



**SYLLABUS v.040324**

**TA 388 LONDON PERFORMING**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**UO Credits: 4**

**Contact Hours: 63**

**Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities: 120**

**LONDON, ENGLAND**

## **INSTRUCTOR**

Tricia Rodley / [rodley@uoregon.edu](mailto:rodley@uoregon.edu)

## **OFFICE HOURS**

- Available by appointment outside of classes or related meeting times.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An optional course designed for students interested in performance, the acting course includes 3-4 hour workshops led by London professionals on a variety of topics, including such topics as acting Shakespeare, voice, movement, devising, and clown.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Instructional Goals. This course will:

- Introduce students to a variety of current practices in London performance training.
- Challenge students to critically engage personal learning processes via different training approaches to performance.
- Inform workshop experience from professional performances in current productions.

Student Outcomes. Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Improve knowledge of and practice in vocal and physical techniques from a variety of training approaches.
- Enhance collaborative skills in developing performance.
- Enhance critical skills in evaluating different aims and style of performance in full production.
- Gain personal insight towards further advanced development in actor training.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY**

London Performing involves weekly 3-hour workshops led by London professionals and additional weekly “debrief” discussion meetings following each workshop. The debrief is intended to help make connections between personal experience, production observations,

and questions specific to performance technique and stylistic aims. Topics will vary, but may include such content as a brief history of Brecht's influence on British actor training, Improvisation's place in current professional training and rehearsal process, Devising, Shakespeare, and Clown contexts.

## COURSE READING and MATERIALS

- **Course Reading:** Individual workshop instructors may provide brief readings relevant to their workshop topic. In addition, the program instructor may assign brief reviews/websites relevant to questions that arise from group discussion.
- **Course Materials:** A journal is required for keeping notes and completing journal content for submission.

The following begins a recommended bibliography to be updated with related content:

- *The Purpose of Playing*, by Robert Gordon (U. Michigan Press, 2006)
- *Other People's Shoes*, by Harriet Walters (Nick Hern Books, 2003)
- *Devising Performance – a critical history*, Heddon and Milling (Palgrave, 2006)

## METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

### Course Requirements – Overview

- **Attendance, Participation, Engagement**
  - An essential aspect of your grade for this course is attendance and respectful participation in every weekly workshop (Tuesdays).
  - You are also required to attend all group discussions scheduled the day after workshops. The faculty instructor will schedule an additional hour the next day for group discussion. On occasion, depending on the topic for that week, there may also be preliminary context instruction, to help introduce how the workshop connects to British traditions in actor training and rehearsal.
  - When feasible, discussion sessions with guest actors may also be scheduled.
- **Journal**
  - Students are expected to keep a weekly journal that engages material from the workshops and focuses on performance questions with reflections connected to the range of productions we attend.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Course Requirements – Details

Workshops for this course are scheduled one or two months prior to our arrival because they involve multiple instructors, contacts, and timelines. The final schedule will not be available until our first day together in London.

### Summary of Assignments

Attendance, Participation, Engagement	50%	50 points
Journal	50%	50 points
	100%	100 points

## Attendance, Participation, Engagement

- Workshops
  - An essential aspect of your grade for this course is attendance and respectful participation in every workshop.
  - Students who miss one workshop will receive a grade reduction.
    - Serious illness is the exception.
  - Students who miss more than one workshop may be asked to withdraw from the course.
- Discussions
  - You are also required to attend all group discussions scheduled the day after workshops.
  - If a student misses one discussion unexpectedly, a conversation with the instructor will follow as a makeup. However, this conversation will also include planning and strategies to make sure missing discussions does not become a pattern.
  - Two or more absences for discussion will lead to a reduction in the final course grade.
    - Serious illness is the exception.

## Journal

- *Content:* The weekly journal should include three content areas for each week:
  1. Detailed overview notes about workshop activities or exercises.
  2. In-depth reflections on experiences from each workshop.
  3. In-depth reflections on performance styles and particular techniques in the productions we attend.
- *Due Dates:* Journals will be reviewed and graded twice:
  - Please ask any questions about content as needed before the first submission.
  - Journal 1 [20 points] – by Wednesday of Week 5: Grading notes will include advice from the instructor on areas for adjustment or improvement towards the final review and grade.
  - Journal 2 [30 points] – by Wednesday of Week 9: Grading notes will include final comments and will consider whether initial recommendations have been implemented.
- *Submission:* Submit hand-written journal content on the due dates in group discussion.
  - We will discuss Canvas submission needs in the first group discussion.
- *Grading Criteria:*
  - 75% Depth of Reflection
  - 25% Three Content Areas

## GenAI Use for Written Assignment Completion

- Students may NOT use Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to help with written journal in this course.

## Assignment Due Dates/Late Assignments

- If you are not able to complete coursework for any reason, please arrange an individual meeting with me as soon as possible to discuss completion steps.
- Otherwise, due to the content and circumstances of this course within a study abroad program, late assignments will not be accepted.

### Course Grade Guidelines

- Your final course grade is based on completion of each area in the Course Requirements – Details section.

### Grading Scale (Theatre majors must receive at least a C grade to pass this course.)

A+	100%+ *	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	95-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-94%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
						F	59% or lower

### Department of Theatre Arts Grading Standards

A = complete success in idea, exploration, expression, extraordinary work reflective of genuine investment, discovery, and critical thinking – mastery

B = success in meeting most expectations of the assignment, good work reflective of sincere effort and basic comprehension – competence

C = some success in meeting minimum requirements only, poor organization, weak technical or group focus, half-rehearsed, lack of critical thinking – incoherence

D = significant lack of completion, ineptitude, disrespectful attitude towards others, failure to engage some minimum requirements, serious lapse of attention – indigence

F = major failure to meet deadlines and basic commitments, extraordinary lack of discipline or focus, clear evidence of plagiarism, cheating, bullying – negligence

*\*NOTE: In the Department of Theatre Arts, a grade of A+ is rare. 100% with perfect attendance or total points or straight As across a term do not guarantee an A+ – instead, this grade is entirely a matter of subjective instructor evaluation above and beyond the excellence described for an A grade.*

### OTHER COURSE EXPECTATIONS – UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

- Please see the page posted on Canvas that includes content as well as links.
- Much like a course on UO's campus, policies such as academic misconduct or accessible education and accommodations may apply to London coursework.

### COURSE SCHEDULE (available on Canvas)

- We will use a "Combined Course Schedule" for all three London program courses.
- Peyvand has also provided slides with performance workshop details.