



THEA 250A Stage Games, Plays, and DIY Theatre

Austin College
Department of Communication, Media Studies and Theatre
Fall 2015

Meeting Days: M/W/F
Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:50 p. m
Location: Ida Green, Arena

“I am convinced that the most thrilling choices are made when there is a trust in the process, in the artists and in the material. The saving grace in one’s work is love, trust, and a sense of humour.” — Anne Bogart

“Fail, try again, fail better.” —Eugenio Barba

“The director’s indispensable quality: patience. His passion is a long patience. The contrary is also true: his patience is the proof of a long passion.”

— Eugenio Barba

Instructor: Elizabeth Parks

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Office: Ida Green, A114

Phone: 903-813-2567

Office Hours: T/Th 3:00 p.m.-4:15p.m

Contacting the Instructor: You are always welcome to come by during office hours, call my office, or email me. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response to any emails. To centralize emails and enhance my response time please only email me through your Austin College email. During weekends, I do not respond to emails.

REQUIRED READING:

Games for Actors and Non-Actors by Augusto Boal

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this class we will explore theatre-making through games, exercises, devising, movement, writing, and design elements. Over the course of the semester, we will use tried and true techniques from theatre companies around the world to create a production. The play that we create together will then be produced at Austin College in Spring 2017. This is a class for anyone interested in the creative process: writers, painters, sculptors, designers, actors, musicians, dancers, singers, and video gamers. No theatre experience is required. Those enrolled in the class will have the option of being in the production in the spring, but are in no way obligated to be in the production.

Questions explored in this course include:

- What *is* the creative process?
- How do you make a play from nothing?
- What is “devising”?
- What are ways of “devising” a production?
- What is *your* creative process?

Expected Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Develop an increasing awareness of the complexity of the creative process

- Identify “the event”
- Identify the *jo ha kyu* of a moment
- Create a vocal and physical score.
- Collaborate effectively and efficiently
- Better respond to creative impulses
- Work with a greater level of patience and take risks in making a choice

POLICIES:

Withdrawal: Austin College has instituted a new policy this year, which requires that students withdraw from a class before the 10th week of the semester.

Professionalism and Courtesy: Courtesy is crucial to a positive learning experience, but the greatest tool any theatre artist has is their professionalism! That is what keeps them employed, so let us begin practicing it today!

How do we practice professionalism?

Be on time- This means being early, setting down your things, readying yourself to work, and circling-up to begin class.

Be prepared- This means that you have read the material assigned, done the work assigned, and are dressed appropriately. (See below for attire requirements)

Be present- This means being an *active* participant in the room; being mindful and respectful of everyone in the room. This does not mean that you always have to be talking, sometimes it means allowing time for your colleagues to speak.

Respect the space- Water is acceptable but you may not eat or chew gum in any room we work in. Pick up after yourselves. Leave the room in better condition than you found it.

Academic Integrity:

In keeping with its educational mission, Austin College places a high value on academic integrity and does not tolerate cheating and other forms of abuse of the academic process. The faculty and officers of the college assume that entering students, in accepting admission to Austin College, are aware that they will submit themselves to a high standard of academic honesty, and agree to follow the norms and procedures by which the college observes and enforces this standard.

Cheating and plagiarism, which is a form of cheating, are primary violations of academic integrity. Cheating is defined as, but not limited to, purposely using/receiving assistance from another student or source on an assignment where such help is not permitted. Examples include copying (though not necessarily verbatim) another’s work and turning it in as your own, use of “crib sheets” on an exam, or providing the material/mechanism for another student to cheat.

Plagiarism is defined as, but not limited to, using someone else’s work and attempting to pass it off as your own. This may be the work of another person, or information obtained from a book, journal, or internet source. Actions that create an unfair advantage by impeding the access of other course members to important information or sharing improperly received information also violate academic integrity. Recognizing that specifics of such violations may be differently defined in some course settings, the college gives instructors the authority to determine expectations and provide instructions according to particular circumstances. For more information on plagiarism, please see the website <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml>

If you are caught violating the academic integrity policy, penalties may include anything from a zero on the assignment to expulsion from the course.

Special note regarding academic honesty as it pertains to this class: Students are expected to do their own work. Despite the fact that there will be group projects in this course, I consider copying your partner's work to be an act of academic dishonesty. When collaborative projects are assigned, I expect *each* student to turn in their *own* portion of the work. It is not permissible for partners to turn in one single document for any given assignment.

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- If you are absent for a class, I will only accept homework via Moodle until 5 minutes after the start time of this class.

Attendance: Timelines and participation are crucial to excellence in the performing arts and in life in general. Regular attendance is **mandatory**.

