**DRAMA WORKSHOP**

**Syllabus for French 3004**

**Fall 2007, T/TH 12:00-1:30, Skiles 246**

**Georgia Tech, School of Modern Languages**

Instructor: Dr. Christophe Ippolito

* Office hours: T/TH 11:00 - 12:00, 2:30 - 3:30 and by appointment
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COURSE MATERIAL

Required Plays (use the editions recommended/available at Barnes and Nobles on Spring Street):

* Molière, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*
* Molière, *Les Précieuses ridicules*
* Beckett, *En Attendant Godot*
* Genet, *Les Bonnes*
* Reza, *Art*

Additional resources (on paper/online) provided by instructor include a course packet with materials on: particular authors, including excerpts of *L’Impromptu de Versailles*; theater in general, classical and contemporary French theater in particular; theater glossary; basic acting techniques and suggested acting activities; selected portions of plays, or films such as *Ridicule* and others; list of selected links; French language resources.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Literary and theatrical aspects of French drama are explored through class discussion and performance of selections from contemporary and classical plays. Key scenes will be studied and performed. The first two weeks, during which you will get acquainted with the assignments and methods used in this course, are introductory. No prior knowledge of theater or acting experience is needed. This course is part of the French program, and students are requested to make all effort to stick to French in the classroom at all times. Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisite: FREN 2002 (Two years of French at the college-level or equivalent).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Develop 1/ oral expression skills in French in a casual setting at ACTFL’s advanced level, including discussion and analysis, diction and phonetics, accent, 2/ acting skills including delivery of lines, voice placement, coordination, control of body, facial expression, 3/ knowledge of French theater and French culture, 4/ written expression at the advanced level 5/ last but not least, a student should be able to fulfill her/his own goals for this course. Please state your goals as they stand now (main goal and other goals):

COURSE EVALUATION / ASSIGNMENTS

Acting, Speaking…

20% **5 Performances**: playing a role in one scene (or part of scene) per play (diction, memorization, intonation, acting, overall performance…). The grade will take into account your 4 best performances only. For each play, you will need at least one partner with whom you will memorize and train for the performance. Props and costumes are not necessary but welcomed for the performance.

20% **Final Project**: public (and/or recorded) in–house representation of at least one scene of one of the 5 plays, in collaboration with other students. This may build on a previous performance. Begin your preparation on the project early November and report to me regularly on your progress. Appropriate props, lights & sound, visuals etc. expected.

10% **Active** **Participation** required (quantity, quality; French only in class). This is a workshop: others including your acting partners depend on you (see attendance policy for further details). Make a constant effort to participate in each class.

Analyzing, Writing…

20% **5 One-Page Stage Notes or Essays** on each of the 5 plays (**handed to me in class**, 250 words minimum, not counting quotes and notes as necessary, typed, double-spaced). **It is strongly advised (but not mandatory) that you focus/reflect in this assignment on the part you are going to play,** thus creating stage notes that you will use; for instance, you may explain why you want to act in a particular way. However, you may choose the more traditional essay format and discuss a topic of your choice: aspect of the play/a scene of the play/a character. Works are graded for content but also for the quality of your French. Secondary sources are not necessary but welcomed; always quote your sources. This part of the grade will take into account your 4 best works only.

Assignments handed late will be penalized: B maximum for an assignment delivered at least a day late, C maximum for an assignment delivered at least a week late. While each of the 5 stage notes/short essays should be handed to me in class at the time indicated on the syllabus, you may resubmit you work once after it has been corrected by me and our session on the particular play has ended; your grade will be the average of these 2 drafts.

10% **Questions & Remarks:** 5 Sets of 5 questions and/or remarks on each play. Preferred format is **2 remarks and 3 questions** (half a page to a page, typed). Handed to me in classon the first day we study a play, they are meant to facilitate our discussion and let me appreciate your reading comprehension (characters, situation…) of the play. It is expected that you make at least a preliminary reading of the play before we first discuss it.

10% **Midterm Examination**: on aspects of the plays by Molière

10% **Final Examination**: on the 3 contemporary plays

Check test dates below as make-up tests will not be given without a letter from doctor or Dean. The assignments are designed to help you put into use the material you will study, and should be handed in class on the day indicated in the schedule below. Questions welcomed. Tests examine not only what you know, but how well you know it and how quickly you can put it into use.

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| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION** | | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language** | FREN 3004: Students will demonstrate oral proficiency at the Advanced level on the ACTFL scale | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 2:** Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language | FREN 3004: Students will demonstrate the ability to present in class for 5 minutes or more without notes on a complex topic | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language** | FREN 3004: Students will produce a variety of essays at the Advanced level on the ACTFL scale | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 4:**  Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target language | FREN 3004: Students will demonstrate comprehension of authentic texts related to complex topics about French plays | |
| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE** | | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a *specific* target-language country or region** | | FREN 3004: Students will **demonstrate in-depth knowledge of theater in France** |
| **ML Learning Outcome 6:**  Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s) | | FREN 3004: Students will analyze issues in different areas of French theater |
| **ML Learning Outcome 7:**  Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context | | FREN 3004: Students will analyze complex issues in French plays |

COURSE POLICIES:

*Welcome to my office!*

Do not hesitate to come and see me as often as you want! You can also take an appointment if these hours are not convenient to you, or just drop by (I am often in my office). Especially, come as soon as you feel you have any problem and/or need help with anything. Take at least two appointments with me to discuss honestly your progress and difficulties. I will make sure your questions, concerns or suggestions get the attention they deserve. I will be happy to inform you on your grades. I will also be happy to help you as much as I can with your homework assignments, latest stage notes/essay, pronunciation, acting skills, and any issue pertaining to the course, the French program here at Georgia Tech, or queries on France and Francophone cultures. When I am not in my office, the best way to reach me is to email or call me on my cell phone, any day including week-ends between 9 am and 9 pm, rather than use my office voice mail.

