COURSE GOAL
Anton Chekhov is perhaps the greatest and most elusive of the world’s major playwrights. In this class, students will be expected to immerse themselves in his work in an effort to understand his dramatic innovation and method. The ultimate goal is to find the road to truthful realization in performance of the Russian writer’s astoundingly original vision.

JOURNAL
Your journal is more than a journal. It is the heart of your work in the class and your grade depends on it. It should include your thoughts on Chekhov, on the parts you play, on the words he writes, on the history and landscape of Russia, on other productions of Three Sisters and Chekhov’s other major plays both contemporary and historical. I want to know about his friends, his life, his loves and yours, too. I want you to go deep and make connections, emotional, visual, spiritual and theatrical. I want you to make us a piece of art.

GRADING
The journal will be collected and graded four times during the course of the class. This will make up 50% of your grade.

The other 50% will depend on the quality of your participation. This will be assessed four times during the course of the class.

This means you need to be at every class.

You need to be on time.

You need to be attentive and contributing ideas to our developing knowledge of Chekhov.

You need to be current with all the reading and journal work.

You need to be off book on your lines when required.

REQUIRED TEXTS
The Plays of Anton Chekhov  A New Translation by Paul Schmidt.

The Essential Tales of Chekhov Edited by Richard Ford

The Selected Letters of Anton Chekhov edited by Lillian Hellman

WEEK 1 January 23 Course introduction

Cast and Read the Three Sisters
Assignments:
Notes to Your Cast
Read The Three Sisters
Journal Assignment
Character Biography

**WEEK 2** January 30

Give Notes to Your Cast
Read/Work Act One Cast One

Assignments:
Read The Student
Read Letters to Suvorin
Read The Three Sisters Again
Journal Work

**WEEK 3** February 6

Read/Work Act Two/Cast One

Assignments:
Read The Kiss
Read The Three Sisters Again
Journal Work

**WEEK 4** February 13

Read/Work Act Three/Cast One

Assignments:
Read The Seagull
Read Three Sisters Again
Journal Work
Character Biography

**WEEK 5** February 20

Read/Work Act Four/Cast one
Announce Cast Two

Assignments:
Read Anonymous Story
Read The Three Sisters Again
Journal work
Character Biography

**WEEK 6** February 27

Read/Work Act One/Cast two

Assignments:
Read In the Ravine
Read Letters to Maxim Gorki
Read Three Sisters Again
Journal Work

**WEEK 7** March 6

Read/Work Act Two/ Cast Two

Assignments:
Read The Lady and the Little Dog
Read Letters to Maria Chekova
Read Three Sisters Again
Journal Work

**WEEK 8** March 13

Read/Work Act Three/ Cast Two

Assignments:
Read Uncle Vanya
Read Three Sisters Again
Journal Work
Character Biography

**WEEK 9** March 20

Read/Work Act Four/ Cast Two

Assignments:
Read ‘The Bishop’
Read Letters to Konstantin Stanislavski
Read Three Sisters
Journal Work
Character Biography

**WEEK 10** March 27 - SPRING BREAK

**WEEK 11** April 3

Read/Work Act One/ Cast Three

Assignments:
Read About Love
Read Three Sister Again
Journal Work

**WEEK 12** April 10

Read/Work Act Two/ Cast Three

Assignments:
Read Gooseberries
Read Letters to Olga Knipper
Read Three Sisters Again
Journal Work

**WEEK 13** April 17

Read/Work Act Three/ Cast Three

Assignments:
Read The Cherry Orchard
Read Three Sisters Again
Journal Work
Character Biography

**Week 14** April 24

Read/Work Act Four/ Cast Three

Assignments:
Notes to Your Cast
Read TBA
Read Three Sisters Again
Journal Work
**WEEK 14** May 1

Give Notes to Your Cast
Rehearsal for PUBLIC READING

**WEEK 15** May 8

PUBLIC READING OF THE THREE SISTERS!!!!

**COURSE FINAL**: Россия праздника (RUSSIAN FEAST)