Theatre 420 Advanced Acting—Syllabus
Fall Semester—2013

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Catalogue Description
Develops the actor’s skill through scene study and circumstantial improvisations. Emphasizes
the actor’s personal input into the process of creating a role. Focuses on the use of intentions and
advanced script analysis.

Course Objectives
• To apply physical and vocal skills learned in prerequisite technique study to specific
textual work.
• To explore the use of improvisation in character development and scene study.
• To continue a study of styles of acting, emphasizing realistic techniques through study of
three of the four major plays of Anton Chekhov (Uncle Vanya, The Three Sisters, and
The Cherry Orchard) and Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen
• To understand the roots of realism and the development of the Moscow Art Theatre.
• To study and prepare monologues for performance and audition purposes
• To study and prepare scenes for performance.

Activities and Assignments
• Each student will participate in classroom exercises – improvisations, prepared
monologues and scene work with partners, and classroom reports.
• Each student will participate in an assigned group research report to be presented orally
in class.
• Each student is required to audition for the Fall Vanguard production of Fools (Sept.16
and 17). You do not have to accept a role, if offered.
• Each student must attend the performance of Fools (November 7 – 10 and 14 - 17) and
write a response paper of that experience. Typed and due November 18.
• Students are encouraged to attend plays at other venues in the area. A partial list is
available from the professor. Extra credit may be applicable.

Technology – If your phone or beeper goes off in class, each member of the class will write a
1500 word essay entitled “How Technology Can Sometimes Hamper Learning”

Attendance – Classroom attendance is an integral part of the education experience; therefore, it
is the responsibility of each student to attend class. More than three (3) absences will have a
negative effect on your final grade. Not attending class on the day of a presentation counts as
two absences.

Grades – Grades will be based on the following:
• Performance of classroom assignments—Performance assignments which are not
memorized will receive a grade no higher than C.
• Participation in class discussion
• Presentation of oral reports
• Written assignments and reports (Response papers, quizzes, tests, etc.)
• Attendance

Theatre Majors--All theatre majors are required to attend the strike for each Vanguard
production. Strikes are normally after the final Sunday matinee.

NOTE: Any student eligible for and requesting academic accommodations due to disability is
requested to provide a letter from P.A.C.E. or Student Academic Support Center with the first
two weeks of classes.
Calendar for Theatre 420  
Spring Semester 2012

The following is a list of important dates during the semester for auditions, performances, projects and paper deadlines, etc. Other assigned dates may be added. **Hold on to it.** This can be an important document for you as the semester progresses.

Wednesday, September 11 – Group Report on 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} World History

Monday, September 16 – Group Report on Russian History

Wednesday, September 18 – Group Report on Moscow Art Theatre

Monday and Tuesday, September 16 and 17 – Auditions for *Fools, 7:00, The Little Theatre*

Monday, September 23 – View “Vanya on 42\textsuperscript{nd} Street” Room 118—Library

Wednesday, September 25 and Monday 30 – Read *Uncle Vanya*

Wednesday, October 2 – Quiz on *Uncle Vanya*

Monday, October 7 - Workshop on *Uncle Vanya* scenes (Material **must** be memorized.)

Wednesday, October 9 - **First Classroom Performance** (*Uncle Vanya*)

Wednesday, October 16, Monday, October 21 - Read *Three Sisters*

Wednesday, October 23 – Quiz on *The Three Sisters*

Monday, October 28 – Workshop on *The Three Sisters* (Material **must** be memorized.)

Wednesday, October 30 – **Second Classroom Performance** (*The Three Sisters*)

Monday, November 4 – Read *The Cherry Orchard*

Wednesday, November 6 – Quiz on *The Cherry Orchard*

November 7 – November 10 and November 14 – November 17—*Fools performances*

Monday, November 11 – Workshop on *The Cherry Orchard* (Material **must** be memorized.)

Wednesday, November 13 -- **Third Classroom Performance** (*The Cherry Orchard*)

Monday, November 18 – Personal response paper on *Fools* due and read *Hedda Gabler*

Wednesday, November 20 – Read *Hedda Gabler*

Monday and Wednesday, November 25 and 27-- Workshop *Hedda Gabler.*

Wednesday, December 4 – **Fourth Classroom Performance** (*Hedda Gabler*)

Thursday, December 12 – **FINAL EXAM** - 7:45 – 9:45