

**Saint Louis University
Madrid Campus
Division of Humanities and the Arts**

**THR 3550 Theatre Practicum
(0 credits, P/NP)
THR 3560 Theatre Workshop
(1-2 credits, P/NP)**

**Spring Semester, 2018
Prof. Cary Barney, MFA
(cbarney1@slu.edu)
Office Hours MTWR 16:00-17:30**

Description: Students in these two courses participate as actors, designers, and/or backstage crew on a full length theatre production. The projected production for this semester is *Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill.

Objective: To give students a greater understanding of the process of theater production and of the collaborative nature of theater as a whole, by way of hands-on production experience as actors, designers, and crew in which, with the guidance of the director, they learn by doing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Actors will learn and develop skills of scene and character analysis, finding motivation and action possibilities within the text. This is taught in rehearsal, carefully examining each moment of the play through director/actor dialogue and close questioning. They will learn to develop and control their physical and vocal resources and bend them toward the expressive needs of each moment. They will develop the improvisatory skills necessary for extra-textual exploration in rehearsal as well as for onstage spontaneity. They will develop an instinct for timing and the mutual give-and-take required in ensemble acting. They will learn to observe basic rehearsal and onstage protocol.

Designers and crew chiefs will learn how to use their imaginations to find resourceful, theatrically effective solutions to problems of set, costume, lighting, sound, or make-up design, or prop gathering challenges. They will learn how to work within a limited budget and how to effectively budget their own allotted portion. Set designers will learn how to design and diagram to scale, and to select and quantify building materials. Crew chiefs will learn how to delegate responsibilities and divide the workload with crew members. All crew members will learn how to support each performance as part of an integrated, smoothly-operating team.

All enrolled students will reach a full understanding of the collaborative process in theater.

Assessment:

Actors will be assessed on the basis of the following:

- Ability to take direction
- Ability to blend into and work with an ensemble
- Diligence and timeliness in learning lines, cues, and blocking
- Cooperation with the stage manager and crew
- Completion of scene and character analyses (two credit option)

Designers and crew chiefs will be assessed on the basis of the following:

- Productive collaboration with director and crew
- Timely completion of design assignments
- Organization of crew and crew assignments
- Completion of plot and/or drawings (two credit option)

All students will be assessed, in general, on collaborative skills and the ability to contribute to a positive, creative theatrical environment.

Prerequisites: THR 356 is offered only on the Madrid Campus and is for non-majors only. Visiting theatre majors from Missouri may participate in the production by enrolling in the

concurrent, 0-credit THR 355 (Theatre Practicum), as may any student who chooses not to earn credit.

Time: Rehearsals are generally held Monday through Thursday, from 19:00 to 21:00. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled according to perceived need. The amount of rehearsal time demanded of each participant will depend on the size of their role. The final weekend before the show, November 11-12, we'll want to come in and do a final run-through before moving to the theatre. Please do not make travel plans for that weekend.

Grading: A grade of Pass/No Pass will be awarded according to successful completion of one of the above-listed responsibilities. Failure to complete assigned work, such as memorization of lines or timely completion of crew responsibilities, to the satisfaction of the director will result in a grade of No Pass.

Credit: Students enrolled in THR 3560 for two credits are responsible for the following:

- a) performance of a major acting role (as determined by the director); or
- b) participation as chief of one of the following crews: costumes or set, and in some instances (depending on production need, again determined by the director) props, make-up, sound, or lighting; or
- c) performance of a secondary acting role coupled with active participation in at least one crew.

Students whose participation in the production meets these criteria may, nonetheless, opt to enroll in the course for one credit instead of two.

Credit Limit: THR 3560 can be repeated for a total of three credits, after which students must enroll in THR 3550 in order to take part in the production. THR 3550 can be taken an unlimited number of times.

Rehearsals and Attendance: This is not an extracurricular activity. This is a class, even if you're taking it for zero credits. More importantly, the collaborative nature of theatre dictates that all participants conscientiously attend when called.

If you are acting in the play, you may be called to rehearse anywhere from one to four evenings a week depending on the size of your role and the closeness of our performance date. The rehearsal schedule is put together according to actors' schedules and is posted and emailed to the cast Thursday evening for the following week. Any conflicts outside of scheduled classes (family visits, medical appointments, etc.) need to be communicated to the director by Thursday to be taken into account for the following week. Actors are expected to attend all rehearsals to which they have been called, and to be punctual. In case of illness or comparably serious reason for absence, actors are expected to contact the director or assistant director in a timely manner. Actors who miss one rehearsal without prior notice will receive a warning; those who miss two will be dropped from the cast.

The same "two strikes" policy applies to designers and crew personnel, who are expected to attend all production meetings to which they are called, and any other meetings set up with the director or crew chief. Designers and crew will meet once weekly for production meetings, at which design, resources, budget, and progress will be discussed, priorities set, and new assignments given. Additional meetings will be called as needed by the director or by crew chiefs.

Commitment: Serious and steady commitment makes theatre exciting and fun. Lack of seriousness and commitment makes it impossible. One or two slackers who skip rehearsals or don't learn their lines can ruin the experience for everybody. If you are not prepared to give the production, cast and crew the commitment they deserve, please do not enroll in this course.

Memorization: If you are cast as an actor, you are expected to memorize your lines thoroughly, accurately, and on time. Otherwise you will be holding up others and wasting valuable rehearsal time. *There is no such thing as "sort of" knowing your lines!* You either know them completely, absolutely and instinctively, or they will fail you and everyone else at crucial moments. Memorization is not difficult, but it does require time and discipline. Lock yourself in a room with your script, turn your phone off, and read and reread each line aloud until you can do it without the script. Recite your lines to yourself over and over. Memorize your cues as well so you know when to speak. Meet up with other actors outside rehearsal time to go over scenes together. The sooner everybody is "off book," the better a show we'll have.

Your other courses: Student Life will distribute a list of all participants and when you will be needed in the final week of the production, so professors will excuse you. However, if you need me to communicate with any professor for any reason, please let me know. Professors are sometimes annoyed that students miss class because of the play. You can minimize these unpleasant conflicts by keeping up with your course work and generally showing interest and commitment to your classes, not missing them unless absolutely necessary. Most professors specify how many unexcused absences you're allowed; save them for when you really need them.

Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment: In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM: *Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at <https://www.slu.edu/the-office-of-the-provost/academic-affairs-policies>. Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/student-resources/academic-advising/policies-and-procedures#43>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

Accommodation statement: In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.
Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

Title IX Statement: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University.

If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multiplettherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

(subject to change and adjustment, depending on the play)

WEEK OF JAN. 15: Auditions and casting, organization of crews, first reading of script. Begin discussion and improvisation.

WEEK OF JAN. 22: Begin staging. Crew meeting and assignments.

WEEK OF JAN. 29: Continue staging.

WEEK OF FEB. 5: Continue staging.

WEEK OF FEB. 12: Individual scene work. Actors' analyses due. Designers' plots due.

Rehearsal props required. *ACTORS OFF BOOK: all lines memorized.*

WEEK OF FEB. 19: Individual scene work.

WEEK OF FEB. 26: Individual scene work.

WEEK OF MARCH 5: Individual scene work.

WEEK OF MARCH 12: Run-throughs.

WEEK OF MARCH 19: Run-throughs.

WEEK OF MARCH 26: SEMANA SANTA (school closed)

WEEK OF APRIL 2: Run-throughs.

WEEK OF APRIL 9 (at theatre): Load-in. Technical rehearsal. Dress rehearsal.

Performances. Strike.

Performance Dates: Thursday and Friday, April 12 and 13 (three performances, including Friday morning)