

Theatre Arts 118 – Fundamentals of Scene Study

Syllabus

Santiago Canyon College
Division of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Instruction Information:

Spring 2021 Theatre Arts 118. Course #97609
Hours: Thursday evenings – 6:00pm-10:00pm
Instructor: Sheryl Donchey
Email: donchey_sheryl@sccollege.edu
Instruction format: Live-remote. [Zoom]

Technical Requirements:

In order to participate in this course, you must have access to the following technical elements for each class meeting:

- Access to working internet.
- A fully-charged computer or cell phone.
- A working microphone and camera.
- A table-top tripod [if using a cell phone for class sessions].
- Adequate lighting in your work space to be fully visible, and for your facial expressions to be seen.
- A camera, or cell camera, to self-tape as assigned.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

Objectives:

After completing this course, you will be more knowledgeable about the tools and techniques necessary to the working actor. You will know how to conduct yourself at work sessions, how to effectively use rehearsal hours, how to structure a performance, how to take and apply directorial adjustments, and how to use constructive criticism to your advantage. In addition, you will gain new knowledge of works from dramatic literature, and additional insight into human analysis.

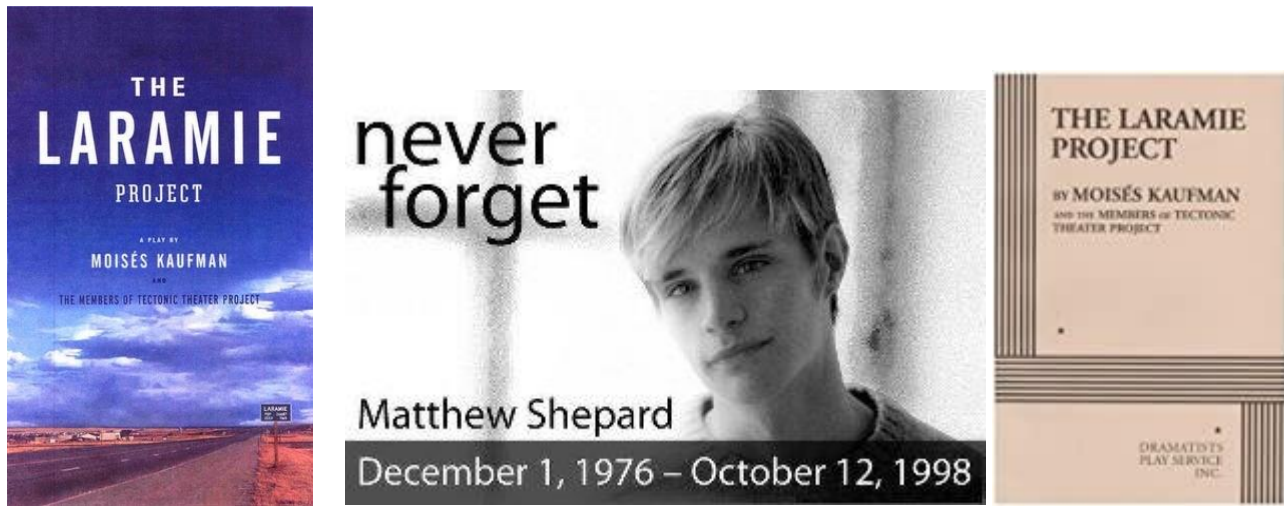
SLO's:

1. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to analyze a scene including structure, obstacles, and objectives.
2. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to develop a character and discipline their work to withstand the demands of a workshop situation.
3. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to create a character through the use of circumstance, history, and needs.

Course Content

Fundamentals of Scene Study is structured to allow you to develop your personal acting processes and techniques as you continue to explore the craft of acting. You will work in a *hands-on* rehearsal and performance environment, by bringing to life a sustained character, or numerous characters, from an assigned play and/or playwright. Each semester the course is offered, different playwrights and plays are explored and performed. I cast each play, as well as direct the production. The play is then mounted and performed before a live audience.

This semester, the class will be presenting a virtual production of **THE LARAMIE PROJECT**, by Moisés Kaufman and the Members of the Tectonic Theatre Company. The true story of Matthew Shepard's murder in Laramie, Wyoming, is presented in a docudrama format. If you are unfamiliar with the story, there is a wealth of material online for you to peruse.



