

Teaching Shakespeare: Ditch the Desk and Speak the Speech SYLLABUS

To qualify for credit, Southern Utah University requires that learners must complete 15 hours of contact time per credit hour in any given course.

COURSE DATES: July 18-21, 2022

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is aimed at providing active and engaging classroom approaches to language arts and theatre teachers and others who teach Shakespeare's text. The class will help you get out from behind the desk and explore theatre techniques to hook student engagement with Shakespeare's text.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Teachers in English Language Arts and/or Theatre or who teach Shakespeare in other forms or classes

- Those who may be anxious teaching Shakespeare
- Those who want to better understand Shakespeare's writing tools
- Those who are willing to adopt an active, performative, student-centered mindset in approaching Shakespeare in the classroom
- Those who would like to explore how to use simple theatre techniques to hook student engagement with Shakespeare's texts

OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to demonstrate their understanding of teaching Shakespeare in the classroom by participating in various exercises and activities surrounding Shakespeare's text and exploring the curriculum created by the instructor.

- This course will consist of direct instruction, interaction with Festival company, learning activities and assessments that can be replicated by participants in Language Arts classes, Theatre classes, or other authentic educational settings.
- The instructor will provide lesson plans and handouts and assessments as resources for participants.
- All course materials and instruction will be geared toward teachers who can take them directly back to the classroom and make them applicable for their teaching situation and students.

COURSE DAILY OUTLINE

Daily coursework will include:

- Direct instruction/lesson plans about the concepts learned
- Work with specific script/text examples
- Viewing and analysis of four Festival productions
- Modeling/workshop instruction and/or process discussion with Festival actors
- Participation in Festival production seminars
- Directions for warm-ups, exercises, learning activities, and other curriculum ideas

SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

DAY 1

Outcome: Participants will be introduced to the course and Shakespeare's context and explore classical text, language, and tools as well as prepare for viewing USF productions.

- Introduction to course, instructor, etc.
- Shakespeare in the classroom context – CREATIVE approaches to teaching Shakespeare
- The context of the man and his plays – Elizabethan theatre, early performance practices, etc.
- Objective vs. subjective textual clues – put the table away to get the language into young people's minds and bodies
- Preproduction work for *All's Well That Ends Well*
- *All's Well That Ends Well*

DAY 2

Outcome: Participants will be introduced to the USF seminars and active production analysis techniques as well as examine scansion elements in the text.

- Morning seminar on *All's Well That Ends Well*
- Production analysis – using yesterday's instruction to examine the show and play with the text
- Guest Artist – USF actor from *All's Well That Ends Well*
- Textwork: examining the text for understanding and playing with the results through scansion and characterization
- Pre-production work for *Sweeney Todd*
- *Sweeney Todd*

DAY 3

Outcome: Participants will continue seminar and analysis and study some of Shakespeare's literary tools he used in his plays that provide clues for understanding the text.

- Morning seminar on *Sweeney Todd*
- Production analysis – using yesterday's instruction to examine the show and explore character choices
- Examination of Language Arts Shakespeare Curriculum and Theatre Curriculum
- Explore first half of Shakespeare's Toolbox: Literary Secrets
- Pre-production work for *King Lear*
- *King Lear*

DAY 4

Outcome: Participants will continue seminar and analysis and examine more of Shakespeare's literary tools as well as experience performing Shakespeare themselves.

- Morning seminar on *King Lear*
- Production analysis – comparison from text to performance of last night's show with toolbox lens
- Guest Artist – USF actor from *King Lear*
- Explore second half of Shakespeare's Toolbox: The Heart of Acting Shakespeare's Text
- Working Lunch (provided by USF): Pre-production work for *The Tempest*
- *The Tempest* matinee

DAY 5 (post-course work for third credit – due in Fall 2022)

Outcome: Participants will create curriculum/a unit plan incorporating elements learned within the course. Participants will write a two-page paper sharing outcomes of the unit plan project and reporting on objectives met.

- Create Shakespeare Curriculum
- Teach Shakespeare Curriculum
- Reflection on Shakespeare Curriculum