

Theater Studies 290-5-01: **Theater Production (Lecture) UNCLE VANYA**  
Tuesdays 6:30 pm-9:30 pm  
Bryan Center 127

**Jeff Storer**

Office Hours (Page 106 03D): By Appointment, 919-308-0057,  
[jmsheepdog@gmail.com](mailto:jmsheepdog@gmail.com)

**Jules Odendahl-James**

Office Hours (Page 106 03A): Thursdays 1-230pm & by appointment.  
[jao@duke.edu](mailto:jao@duke.edu)

**Course Description:**

Students participate in the production of Uncle Vanya for public performance November 14-24. Students analyze, research, rehearse, and produce this play under the direction of director Jeff Storer and dramaturg, Jules Odendahl-James of the Theater Studies faculty. Students may be cast and focus on acting or may be assisting in directing, design, dramaturgy, management, or production; a specific area of focus and individual responsibilities will be determined through audition and/or arrangement with the instructors. Consent to enroll in this course is required. Permission numbers can be obtained from Professor Storer. Everyone in the class will study the play and work in some major capacity on the production. May be repeated for credit.

**Requirements:**

**-Attendance:** A record will be kept of attendance for classes, rehearsals and crew calls. Any approved absences must be cleared with instructor prior to the class, rehearsal or crew call. In the event you are not able to speak to Professor Storer (or the stage manager, crew head, or appropriate faculty) you may leave a message on Professor Storer's voice mail (919-308-0057) prior to absence. **Unexcused absences and lateness will negatively impact final course grade.**

**-Required readings:** You can find a list of assigned readings posted on the show's WordPress blog on the page Course Materials: [sites.duke.edu/unclevanya/](http://sites.duke.edu/unclevanya/). This page is password protected. You will need to input the phrase "dukevanya" to get access.

All students are required to read selections to be announced by instructors.

**- Blogging.** All students **officially enrolled for credit** in the production course are required to blog about their experience working on the production at three times during the semester. Blog #1 should be posted between Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> by midnight. Content of Blog #1 should be a reflection on table work and movement workshop process. Blog #2 should be posted between Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> by midnight (turn your clocks back). Content of Blog #2 for actors should be a first person narrative from the point

of view of your character. This narrative should reflect the changing arc of your character. Content of Blog #2 for production personnel should reflect your attendance at a rehearsal and your observation of the production approach. Blog #3 should be posted between Tuesday, November 19 and Sunday, November 24th. Content of Blog #3 should reflect your perceptions of the audience response to our production.

Each blog entry should run between 300 and 400 words, include a title and the blogger's name. Instructors and peers will comment on these blogs. At some point in the semester you will be expected to comment on **one** of your peers posts.

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> by midnight students must select one of their three posts to be placed in a publically accessible page on the blog. (Instructions on this will be reviewed at semesters end.) These will be a part of our discussion for the last production class meeting (December 3)

Jules will provide detailed instructions about how to use WordPress and post some examples of production blogs by students on our WordPress site.

All students in the *Uncle Vanya* company and crew, whether enrolled in the production course or not, are welcome to post to the production blog; however, you will need to provide Jules with your NetID. All students are encouraged to read and respond (by leaving comments) on posts.

The production's WordPress site as a whole will be searchable by the public. Keep this in mind as you create posts.

**-Crew Hours for production personnel.** Crew hours for production personnel will be contracted between the faculty or staff and student that is assisting (i.e. Props would work with David Berberian in the shop and designer Sonya Drum; Assistant Scene Designer would work with Sonya Drum; Marketing/Publicity would work with Miriam Sauls; Assistant Costume Designer and costume crew would work with Kay Webb and designer Derrick Ivey in the costume shop; Assistant Dramaturg with Jules Odendahl-James) The person you are working with will offer an assessment of your discipline, responsibility and participation and that assessment will be taken into consideration in your final participation grade.

**-Crew Hours for performers.** For a production this size, everyone involved needs to pitch in even beyond the boundaries of performance. During the first class meeting, you will be given the opportunity to sign up for crew work on lights, sets, scenic painting, props or costumes. Your crew responsibilities will be organized and overseen by production personnel, so you can expect calls/emails from them as needed during the building process.

At the end of the semester, you will be required to make a blog post (designated "Shop Diaries" and posted on a separate Word Press page, titled "Shop Diaries";

about 150 words) detailing your experiences working behind-the-scenes. **ALL crew hours must be completed between Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 11th. EVERYONE will be required to participate in the striking of *Uncle Vanya*.**

**-Grade Breakdown:** Grade based on seriousness of approach, ability, effort, growth, the quality of participation, curiosity and passion. If students are interested in the grades they are receiving, they should make an appointment to discuss grades with the instructors. As suggested by the University, "A's" will be reserved for "Exceptional" work.

