

ASC 800: Graduate Workshop in Disability Studies
Fall 2006
ASL Performance Art: The ASL Shakespeare Project

2 graduate credit hours

Instructor: Brenda Brueggemann (English and Disability Studies)

Course Description:

Deaf theatre is an important aspect of Deaf culture and history. This two-hour workshop will explore American Sign Language (ASL) performance art and theatre, concentrating on the work of The ASL Shakespeare Project. Dr. Peter Novak (director) and Adrian Blue (Master Translator, Actor, and Sign Language Consultant for the production) will discuss the work of the ASL Shakespeare Project, including the challenges of translating spoken and written words into a complex visual language. This course will develop student's understanding and appreciation of ASL and the Deaf community in general and Deaf theatre in particular.

Dr. Peter Novak is Associate Professor and Chair of Performing Arts at the University of San Francisco His areas of interest include acting, American multicultural drama; speech; Shakespeare; theater of the deaf; dramatic literature; theater and social justice; and children's theater. Adrian Blue is a Master ASL Translator, Actor, and Sign Language Consultant for the ASL Shakespeare project.

Course Objectives:

As a result of this workshop, students will be able to:

1. Understand the role of Deaf theatre and performance art in Deaf culture.
2. Understand the role of Deaf theatre within contemporary theatre theory and practice
3. Describe the linguistic challenges of translating Shakespeare into ASL.

Assignments:

1. Attend performance by Adrian Blue, with the ASL Shakespeare Project, during fall quarter (location—at OSU—and date, TBA) and submit a one-page summary of this experience. Due one week following the performance and posted on Carmen site.
2. Attend public lecture by Dr. Peter Novak on "Signing Shakespeare," in conjunction with the OSU Department of Theatre.
3. Review and write a one-page critique of the ASL Shakespeare Project website. <http://www.usfca.edu/fpa/shakespeare/Project.html> Posted on Carmen site by third week of Fall 2006 quarter.
4. Screen Shakespeare Unmasked [video recording] by the National Theatre of the Deaf, on [date TBA] and write a one-page summary and review critique of the video.
5. Attend a three-hour class seminar with Dr. Peter Novak and Adrian Blue (and Dr. Brueggemann). [date TBA] Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to introductory and summary seminars.
6. Write a comprehensive response paper (approx. 1000 words) about the workshop experience that will be discussed and turned in at the summary seminar. The paper may

respond to prompts and ideas discussed in the introductory seminar. This response paper should be posted at the course Carmen site by the last day of Fall 2006 classes.

Readings/Viewings:

Shakespeare, William. Twelfth Night.

National Theatre of the Deaf. Shakespeare Unmasked [video recording]. Produced by Salem, OR Distributed by Sign Enhancers, Inc., c1995

Conley, Willy. "Away from Invisibility, Toward Invincibility: Issues with Deaf Theatre Artists in America." Deaf World : A Historical Reader and Primary Sourcebook. Ed. Lois Bragg. New York: New York University, 2001. pages 51-67. (posted on course Carmen site)

Selection from Baldwin, Stephen C. Pictures in the Air: The Story of the National Theatre of the Deaf. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 1992. (posted on Carmen site)

Chapter 3 ("the Problem of Voice") and Chapter 5 ("The Technology of Voice") from Padden and Humphries Inside Deaf Culture. Harvard UP, 2005. (posted on Carmen site)

Grading:

Students will be assigned a grade of "S" (satisfactory) or "U" (unsatisfactory).

Plagiarism:

As defined in University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is "the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas." Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the instructor's obligation to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. See the Office of Academic Affairs, Committee on Academic Misconduct site for the OSU policy on academic misconduct (including procedures for allegations and tips on avoiding plagiarism and maintaining academic integrity):

<http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>

Accommodation of students with disabilities:

We all have varying abilities; we all carry various strengths and weaknesses. Some of these might even be "documented" with a place like the OSU Office for Disability Services (ODS). If so, please let your instructor know. With or without documentation, it is the instructor's intent to make our learning experience as accessible as possible. With documentation, the instructor is especially interested in providing any student accommodations that have probably been best determined by the student and an ODS counselor in advance. If you wish to have an accommodation for disability, please contact your instructor so that we can maximize your learning potential, participation, and general access in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located at 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue, phone 292-3307 (TDD 292-0901).

See: <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>