University Mission Statement:
Our mission is to serve as a leading center of Christian thought and action providing an excellent education from a biblical perspective and global context in pivotal professions to equip Christian leaders to change the world.

School of Communication and the Arts Mission Statement:
Our mission is to graduate emerging leaders and scholars who demonstrate excellence and innovation in thought and action in their respective fields and who, through their educational experiences here, will transform and redeem media and the arts.

Department of Theatre Arts Mission Statement:
Our mission is to educate and train undergraduate and graduate students to incisively examine and effectively communicate, through intellectual analysis and the realization of live performance, the great truths of the human condition as perceived through the lens of a Christian world view.

COURSE SYLLABUS

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

THE 741.01 (3 CREDIT HOURS)
ACTING IN PERIODS AND STYLES
FALL 2011

COURSE LOCATION: ON-CAMPUS
TUESDAY/THURSDAY – 9:00-10:50 AM
COM 128
SECTION 1 – OVERVIEW

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:  Eric Harrell, Associate Professor of Theatre  
Phone:  757.352.4211  
Fax:  757.352.4279  
E-mail:  eharrell@regent.edu  
Office Hours:  Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 am-12:00 pm and 3:00-5:00 pm  
Office Location:  COM 216

PERSONAL GREETING FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Welcome to Acting in Periods and Styles! As an actor, my first period play was an adaptation of Moliere’s The Doctor In Spite of Himself. As I recall the way I postured around the stage, doing my best to “act the style,” I am keenly aware of how badly I missed the boat – substituting manufactured movement for a reflection of the character’s worldview. However, I fell in love with the challenge of trying to figure out what made period characters, so removed from me by history and culture, tick. Years later I am still intrigued by the process of bringing characters from a by-gone era back to life in the present dimension. I look forward to sharing with you this semester a disciplined process for succeeding with just such a challenge.

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS/BIOGRAPHY

Professor Harrell joined the Regent theatre faculty in 2005 as Head of the MFA Program in Acting. In 2008, he assumed the role of Department Chair. A member of both Actors Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild, his professional acting and directing credits span regional and academic theatres across the country. He holds a B.A. degree in Theatre Arts and Secondary Education from Abilene Christian University and a MFA degree in Acting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln/Nebraska Repertory Theatre. He has had the privilege of studying under such notable artists as Uta Hagen, Robert Cohen, Michael Lugering and the Urban Bush Women.

As a voice and movement specialist, he advocates a psycho-physical approach to the acting process, drawing heavily from his expertise in the Linklater and Alexander techniques, the Lugering Method and the work of the Atlantic Theatre Company (practical aesthetics). He travels frequently teaching his “Kinesthetic Actor” workshops in integrated voice and movement techniques at multiple conferences and theatres each year.

BEST TIMES AND METHODS FOR CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

I am glad to meet with students any time though my office hours represent my most available windows. I recommend you call or email to schedule an appointment, even during office hours, to ensure my availability. However, you are always free to stop by during posted office hours, and if I am not previously engaged, I will be more than happy to meet with you. Students are also welcome and encouraged to contact me via email or at my office extension with any questions or concerns related to the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the drama and performance styles of the theatre of Ancient Greece, Neoclassical France and England, the Commedia dell’ Arte of Renaissance Italy. Students are introduced to the cultural milieu of each of the above-mentioned historical periods and the theatrical conventions in force at
that time; and participate in a variety of exercises designed to immerse him/her in that particular period or style of theatre. Each student performs scene-work drawn from dramatic literature written during each of the abovementioned periods or styles of theatre or drama. Work with Greek and Commedia dell’Arte mask is also included.

RATIONAL/COURSE OVERVIEW

*Periods and Styles* will focus on the drama and performance styles of Ancient Greece, the Commedia dell’arte of the Italian Renaissance, Restoration Comedy (complemented by French Neoclassicism and Georgian literature) and to a lesser degree, major theatrical genres of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Students will be introduced to the cultural milieu of the above-mentioned historical periods and the theatrical conventions in force at that time; and participate in a variety of exercises designed to immerse him/her in that particular period or style of theatre. Each student will participate in the performance of dramatic literature from each period.

For the sake of this course, the term “style” will be defined as the outward manifestation of a character’s inner values. As such, the semester is devoted to studying stylistic choices as an extension of character rather than superficial “add-ons.” The goal of this course is for students to effectively apply basic Stanislavskian acting methods to literature from stylistically different periods, genres and authors while developing historically accurate and dramatically compelling characterizations.

Experiential learning through goal-specific exercises and directorial feedback is the primary format of this course. In addition, lecture material and group discussions will complement assigned readings from the text. Some historical research will also be required of students as will literary analysis of assigned plays.