This course will give you an opportunity to further develop your skills in:

- Script and character analysis.
- Discovery of objectives and obstacles.
- Defining actions.
- Memorization.
- Research
- Development of your environment.
- Making character choices.
- Defining your personal strengths and weaknesses, and to work to develop a consistent process/work ethic.
- Methods of creating character through the use of circumstance, history, and needs.
- Effective use of the fourth wall.
- Personal substitution work.
- Development of discipline in your work to withstand the demands of the workshop environment.

Course Materials

Script: Each student must have a **printed copy** of **THE LARAMIE PROJECT**. Dramatist Play Service Inc, [Acting Edition.] Here is the link to access the PDF:

<https://bbenglishmctier.files.wordpress.com/2017/02/the-laramie-project.pdf>

If you choose, you can order a copy of the script from Amazon, or directly from the publisher, Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Supporting Materials: You will receive many materials via email. All handouts are also posted on **CANVAS**, which you can access 24/7 via the SCC Website. More information on **CANVAS** will be given in class.

Requirements and Grading Policies

As in all SAC performance classes, you are graded on an individual basis...by the work and progress completed by you and you alone. Improvement and visible growth are critical to your evaluation. Be responsible and committed to each scene and to all of your partners. You must participate...utilizing your rehearsal time [onstage and off], wisely and constructively.

<u>The following activities will be graded:</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
Creation and development of 3 characterizations	30 pts.	90-100 A
Written text scoring for 1 monologue	10 pts.	80-89 B
Memorization and preparation	30 pts	70-79 C
Final performance presentation evaluation	<u>30 pts.</u>	60-69 D
Total:	100 pts.	0-59 F

General Class Information and Rehearsal Obligations:

ATTENDANCE: It is critical that you attend all scheduled class meetings/rehearsals. A missing actor creates chaos in the rehearsal process. If you can't meet your casting and rehearsal obligations, you may be dropped from a role. *Please be sure to inform me immediately of any scheduled dates that you know you will not be in attendance.* I can legally drop you from class if you have 3 absences, however, I will always try to work with you! Should you have an emergency, email me ASAP! Time is short!

BE ON TIME! Latecomers are a definite interruption and distraction in any acting environment, and can often disrupt the entire timetable for any lecture/rehearsal schedule. Working in a Zoom format is challenging, but wonderful at the same time.

CLASS ETTIQUITE: You are here to advance your personal technique in the craft of acting. Each participant in this quest is investing a great deal of time and energy. You must respect your fellow actors. Each individual works differently. Never worry about anyone but yourself during work sessions. Don't be judgmental or negative in any way. Remember, you are only one piece of the puzzle. It takes the entire company to create the magic. "Quiet on the set" if you are not engaged in dialogue. If you're given lab time to work, you required to do so.

OUTSIDE OF CLASS REHEARSAL: This course requires that you spend time outside of our scheduled class meetings to:

- Explicate meaning, objectives, and tactics for all scenes.
- Create your acting beats for all scenes and monologues.
- Memorize lines. Remember, the acting process doesn't begin until lines have been digested.
- Work with your partner[s] to define such scene specifics as dramatic content, relationships, etc.
- Work to strengthen your vocal, articulation, and dialect work, as required for each character you portray. This includes phrasing, key words, dynamics, projection, etc.
- Define each character's inner rhythm, personality, physical life, vocal specifics, "ism's", habits, and so on.

PARTICIPATION: Participation means that you are actively engaged physically, emotionally, and mentally in all class activities/rehearsals. **If you are not working as a full ensemble class/cast member, and are not meeting weekly expectations and completing assignment, as the instructor of the course, and director of the project, I have the authority to remove you from a role, and/or reassign you as necessary.**

Santiago Canyon College Information:

STUDENT CONDUCT: "All students are responsible for maintaining appropriate conduct while enrolled in classes throughout the Rancho Santiago Community College District [RSCCD]. Guidelines for student conduct are set forth in the RSCCD "Standards of Student Conduct" policy. Detailed information regarding student discipline and rights within this policy is available in the college catalog and student handbook. Students who violate the Standards of Conduct are subject to disciplinary action which includes, but is not limited to, removal from class, suspension, and expulsion."