Participation	35%
Writing/Blogs	15%
Performance/Company Assignment	50 %

**CLASS AND REHEARSAL CALENDAR**  
***UNCLE VANYA***

**Reminder about participation.** Attendance, collegiality and the willingness to engage in class activities will be key to your grade. Note that there are no approved absences without prior consent of the instructor.

Must have Friday afternoons 100-500 and Tuesdays 630-930 FREE.

T aug 27	630-930.	Auditions, all currently cast attend.
F aug 30	100-500.	Vanya on 42nd Street and discussion.
T sep 3.	630-930.	Read-thru and discussion of production parameters.
F sep 6.	100-500.	Movement workshop.
T sep 10.	630-930.	Vanya at century's turn.
F sep 13.	100-500.	Movement workshop.
T sep 17.	630-930	Late 20th and 21st century Versions of Vanyas.
F sep 20.	100-500.	Movement workshop.
T sep 24.*	630-930	Blocking opening.

\* Blog #1 should be posted between Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> by midnight. Content of Blog #1 should be a reflection on table work and movement workshop process.

F sep 27	100-500	ALL ACTORS WITH JULES – CHARACTER ARCS AND TEXT ANALYSIS
W oct 2	730-1030	ALL ACTORS WITH JULES – CHARACTER ARCS AND TEXT ANALYSIS
F oct 4.	100-500.	Act 1 sketch block.
St oct 5.	100-500.	Act 2 sketch block.
M oct 7.	730-1030.	Act 3 sketch block.
T oct 8.	630-930.	Act 4 sketch block.
W oct 9.	730-1030.	Sketch block transitions. FULL COMPANY. Establish transformations.
Th oct 10.	730-1030.	Duets with all Astrov's, Sonyas, Yelenas and Vanyas. Bart and Jules. Character teams.

Fall break 11-14

Off Book ALL CHARACTER TEAMS SHOULD MEMORIZE ENTIRE SCRIPT.

T oct 15. 630-930. Work Act 1 off book.  
 W oct 16. 730-1030. Work Act 2 off book.  
 Th oct 17. 730-1030. Work Act 3 off book.  
 F oct 18. 100-500. Work Act 4 off book.

Decision made as to character team assignments.

St oct 19. 100-500. Stumble Thru. Off Book.

M oct 21. 730-1030. Work/Run Act 1.  
 T oct 22. 630-930. Work/Run Act 2.  
 W oct 23. 730-1030. Work/Run Act 3.  
 Th oct 24. 730-1030. Work/Run Act 4.  
 F oct 25. 100-500. stumble thru 1st half  
 St oct 26. 100-500. stumble thru 2nd half

M oct 28. 730-1030. work Act 1  
 T oct 29.\* 630-930. work Act 2

\*Blog #2 should be posted between Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> by midnight (turn your clocks back). Content of Blog #2 for actors should be a first person narrative from the point of view of your character. This narrative should reflect the changing arc of your character. Content of Blog #2 for production personnel should reflect your attendance at a rehearsal and your observation of the production approach.

W oct 30. 730-1030 work Act 3  
 Th oct 31 730-1030 work Act 4

Jeff and Jules out of town nov 1-3.

M nov 4. 730-1030. 1st half (KALI IN TOWN)  
 T nov 5. 630-930. 2nd half  
 W nov 6. 715 call. Run Thru  
 Th nov 7. 715 call. Run Thru

F nov 8 paper tech without actors  
 St nov 9 12-6. tech with actors  
 Sn nov 10 12-6. tech with actors

M nov 11	6 call.	dress tech
T. nov 12	6 call.	dress tech
W nov 13	630 call.	final dress
Th nov 14	630 call	opening
F nov 15	630 call	2 <sup>nd</sup> performance (post-show discussion with cast & production team, Kali will be in town!)
St nov 16	630 call	3 <sup>rd</sup> performance
Sn nov 17	1230 call	4 <sup>th</sup> performance

\*Blog #3 should be posted between Tuesday, November 19 and Sunday, November 24th. Content of Blog #3 should reflect your perceptions of the audience response to our production.

T nov 19	630-930	pick-up rehearsal
Th nov 21	630 call	5 <sup>th</sup> performance
F nov 22	630 call	6 <sup>th</sup> performance (post show discussion with Raphael Martin, Literary & Humanities Manager @Soho Rep)
<b>St nov 23</b>	<b>1230 call</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> performance</b>
	<b>630 call</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> performance</b>
Sn nov 24	630 call	9 <sup>th</sup> performance
Sn dec 1		indicate which of performance blogs you wish to make public; complete & post Shop Diaries blog (by midnight)
T dec 3	630-930	final class meeting, reflections on process