

University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
English Department

English 3165: Shakespeare in Performance Section: OU1
Time: Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.
Professor: Nemesio Gil, Ph.D.
English Dept. #: (787) 764-0000 ext. 89611

Academic Year: August-December 2018
Class Room: P-309
Email: nemesio.gil@upr.edu
Office Hrs.: By appointment

Course Description: This course has a total of 45 hours/3 credits (credit hours). It aims to introduce students to the art and craft of performing Shakespeare. Specifically, it draws the technical and performative differences between screen and stage acting, directing, lighting, etc. In addition, it targets critical analysis of the Shakespearean text as main source of theoretical and practical debate.

Text: “No Fear Shakespeare” <http://nfs.sparknotes.com> contains a number of William Shakespeare’s plays in side-by-side original and modern English versions.

Methods of Evaluation:

TESTS (40 pts.)

There will be a total of 4 tests (3 oral exams and 1 research exam at 10 pts. each). Students will sit in class for a group oral discussion, analysis, and breaking down of the plays assigned in order to assess their comprehension and interpretation of the texts. Setting, characters, plot, theme, etc. will be analyzed and discussed. Students may bring their notes and research into the discussion, but the grade will depend on their individual ability to engage in critical analysis and debate of the texts in question.

FINAL PRESENTATION (SHORT FILM) (40 pts.)

Since this is a performance course, students will engage in the production of a short film (minimum of 1 minute). Each student will keep a log of his or her work as member of the film crew (i.e., acting, directing, writing, location scouting, etc.) and hand it in at the end of the class as hardcopy or digital or weblink (i.e., via email or DVD ROM).

ATTENDANCE and READINGS (20 pts.)

This is a Fridays-only course. Continuous attendance is required for the successful completion of the semester. Students will receive a series of readings and/or YouTube videos (via email) as research background for class discussion. Students are required to read, research, and be prepared to discuss findings in class. See “Rules of the Game” for specific guidelines on attendance. NO EXCEPTIONS.

****Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistido necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren algún tipo de asistencia deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a al inicio del curso.**

Rules of the Game:

Once the professor reviews the rules of the course with students during the first weeks of class, they will sign in a sheet the week after as evidence of discussion.

1. ABSOLUTELY NO electronic devices (cellular, laptop, tablet, etc.) will be allowed during class. They must be TURNED OFF and in your back bags AT ALL TIMES. A deduction of 5 pts. from your TOTAL FINAL GRADE will apply automatically PER EVENT if you are caught sending messages or with your device at eyesight. Send and/or receive calls and texts before, during the break, or after the class has finished, please. NO EXCEPTIONS. . **Curiously, it is precisely during class when cellualars start to receive an avalanche of texts and/or emergency calls.**

2. Since the course is only on Fridays, a ONE-ABSENCE LIMIT **with or without written notice** (e.g., doctor's note) will be allowed without penalties. A deduction of 5 pts. from your final grade will be applied after EACH ABSENCE thereon. This is to ensure fairness in class attendance. Please, do not expect extra attendance considerations for trips or events that you had planned beforehand. More than one absence will affect the final grade. This will show consideration for everyone in class and with preferences. NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. NO EXCEPTIONS. Make arrangements to take them the day it is assigned. Remember that oral exams are not replaceable. Exams last the whole class, and everyone participates as a group/individual.
4. RESPECT your classmates and the university's personnel and property. Purposeful inappropriate language, sexism, racism, bullying, etc. will not be allowed in class.
5. An alternative study modality of 11.25 hours may be employed during the semester and completed online.

Course Schedule (subject to change):

AUGUST

August 24

Sign-up, syllabus discussion
Lecture: "Acting: Stage vs. Screen" by Leo Braudy
Screening and lecture: "Acting styles on screen"

August 31

Guidelines Review (Rules sign-up sheet)
Research discussion: "Shakespeare's Bio"
Screening and discussion: "Shakespeare: the writer, the lover, and the business man in cinema"

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7

Oral Test #1: Romeo and Juliet (the play)

Sept. 14

Screening and discussion: *Romeo and Juliet* (film clips)
Reading discussion: "The Complete Film" by Rudolf Arnheim
Lecture and screening: "The elements of cinema (Part 1)"

Sept. 21

Oral Test #2: Macbeth (the play)

Wed. Sept. 26 Friday classes meet according to UPR calendar
AT HOME RESEARCH (Richard III)

Sept. 28 *Macbeth* (film clips)

Reading discussion: "The Complete Film" by Rudolf Arnheim
Lecture: "The elements of cinema (Part 2)"

OCTOBER

Oct. 5

Oral Test #3: Richard III (play)

Oct. 12

HOLIDAY

Oct. 19

Short film lecture: “Making the short film: Shakespeare in 1 minute”

Short film development: Students choose crew member and
decide on scene, genre, etc. for final project

Oct. 26

Short film lecture: “Directing the short film”

Short film development: Students work on script and
visual style of short film

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2

Short film lecture: “Performing in front of a lens”

Meeting with director and actors

Rest of the crew continues pre-production phase

Nov. 9

On location rehearsal with audiovisual recording device

In-class review of recording

Nov. 16

Production: Short film on location shooting

Nov. 23

HOLIDAY

Editing week: Editor(s) work on shot footage

Hand in Test #4 by email during the weekend

Nov. 30

Post-production: Short film edited rough cut presentation

Editing assessment

DECEMBER

Dec. 7

Short film presentation and final discussion:

“Shakespeare performed!”

END OF SEMESTER