INTEGRATION OF FAITH

Any study of style is also a study of cultural values. As such, each unit will examine the predominant values of the historical period while paying special attention to the highly influential nature of religious and moral belief systems. This examination will extend to the moral values of contemporary culture as we introduce our study of style in the early weeks of the semester. Additionally, we will examine parallels between the sacrificial nature of our work as Christian artists today and that of religious actors in other periods, most notably the Greeks.

John 8:32 states, “... you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” All courses taught at Regent have as one of the objectives to address the issues and implications of our Christian faith in regard to the content of the class. We should approach all course work like the Bereans – receiving the information with great eagerness and examining it for truth from Scripture (Acts 17:11). I will always invite and encourage you to raise questions and/or offer insights in this area for class discussion.

DEGREE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The MFA in Acting degree program has five primary student learning outcomes. At the end of this program, it is our expectation that every MFA student will:

- Demonstrate mastery of objective-driven acting technique at a professionally competitive level.
- Demonstrate objective driven acting as the cornerstone of performance in diverse literary genres.
- Articulate and defend artistic choices in the language of acting craft, ensuring their relevance as informed collaborators in the creative process.
- Demonstrate healthy, effective, character-driven work in the applied disciplines of voice and movement.
- Effectively integrate and apply biblical principles of the Christian faith to both academic and creative work.
**PREREQUISITES**

This course is designed for the MFA Acting degree, and students are expected to have completed the two course Meisner sequence (THE 710-11) and the two course vocal production sequence (THE 734-35).

**COURSE OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENTS**

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to do the following:

- **Outcome:** Effectively apply prescribed criteria for discerning key elements of style, and the cultural values which drive them, to a variety of period literature.
  **Assessment:** Greek and Comedy of Manners scene work, Greek and Comedy of Manners scene scores, Greek and Commedia individual performances, play analyses, and genre style project.

- **Outcome:** Assess the role of the following elements in making stylistic choices: time, space, place, values, structure, beauty, sex, recreation, sight and sound and demonstrate command of them in performance.
  **Assessment:** Greek and Comedy of Manners scene scores, play analyses, tests, and genre style project.

- **Outcome:** Demonstrate strong familiarity with the stylistic implications of at least one major genre of late 19th or 20th century literature.
  **Assessment:** Genre style project.

- **Outcome:** Develop fully realized characters, complemented by stylistic choices but not superficially defined by them, within the performance of period material.
  **Assessment:** Greek and Comedy of Manners scene work, Greek and Commedia individual performances, and genre style project.

- **Outcome:** Articulate and defend stylistic choices based upon criteria covered in course material.
  **Assessment:** Greek and Comedy of Manners scene scores, play analyses, and genre style project.

**SECTION 2 – COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**COURSE MATERIALS**

**Required Texts:**
- Play scripts from assigned scenes. Most will be available online or in the library.

**Recommended Texts:**

This course will require certain clothing items pulled from personal wardrobes, and such items will be discussed in class. Special items outside the scope of a standard wardrobe will be provided by the department. Students should arrive prior to the class period so they can be appropriately dressed for the class work of the day.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- **Greek Scene**– Students will perform an assigned scene from a Greek play with two in-class showings.
- **Greek Scene Score** – Students will prepare a formal character analysis to accompany the performance of their Greek scene.
- **Comedy of Manners Scene**– Students will perform an assigned scene from within the genre of Comedy of Manners (Restoration Comedy, French Neoclassicism or Laughing Comedy) with two in-class showings.
- **Comedy of Manners Scene Score** – Students will prepare a formal character analysis to accompany the performance of their Comedy of Manners scene.
- **Individual Performances** – Students will perform a contemporary monologue in Greek style and develop a solo performance of *lazzi* (Commedia dell ‘arte).
- **Play Analyses** - Students will submit two analyses over assigned plays; one from a Greek play, the other from Comedy of Manners.
- **Written Tests** – There will be three tests over the required reading material for the following units: Greek, Commedia dell ‘arte and Comedy of Manners.
- **Genre Style Project** – For the final project of the semester, students will be assigned an “ism” from the late 19th and 20th centuries (i.e. Absurdism, Expressionism, Surrealism, etc.). Students will make a short oral presentation on the assigned genre and perform a representative monologue.