*Attendance, Academic Honesty*

This is a workshop, so **your presence and active participation in class is essential**. Your fellow students count on you to practice and perform with them. Daily class attendance is required. Please be on time too. Being late once or twice is understandable, but half a point off will be deducted from your final grade for each additional occurrence of lateness (please let me know at the start of the semester whether you have a class on the other side of campus). Two unexcused absences allowed (an excused absence has to be documented by a letter from doctor or Dean); one point off your final grade for each additional unexcused absence. Cell phones off in class. Georgia Tech offers accommodation to students with disabilities: please see [www.adapts.ga.edu](http://www.adapts.ga.edu/).

This course complies with **GT Academic Honor Code**: please see [www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu/). Of course, you will train with your acting partners; however, you are on your own concerning the essays. I am interested in your work, and not in that of a friend or material copied form the internet or any other source. Avoid plagiarism at all costs, and always quote all your sources. Any form of cheating (be it on an essay or a test or any other assignment) is discouraged and will affect your grade. Internet-based tools make it extremely easy today to find out whether somebody pasted material from the internet or other sources.

*Organization*

By now, you have read the explanations on assignments and evaluation above. The work on the five plays follows the **same format** (see schedule below). After reading the play (your general comprehension of the play is tested in class including by a short quiz), you have to:

1/ select (part of) a scene with a fellow student in or outside of class, then memorize your part and practice it many times including in class so as to be able to perform it satisfactorily.

2/ find a topic for your stage notes/short essay, prepare an outline (submitted to me) that will be discussed in class, and then write your stage notes/essay and hand it to me (again, you always have the possibility to resubmit a second draft later especially if your French needs attention).

Please be aware that you will often have to select a **partner** in order to prepare the exercises in groups.  You should also know that at least two hours of preparation are usually necessary for each class period. However, each one of you has a different rhythm, especially when it comes to memorizing lines and mastering a part.  So please manage your time well: we only have 4 sessions per play. Although I do not encourage reading French in translation, be informed that all plays have been translated into English (translations of Molière’s plays are available online).

FRENCH 3004: DRAMA WORKSHOP: SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

*août*

mardi 21 Introduction. Classical Theater. *L’Impromptu de Versailles* (IV).

jeudi 23 IV:discussion/rehearsal. Casting, acting, directing

mardi 28 IV:discussion/rehearsal. Phonetics, diction, mocked quiz on IV.

jeudi 30 IV: play! Training in class: IV: performance of scene and stage notes/essay.

*septembre*

mardi 4 *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* (BG): Discussion. **Due: Questions/Remarks on BG.**

jeudi 6 BG:casting, discussion/rehearsal. **Due: outline of stage notes or essay on BG.**

mardi 11 BG:discussion/rehearsal. **Due: memorize your lines (with partners).**

jeudi 13 BG: **Performance.** **Due: one-page stage notes or essay on BG.**

mardi 18 *Les Précieuses ridicules* (PR): Discussion. **Due: Questions & Remarks** **on PR**

jeudi 20 PR: :casting, discussion/rehearsal. **Due: outline of stage notes or essay on PR.**

mardi 25 PR:discussion/rehearsal. **Due: memorize your lines (with partners).**

jeudi 27 PR: **Performance. Due: one-page stage notes or essay on PR.**

*octobre*

mardi 2 **Mitdterm** (on Molière’s plays mentioned above)

jeudi 4 *En attendant Godot* (EAG): Discussion. **Due: Questions/Remarks on EAG.**

mardi 9 University holiday (no class)

jeudi 11 EAG: casting, discussion/rehearsal. **Due: outline of stage notes/essay on EAG.**

mardi 16 EAG:discussion/rehearsal.**Due: memorize your lines (with partners).**

jeudi 18 EAG: **Performance. Due: one-page stage notes or essay on EAG.**

mardi 23 *Les Bonnes* (LB): Discussion. **Due: Questions/Remarks on LB.**

jeudi 25 LB::casting, discussion/rehearsal. **Due: outline of stage notes/essay on LB.**

mardi 30 LB:discussion/rehearsal. **Due: memorize your lines (with partners).**

*novembre*

jeudi 1 LB: **Performance. Due: one-page stage notes or essay on LB.**

mardi 6 *Art* (A): Discussion. **Due: Questions/Remarks on A.**

jeudi 8 A: casting, discussion/rehearsal. **Due: outline of stage notes/essay on A.**

mardi 13 A: discussion/rehearsal. **Due: memorize your lines (with partners).**

jeudi 15 A: **Performance. Due: one-page stage notes or essay on A.**

mardi 20 Review on contemporary theater. **Due: Outline of final projects.**

jeudi 22 Thanksgiving holiday (no class)

mardi 27 Rehearsal for final projects

jeudi 29 Rehearsal for final projects

*décembre*

mardi 4 Presentations of final projects

jeudi 6 Presentations of final projects

**Final Exam (see GT schedule):** on the three contemporary plays above)

**This schedule is subject to changes.** Any changes will be announced in class, ahead of time.  Should you be absent on a day a change is announced, it is your responsibility to remain apprized of all changes.

Refer to this syllabus for explanation of **your tasks and assignments (highlighted in bold characters)**. Please do not hesitate to contact your instructor if you have any questions.