

Theatre 305 – Theatre History and Drama, Ancients through the Renaissance Ancient Performance Development and Implementation

THE PROJECT: The performance of a scene or presentation of models, designs (scenic or costume), or masks for a Pre-Renaissance performance text. The project should be created in a style and space based on the original historical conventions and materials using masks, costumes, and other essential elements. Groups will be assigned after everyone has decided on the type of project they would prefer. Students are responsible for researching the period in a way that effectively represents the play's original context.

THE PAPER: A 5-6 page paper is required from each student. The paper must explain the choices you made in how to mount or envision the scene based on your research of the play's original period. All sources must be *authoritative* and appropriately documented. ***Do not include plot summaries!*** All papers should explain of the style of performance; cover issues related to theatre architecture, audience, acting (vocalization, movement, character, and emotion), costumes, masks, and scenic elements.

In addition, actors should include a character analysis of the character you are playing. At the very least, the character analysis should include an explanation of the action of the play (what happens), how your character contributes to the action of the play (what she/he does), the given circumstances of the scene you are performing and your character (found in the dialogue of the play), traits of your character (physical, vocal, and personality characteristics), your character's scene objective (what your character wants from another character(s) in the scene), and the active tactics used to achieve that objective (stated with active verbs, "to _____").

Designers should submit a set of drawings, sketches, models, and/or other support materials as part of the paper. For scenic designs, you must include a scale groundplan and a color sketch (or, if you prefer, a model) of the set. Costume designs must include pictures – either drawn, photocopied, or cut and pasted electronically – of the designs. Mask projects should include at least one fully-realized masks and drawings all others not actually created.

Remember that you must cite all sources. Include a Works Cited page at the end of the paper.

THE PRESENTATION: Actors will perform a 6-10 minute memorized scene in a space (like an indoor or outdoor stadium) that approximates the original performance context with all the *necessary* props and costumes. Actors are encouraged to find directors to volunteer to work with them. Designers will present drawings or models along with an explanation of the ways the designs fit the period.

THE GRADE: The project is worth 200 possible points. For actors, you can earn up to 100 points on your performance and 100 on your paper. For designers, you can earn up to 50 points on your presentation and 150 points on the designs/written materials that you submit. This should not be considered a scene or design "in progress" or "in rehearsal." You should be prepared to present a finished, well-rehearsed, well-conceived, and well-acted performance or project ready for public viewing.

THE TIME FRAME: All projects will be presented on March 15th and 17th at our regular class meeting. Specific due dates will be determined once projects have been assigned. Papers are due on the day of your presentation. Accordingly, you have approximately seven weeks for the research, preparation, and completion of this project. An escalating number of weekly meetings with group members is suggested.