**GRADING WEIGHTS**

- Scene Work (Greek, Comedy of Manners) 30%
- Scene Scores (Greek, Comedy of Manners) 10%
- Individual Performances (Greek, Commedia dell ‘arte) 10%
- Tests (Greek, Comedy of Manners) 15%
- Play Analyses (Greek, Comedy of Manners) 10%
- Genre Style Project 15%
- Participation 10%

**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>75-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-95</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-84</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-80</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 3 –POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND RESOURCES

EVALUATION, GRADING AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Grades will be assessed based upon the student’s execution of the skills demonstrated and discussed in class and in the text. The goal behind each exercise or performance will be explained at the time the assignment is made. Evaluation will then be based on how successfully the student has met the goal. Individual feedback from the instructor will provide the necessary insights for continued improvement as the semester progresses.

One note on the evaluation of performance work: It is expected that students come to this course with a working knowledge and practice of basic acting technique. Should a scene not reflect basic mechanics complemented by the specific style work of this course, appropriate grade penalties will apply.

All assignments, both written and performed, must be presented on the assigned date. As a general policy, no work will be postponed or accepted late. It is imperative for an actor seeking a career in the theatre to learn how to deliver a quality product regardless of personal circumstance. Theatre is a calendar-driven art form and business. There is only one opportunity to perform once the curtain has gone up. As such, the no-late work policy of this course attempts to help students cultivate this important discipline, better positioning them for professional success. That being said, exceptions to this policy may be made at the instructor’s discretion when mitigating circumstances arise. However, such exemptions should not be expected.

One additional note on working with scene partners: It is assumed that a graduate level student of acting possesses the commitment and discipline to work in a professional and respectful manner with all assigned scene partners. As such, I expect that all outside rehearsal commitments, memorization deadlines and other obligations to scene partners be strictly upheld. Should there be any issue with a scene partner’s preparedness or attendance at rehearsal, it is imperative that I be informed immediately. Feel free to leave a message on my voice mail or send an email at any time of day to report infractions. This course places a strong focus on the acting process, and even though a final product may have the appearance of success, if there has been a breakdown in the process work there will be significant grade penalties.

University Withdrawal - Students who have not attended or logged into a class, will, at the end of the second week of the session/semester—in accordance with university practice—be assumed to have unofficially dropped and will be administratively dropped from that class.

Incomplete Grades Policy - Students desiring an incomplete must submit their request to the course instructor and academic dean prior to the end of the term. An incomplete grade will be given in a regular course only for legitimate deficiencies due to illness, emergencies or extraordinary reasons acceptable to the professor, including equipment breakdown or shortages, and not because of neglect on the student’s part. Incompletes require the final approval of the school dean or his/her authorized representative. A regular grade will be given by the instructor if all requirements for the course are submitted by the end of the following academic term. The instructor will submit the new grade to the Registrar’s Office no later than two weeks after the beginning of the subsequent term. If all work is not submitted by the end of the term following the granting of the incomplete, a grade of FX (NP for pass/fail courses) will be posted automatically unless a Request for Extension of Incomplete has been approved and submitted to the Registrar’s Office. The FX shall be counted as an F in the computation of the GPA. Any student desiring reinstatement to the course after an FX or NP has been posted must register for the course in a subsequent term and pay the full current tuition for the course.
**In Progress Grades** - In Progress grades shall be given when work is not completed by the end of the term for the following academic work: independent studies, internships, practica, portfolios, theses and dissertations. An IP is also an appropriate grade for courses in which the completion of course requirements for ALL students extends beyond the academic term in which the course is offered. An IP may be continued to a maximum of two terms when the student requests and extension and the approved form is submitted to the Registrar’s Office prior to the end of the first term. If the requirements for removal of the IP grade are not completed by the end of these two terms. A grade of FX (NP for pass/fail courses) will be posted automatically. Exceptions may be made for dissertations, which may continue without penalty. Any student desiring reinstatement to the course after an FX or NP has been posted must register for the course in a subsequent term and pay the full current tuition for the course.

**Attendance and Participation**

Regent University recognizes the importance of class attendance and participation for students’ learning. While attendance alone does not guarantee learning, engagement with the class through regular attendance and participation is essential to learning, both to the individual student and to the class itself as all benefit by others’ contributions. At Regent University, class attendance, understood as the act of being present, is considered to be separate from participating in the class, understood as active engagement through discussion and other forms of interaction. Both are valuable to student learning.

Like other institutions of higher education, Regent University is required to maintain accurate attendance records by the U.S. Department of Education.

A participation grade will be assessed by the instructor based upon the student’s daily commitment to growth and positive contributions to classroom work. Contributing factors include promptness, concentration, the ability to incorporate feedback into work, volunteering, progress, attitude and willingness to take risks. The student’s approach and commitment to classroom exercises and work sessions with the instructor are integral to the assessment of this grade. In this course, the grading percentage assigned to the participation grade is significant. This reflects the experiential nature of learning involved in a movement class and the value placed on daily participation in the explorative exercises. Therefore, it is particularly important and expected that students attend all classes.

