91 – 100	A+	Satisfactory	2.5	67 – 69	C+
		85 – 90	A				
		80 – 84	A-	Adequate	2.0	63 – 66	C
						60 – 62	C-
Very Good	3.5	77 – 79	B+	Marginal	1.0	57 – 59	D+
						53 – 56	D
Good	3.0	73 – 76	B			50 – 52	D-
		70 – 72	B-				
				Failure	0.0	<50	F

F. COURSE POLICIES

1. Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after their due date, but their grades will be reduced by 10%, which equals one letter grade. Late assignments

will **not** be accepted more than one week after their due date, and students who do not submit an assignment by at most one week after the due date will receive a grade of zero for that component of the course. The instructor will not receive requests for extensions. If you feel an extension is warranted, attach a cover letter to your assignment when you hand it in, explaining why it is late, and the instructor will make a decision when your assignment is graded. A waiving of the 10% late reduction, or the one-week deadline, will be granted only in the cases of personal or medical emergencies as detailed in the cover letter. Computer problems, conflicts with co-curricular activities, competition for library resources, and/or long weekends before or after due dates do not constitute such emergencies. Failure to plan ahead, or to maintain a margin of time for unforeseen events prior to the due date, does not warrant an extension either.

2. Late Memorization

Late memorization holds back the entire troupe and will not be tolerated. If memorization is late for the first play, recasting will be considered. If memorization is late for subsequent plays, extra, non-negotiable rehearsals will be scheduled for that troupe member until the memorization is satisfactory.

3. Participation in on-campus theatre workshops

All members of ProvPlayers will be required to participate in 321.22 Applied Improv (winter semester). All theatre majors/minors are required to take this course for academic credit as often as the course is offered. If you are not a theatre major/minor, you have the option to register for credit or to simply pay the lab fee and attend the workshop.

G. CLASS OUTLINE – Subject to Change

Sept. 22	Introductions, Read-through plays, Blocking <i>Stuff</i> , <i>Phobias</i>
Sept. 29	6:30 – Mem. Test 1 – <i>Stuff</i>, <i>Phobias</i> . Off-book run-through (All) 7:15 – Blocking <i>Bench</i> (Jeremy & Nadene) 8:30 – Blocking <i>Nothing</i> (Carolee & Shevaun)
Oct 6	6:30 – <i>Bench</i> Analysis (All) 7:00 – Blocking <i>Bench</i> (Jeremy & Nadene) 8:15 – Blocking <i>Normal</i> (Shevaun & Kaleena) Actor’s Notebook Review #1
Oct. 13	6:30 – Mem. Test 2 – <i>Normal</i> . Off-book run-through (Shevaun & Kaleena) 8:00 – Blocking <i>Nothing</i> (Carolee & Shevaun)
Oct. 18	(TUES NIGHT) Theatre Field Trip – <i>BINGO!</i> @ PTE
Oct. 20	6:30 – Blocking <i>Spider</i> 7:30 – <i>Nothing</i> Analysis (All) 8:00 – Blocking <i>Nothing</i> (Carolee & Shevaun) Actor’s Notebook Review #2
Oct. 27	6:30 – Mem. Test 3 – <i>Bench</i> . Off-book run-through (Jeremy & Nadene) 7:30 – Blocking <i>Spider</i> (Kaleena, Carolee, Nadene, Jeremy) 8:00 – Blocking / Polishing <i>Bench</i>
Nov. 3	6:30 – <i>Normal</i> Analysis (All) 7:00 – Run-through <i>Normal</i> , <i>Stuff</i> , <i>Phobias</i> (All) 8:00 – Blocking / Polishing <i>Normal</i> (Kaleena, Shevaun) Actor’s Notebook Review #3
Nov. 10	6:30 – Mem. Test 4 – <i>Nothing</i> . Off-book run-through (Carolee & Shevaun) 7:45 – Blocking <i>Spider</i> (Kaleena, Carolee, Nadene, Jeremy)
Nov.17	All costumes and props established 6:30 – Mem. Test 5 – <i>Spider</i> . Off-book run-through (K, C, N, J) 7:00 – Run-Through All Plays (All) Actor’s Notebook Review #4
Nov. 24	6:30 <i>Stuff</i> , <i>Spider</i> , <i>Phobias</i> Discussion (All) 7:15 Polishing as required
Dec. 1	TBA
Dec. 8	TBA

Dates for second semester to be announced.