

THEATRE 4600: Production of *The Door*

Spring 2020 – Sally Vahle

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Please email or call during office hours to schedule an appointment.

II. Introduction to the Course

The subject of this course shall include rehearsing and conducting scholarly research for, and performing in DT's First Stage production of *The Door*.

III. Course Goal

To examine the relationship between technique and practice. Those enrolled in the course will work as a research ensemble designed to motivate by direct and immediate application of acting techniques taught in separate courses. The hope is that this will engender insight and enthusiasm in the participant, leading to a powerful performance for the audience.

IV. Course Description

1. Research and Rehearsal

You will be required to actively present your research for the production via the development of your role. The areas of concentration may be:

- The historical, societal and philosophical meaning of *The Door*.
- The acting skills necessary for performance of *The Door*.
- The study of character development throughout an entire work.

2. Schedule

Each student shall carry out the assignments for the course by:

- Following the rehearsal and performance schedule distributed by the First Stage director,
- Attending the meetings, rehearsals, production calls, and performances on the schedules distributed to the members of the appropriate casts or staffs, or placed on the theatre callboard located in the RTFP Building.

Any announcement placed on the callboard for a 24-hour period shall be deemed to have been read by the students whose names appear in the announcement; they shall then be responsible for complying with the instructions that the announcement contains. Where necessary, a student's signature or initials on such an announcement shall amount to a contract that he or she will comply with the announced instructions.

V. Course Requirements

A. Grading

Your creative growth and thoughtful responses constitute the major focus of this class. Therefore, open discussion and deep involvement are essential.

50% of your grade will be based on attendance and promptness that includes active participation and being prepared. For First Stage Productions, this will be reported to the faculty member on record by the director.

1. Attendance/Promptness Each student shall:

- Attend each class meeting, including strike, post-production" class meeting. (As applicable).
- Participate in all the rehearsals/technical calls for the *Door*.
- Perform in all public presentations of *The Door*.
- Serve satisfactorily as a member of the cast of *The Door*, as assigned.

- Be on time and ready for all such rehearsals, and performances as he or she may be selected for.

A student who is late for a meeting, an assignment, a crew call, a rehearsal, or a performance, or who leaves one of these sessions without being dismissed by its supervisor shall be counted absent for that session. **No unexcused absences shall be allowed**, and all excused absences must be approved by the faculty supervisor or instructor of the course, and in many instances, by the Office of the UNT Dean of Students. **In particular, if and when a student's failure to attend the class activities named above is deemed by the instructor as harmful to the class production of *Suburbia*, or interferes or hinders the success of this group activity, this student may be removed from a cast or crew assignment.** Absences shall be graded as follows:

2. Participation/Preparedness

It is expected that you give your undivided attention and support to your classmates during rehearsals. You can learn a great deal from watching others work. Please note that it is considered extremely discourteous to enter or leave the room while others are working. Each student shall participate in class activities so that the criteria listed below shall be met.

- Arrival at rehearsal or crew call: on time and ready to perform or work.
- ➤ Preparation: fully prepared for each rehearsal or call, including wearing the proper attire (see below).
- ➤ When cast is to be "off book": **check rehearsal schedule.**
- ➤ When staging is to be learned: **check rehearsal schedule.**
- ➤ Good manners: behave politely and with good manners at all rehearsals, work sessions, and performances.
- ➤ Interpersonal relationships: willing and cheerful support of group rehearsal, work session, and performance behaviors at all times.
- ➤ Treatment of theatre spaces and equipment: use the theatre spaces and equipment safely and with care, obeying all policies and procedures, rules and regulations, governing their use.
- ➤ Personal: use no intoxicants immediately before or during a rehearsal, a call, or a performance.

50% of your grade will be based on writing a proficient reflective essay (**750-1000 words; double-spaced**). **The reflective essay** as a self-assessment is a carefully crafted statement regarding the acting approaches, strategies, or methods attempted. It should include a concise and clear description of what worked or didn't work in terms of character exploration and final characterization(s); a concise and clear description of the overall "look" of the production as it manifested itself onstage and how these elements related to character work; references to the challenges and triumphs experienced as a company member; and finally, a concluding statement of what was learned by engaging in an artistic process. The reflective essay is **due Friday, February 28th, 5:00 p.m. Place the essay in my mailbox in RTFP 242.** The final semester grade will appear in letter form, according to the UNT grading system (i.e., "A," "B," "C," "D," and "F").

B. Communication

Information regarding class will be distributed in advance and posted on the callboard in the RTFP Building. Information may also be posted on FB and/or the "Theatre Callboard" site on Bb.