**Students are allowed two absences from class for illness and other emergencies with no grade penalty. Subsequent absences lower the student’s final grade by one full letter grade per absence.** However, if you are unable to attend class on any given day I would appreciate a call in advance of class to let me know you will not be attending. This will allow me to make other arrangements if necessary. I can be reached at my office extension. If I am not in the office, please leave a message on my voice mail explaining the reason for your absence and a phone number where you can be reached. This is not a requirement, but it is a courtesy I appreciate. I am always concerned about your welfare and want to stay apprised of any way in which I can be of assistance to you.

**Three late arrivals constitute an absence.** After fifteen minutes, a tardy is considered an absence. If class has begun, please enter as quietly as possible. Under no circumstance should a student enter the classroom when another student is performing. Please be aware of what it is you are interrupting by your late arrival.

**Use of Blackboard.** In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for Regent University to suspend normal operations. During this time, Regent University may opt to continue delivery of traditional classroom instruction using the Blackboard Course Management System. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor the course Blackboard site in the event of campus closure.
UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating involve the intention to deceive, mislead or misrepresent, and therefore are a form of lying representing actions contrary to the behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. As such, use of another author’s material must always be properly documented and clearly cited. It is also expected that all work turned in during the semester will be the result of that semester’s scholarship. Academic dishonesty, in any form, may constitute failure of the course. Every student is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship and research.

Students are expected to be familiar with the university’s policy on academic integrity found in both the University Student Handbook and School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog (http://www.regent.edu/general/catalog/) and to follow it. As an academic and Christian community, Regent University takes seriously the call for integrity and penalizes breaches of academic integrity.

Students should be aware that submitted papers may be checked using Safeassign (Blackboard’s plagiarism detection feature). This feature will determine the percentage of the submitted paper that matches other sources and will generate a report. Scores below 15% include quotes and few common phrases or blocks of text that match other documents, these papers indicate no evidence of the possibility of plagiarism. Scores between 15% and 40% include extensive quoted or paraphrased material or may include plagiarism and will require further review. Scores over 40% indicate a high probability the text in the paper was copied from other sources and should be reviewed for plagiarism. The professor or instructor will contact the student if plagiarism is a concern.

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Because instructors often need to reach students, all students are required to keep their mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers up to date in GENISYS.
http://www.regent.edu/general/student_orientation/tutorials/genisys.cfm

DISABILITY STATEMENT

The student is responsible for contacting Director of Student Life at 757.352.4867 to request accommodations, provide necessary documentation, and make arrangements with each instructor. The following website is designed to help our disabled students learn of their rights and responsibilities with regards to disability services. The site also has resources for faculty to become better informed of their responsibilities towards the disabled students in their classes.
http://ww.regent.edu/disabilities

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please review the following links for additional information regarding University policies and other helpful resources:

- Academic Calendar and Registrar Information: http://www.regent.edu/admin/registrar/academiccalendar.cfm
- University Bookstore: http://www.cbamathews.com/regent/
- Plagiarism Policy: http://www.regent.edu/acad/schedu/pdfs/honor_code.pdf
- Regent Library: http://www.regent.edu/lib/
- Student Services: http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/
STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

Becoming Christian leaders includes learning how to evaluate others by providing honest evaluations that include positive affirmation and constructive feedback, as appropriate. Consequently, university policy requires that all students submit a formal student evaluation of teaching form at the end of the academic term. This mandatory requirement must be completed before students will be able to access their final course grade. This form is only available in an online format. Prior to the end of the course, students will receive an e-mail indicating that the form is available. Instructions on accessing the evaluation will be included. Since these evaluations are only available for a limited time, students should complete the evaluation as soon as they receive the e-mail notification that the evaluation form is available. Instructors will not have access to course evaluations until after grades have been submitted and will only have access to anonymous summary data. Students are also encouraged at any point during the term to offer comments that may be helpful to the improvement or refinement of the course. Students can access the online evaluation system at: http://eval.regent.edu/regentsurvey/students.cfm. If you have questions about the online evaluation please contact evaluation@regent.edu.

This syllabus is subject to change without notice.
Last updated: 5/19/2011

Regent University, School of Undergraduate Studies
1000 Regent University Drive, Virginia Beach, VA, 23464
Phone (888) 718-1222
© 2009 Regent University, All Rights Reserved.

THE 741.01
ACTING IN PERIODS AND STYLES
FALL 2011

All students are required to read and have a thorough understanding of the syllabus. Any questions or concerns need to be addressed to the instructor.

Please sign here to indicate that you have read and understood the requirements outlined in this syllabus

Student signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________