

THE 498  
Special Topics in Theatre [Scene Study- Annie Baker] (3.00)

Austin Harleson	MWF: 9:00-9:50
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This course is offered as needed to students with junior or senior standing and will explore a topic of contemporary interest to theatre.

### Course Purpose:

"I'm really trying to stop setting my plays in this one fictional town in Vermont."- Annie Baker

In this course, we'll read, analyze, and discuss all the available plays of Annie Baker, note the intricacies and nuances of her works, and apply contemporary acting techniques in rehearsal of scenes from those plays. We'll discover what makes her dialogue and structure unique as a playwright and how we can work as scholars, actors, and scene partners to identify tangible appropriate methods by which to illuminate that individuality in performance and rehearsal.

"I was raised by a single psychologist mother and we spent every evening sitting at the kitchen table dissecting our emotions and speculating about the inner life of everyone we knew." - Annie Baker

Required Text: All by Annie Baker, Supplied via instructor

- The Aliens
- Circle Mirror Transformation
- The Flick
- Uncle Vanya (Adaptation)
- Body Awareness
- John
- The Antipodes

Fall/Spring 3-credit lecture or seminar course, face-to-face

Over 15 weeks, students will spend 150 minutes per week in lectures, class discussions, and examinations (37.5 hours for the semester). Instructional time includes a 3-hour final exam.

Out- of-class work includes homework and preparation for exams and quizzes and is estimated at around 300 minutes per week (75 hours for the semester).

### Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, and to abide by the Reinhardt Honor Code. Also, all students are expected to be familiar with the Reinhardt policy on academic dishonesty stated in the University Catalog and in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism (using the ideas and phrases of others without crediting them, therefore claiming those ideas and phrases as your own) will not be tolerated in this course or on this campus. To avoid such academic dishonesty, you must use a citation (footnote or in text) for all ideas drawn from your reading and research, including research in encyclopedias and online, even when you have restated those ideas in your own words.

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs will be notified of actions taken against students who violate the academic integrity policy, which may result in further consequences, including designation of "academic warning" on your official transcript, academic suspension, or expulsion for academic reasons.

#### Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Reinhardt University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Therefore, if you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Academic Support Office (ASO). ASO is located in the basement of Lawson Building. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper ASO letters.

#### Center for Student Success:

The Center for Student Success (CSS) is located at the lower floor of Lawson, room 035. CSS offers free peer and faculty tutoring for all subjects. For appointments, go to Reinhardt webpage and click Center for Student Success

#### Class attendance:

Since timelines and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts, I have adopted the following attendance policy: Each student is allowed 3 absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, the student's overall course grade will be reduced by 1/2 grade with each subsequent absence. In addition, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. Participation in official university business must be documented by a written notice from the sponsoring faculty or staff member. A student who is absent from classes for official university business day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled within a reasonable time. The instructor will also be noting tardies and early exits from class. Three of these will equal one unexcused absence. **Absences in excess of 3 weeks of attendance for a course (9 for MWF, 6 for TTH) will result in an instructor initiated drop.**

#### Content Disclosure:

Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be offensive to some students on the grounds of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As I am devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not common practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

#### Assignments:

Presentation- Students will perform dramaturgical research on an assigned play and present their discoveries to the class while facilitating peer discussion on the play. **200 pts / 20% of final grade (PLO 1, 2, and 4)**

Scene Performances- Students will perform as a group in memorized scenes that have been rehearsed inside and outside of class with guidance and input from the instructor. **600 pts / 50% of final grade (PLO 1, 2, and 4)**

Final Scene- Students will put into practice the skills which they have learned this semester by preparing a scene from The Flick with a partner(s) and present it in class without instructor guidance. **200 pts / 20% of final grade (PLO 1, 2, and 4)**

#### Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will learn a firm foundation in language, theory, terminology and ideology that reflects the standard concepts used in theatre. USLO- I, II, III
2. Students will learn how to prepare for the professional world of theatre in which they will be able to display competencies in the following areas: Performance, Musical Theatre performance, production, directing and design. Students will demonstrate an understanding of character, motivation and objective which will be evident in their final projects and presentations performed in their performance or design class. USLO- I,II,III
3. Students will demonstrate appropriate critical and creative thinking as well as writing and research skills in theatre history. Students will have a basic understanding of major theatre movements throughout history and how they interact, effected or reacted to their own culture. USLO I,II,III, IV
4. Students will be able to identify different genres and styles of dramatic literature and be able to evaluate, synthesize and create dramatic plays and scenes- USLO-I, II, III, IV

#### Scene Study CALENDAR Fall 23

- 8-14 Course Introduction
- 8-16 Annie Baker
- 8-18 Annie Baker pt 2
- 8-21 Body Awareness
- 8-23 Body Awareness Scenes
- 8-25 Body Awareness Scenes
- 8-28 Body Awareness Scenes (off book)
- 8-30 Body Awareness Scenes (off book)
- 9-1 Body Awareness Scenes Performances
- 9-4 LABOR DAY NO CLASS
- 9-6 John
- 9-8 John Scenes
- 9-11 John Scenes
- 9-13 John Scenes (off book)
- 9-15 John Scenes (off book)
- 9-18 John Scenes Performances
- 9-20 The Aliens
- 9-22 The Aliens Scenes
- 9-25 The Aliens Scenes
- 9-27 The Aliens Scenes (off book)
- 9-29 The Aliens Scenes (off book)
- 10-2 The Aliens Scenes Performances
- 10-4 FALL BREAK NO CLASS
- 10-6 FALL BREAK NO CLASS
- 10-9 Circle Mirror Transformation
- 10-11 Circle Mirror Transformation Scenes
- 10-13 Circle Mirror Transformation Scenes
- 10-16 Circle Mirror Transformation Scenes (off book)
- 10-18 Circle Mirror Transformation Scenes (off book)
- 10-20 Circle Mirror Transformation Performances
- 10-23 Uncle Vanya

10-25 Uncle Vanya Scenes  
10-27 Uncle Vanya Scenes  
10-30 Uncle Vanya Scenes (off book)  
11-1 Uncle Vanya Scenes (off book)  
11-3 Uncle Vanya Performances  
11-6 The Antipodes  
11-8 The Antipodes Scenes  
11-10 The Antipodes Scenes  
11-13 The Antipodes Scenes (off book)  
11-15 The Antipodes Scenes (off book)  
11-17 The Antipodes Performances  
11-20 The Flick  
11-22 TURKEY DAY(s)  
11-24 TURKEY DAY(s)  
11-27 University Finals  
11-29 University Finals  
12-1 University Finals