- 1) Each student is allowed **three** absences in total for the semester. I do not differentiate between excused versus unexcused absences. Please use your three absences judiciously and save them for emergencies.
- 2) For each absence beyond the allotted three absences, the student's overall course grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade with each subsequent absence. After five absences, I reserve the right to dismiss you from the class.
- 3) Two tardies or early exits will equal one absence.
- 4) All sports and college sanctioned absences **MUST** be turned in by the Friday of the first full week of class.

Coming and going during class: Coming and going during class is **not permitted**. Once class begins, we are training together and we are responsible for each other's development and safety in the class. Constant coming and going disrupts the dynamic of the entire class and renders the work we are doing ineffective. The training room is a sacred and safe space and should be respected as such. Leaving class once we have begun counts as an absence. You must use the restroom, eat, text, etc. **before** class starts or **after** class ends. Leaving class once we have begun counts as an absence.

Late work: No late work will be accepted.

Attire: Much of the work we do in this class is physical work. Therefore, please wear comfortable loose-fitting clothing that allows you to move easily. The following restrictions are for your safety: no jeans, no short-shorts, no skirts, no hats, and no jewelry. You may consider wearing leggings, tights, or bicycle shorts under your shorts.

Touching: Because of the nature of the work we do there may be times I adjust your posture, form, stance etc. I want you to feel comfortable in this class. If this type of physical contact makes you uncomfortable please let me know.

Institutional Disability Statement: Austin College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all individuals with disabilities and will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines. It is the responsibility of the student to register with and provide verification of academic accommodation needs to the Director of the Academic Skills Center as soon as possible. The student also must contact the faculty member in a timely manner (typically by the end of the first week of class) to arrange for academic accommodations. For further information regarding disability services or to register for assistance, please contact the office at 903-813-2454 or visit the Academic Skills Center.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones are not allowed, under any circumstance. Laptops and tablets are allowed when necessary. If students misuse their laptops/tablets for non-class related work, students may lose laptop privileges.

Moodle – Please see Austin College’s Moodle site for course information, assignment information, reading due dates, digital articles/readings, and email correspondence.

Grading:

A = An “A” student does much more than is required; turns in flawless work, always on time; contributes actively and insightfully to class discussion; amazes and delights the instructor with a thoughtful and imaginative grasp of the subject as evidenced in both oral and written work.

B = A “B” student does more than is required; turns in nearly flawless work, always on time; contributes actively to class discussion; impresses the instructor with an above average engagement with the subject evidenced in both oral and written work.

C = A “C” student does all that is required; turns in work when due and free of significant error; contributes regularly to class discussion, and satisfies the instructor by turning in work of average quality.

D = A “D” student does all, or nearly all, that is required (though errors and sloppiness are sometimes evident), contributes sporadically to class discussion, but falls short of the average in oral and written work.

F = An “F” student fails to turn in all required work and/or turns in late work; seldom or never contributes to class discussion, or is often absent from class; and/or falls a good deal short of the average student in both oral and written work.

GRADING SCALE:

A + 100-97	A 96-93	A- 92-90
B+ 89-87	B 86-83	B- 82-80
C+ 79-77	C 76-73	C- 72-70
D+ 69-67	D 66-63	D- 62-60
F 59 and below		

Grading Determination:

Late work will not be accepted

1. Attitude/Participation: 150 points

Students will earn between 0-4 points per day for their participation. To earn the full three points, students must:

- a) Practice professionalism and courtesy as outlined above
- b) Actively engage with course content, with each other, and with the instructor. This, again, does not mean that you have to always be talking or moving but you ALWAYS have to be WORKING. Working can take many forms: reflecting, writing, talking, struggling, trying, failing, feeling overwhelmed etc. Working does not involve stopping.
- c) Complete all in-class assignments and explorations

2. Blogging– 100 points

- a. Students will be expected to contribute regularly to the course blog as part of the creative process.

3. Writing and Reading Assignments- 100 points

4. Sourcework- 100 points

5. Final Reflection Paper- 100 points

- a. Students will turn in a final paper detailing what they learned over the course of the semester, what resonated with them, what didn't and, most importantly, why subjects, concepts or assignments did or did not resonate with students.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given throughout the semester over content from the required reading if it becomes apparent that students are not prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

Grading:

Attendance/Participation:	150 points
Blog Posting	100 points
Writing and Reading Assignments	100 points
Sourcework	100 points
Final Reflection Paper	<u>100 points</u>
	550 points total

DIY Theatre

GRADE SHEET

Name:

Attendance/Participation: 150 pts

Total _____/150

Blog Posting 100pts

Total _____/100

Rehearsal Log: 40pts

Total _____/40

Writing and Reading Assignment: 100 pts

Total _____/100

Final Reflection Paper 100 pts

Total _____/100

Total Points _____/550

FINAL GRADE _____



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COLLEGE

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I _____ have read and understand the contents of the syllabus for this course. I therefore understand all that is expected of me and I accept the contents therein including all assignments, classroom procedures, grading policies and procedures.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____