TITLE IX

Santiago Canyon College affirms its commitment to the promotion of fairness and equity in all aspects of the educational enterprise. Harassment and discrimination—including sex/gender discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, gender-based violence, retaliation, and stalking—not only disrupts this commitment, but may also violate College policy and federal, state, and/or local law. We are committed to addressing reported incidents through policy and procedures, and, if desired by the individual who has experienced or is experiencing such behavior, through assistance in pursuing the criminal investigation and prosecution of alleged offenders.

Should you or someone you know experience behavior that is coercive, discriminatory, harassing, and/or sexually violent in nature, or if you or someone you know has questions about their rights and options regarding such behavior, you are encouraged to contact:

- Jean Pryor Estevez Title IX (9) Coordinator Santa Ana College 2323 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, California 92706-1640 Email: Estevez_jean@rscdd.edu Phone: 714-480-7404 www.rscdd.edu/titleix
- Jennifer De La Rosa Deputy Title IX (9) Coordinator Santa Ana College 2900 W. Edinger Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92704 Email: De_La_Rosa_Jennifer@sac.edu Phone: 714-564-6212
- Dr. Loretta Jordan Deputy Title IX (9) Coordinator Santiago Canyon College 8045 E. Chapman Ave. Orange, CA 92869 Email: Jordan_loretta@sccollege.edu Phone: 714-628-4933

Incidents may similarly be reported directly to law enforcement, either separately or in conjunction with any report made to the College's Title IX Coordinator. Call 9-1-1

Orange's website: <https://www.cityoforange.org/592/Police>

Santa Ana's website: <https://www.ci.santa-ana.ca.us/pd>

Unless specifically identified otherwise by policy, all faculty, staff, and administrators are considered mandated reporters and are required to notify the College's Title IX Coordinator of any incident of discrimination and harassment disclosed to them involving a member of the campus community. This includes any and all reports of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, sexual misconduct, gender-based violence, retaliation, and/or stalking. Mandated reporting helps to ensure that individuals who are experiencing or have experienced discrimination or harassment are connected to the full range of resources and options afforded to them.

If you are in need of support or advocacy and wish to discuss such matters confidentially, you are invited to consult any of the resources listed below. Unlike other College employees, the options below are confidential and are exempted from mandatory reporting obligations to the Title IX Coordinator. These resources are free and include both internal and external options.

- **Student Health Center:** The Student Health Center offers free and confidential short-term and crisis counseling by licensed mental health providers to students by appointment.
 - Santa Ana College
Website: <https://sac.edu/StudentServices/HealthCenter/Pages/default.aspx> Telephone: 714-564-6216
 - Santiago Canyon College
Website: <https://www.sccollege.edu/StudentServices/SHWS/Pages/default.aspx>
Telephone: 714-328-4773
- **Employee Assistance Program:** (EAP) EAP is a free confidential service that can help employees with any personal concerns including relationship concerns and issues related to sex offenses. Guidance Resource Program is available 24 hours a day seven days a week to assist employees. Telephone: 1-866-799-2728 Website: www.healthadvocate.com/rscdd
- **Waymakers:** Waymakers is an Orange County, Calif. community resource that provides certified sexual assault counselors twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week via a rape crisis hotline, and to police departments and hospitals, and through two rape crisis centers. Telephone: 949-831-9110 Website: <https://waymakersoc.org/>

- **Human Options:** Human Options provides assistance to victims of domestic and dating violence and their families. Hotline/Telephone (24/7): 1-877-854-3594. Website: <https://humanoptions.org>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: *“Students with disabilities who want to request academic accommodations are responsible for informing their instructors and Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) as early in the semester as possible, or at least two weeks before the accommodation is needed. To have accommodations authorized, students must provide DSPS with verification of disability and meet with a DSPS professional for an evaluation of needs. Students may schedule a DSPS appointment by phoning us at (714) 628-4860 or by emailing us at DSPS@sccollege.edu*

Enjoy the magic of the art!

And remember...

Love the art in yourself, not yourself in the art!