Course Description: During this course, students will learn to improvise and develop scenes based on source material such as folktales and books. Students will utilize what they learn to devise a short play inspired by Neil Gaiman’s *The Graveyard Book*.

Course Goals:
1. To adapt Neil Gaiman’s *The Graveyard Book*
2. To utilize devising techniques and writing prompts to generate scenes inspired by Neil Gaiman’s *The Graveyard Book*
3. To work in a collaborative nature with fellow classmates.

Student Outcomes/Learning Objectives
1. The student will learn the elements of a adaptation
2. The student will learn how to devise

Rationale:
This course:
• Focuses on the student’s creative process
• Asks students to incorporate what they have learned throughout the course into a final presentation

Required Materials:
• Comfortable clothing
• Writing utensils

Expectations:
• Be on time and dressed appropriately for class.
• Be ready to work, willing to take risks, able to support others in their development, and keep a positive attitude with a great deal with of imagination.

Grades:
Your grade will be based on the following:
*The Sparrow* D2L Response 5 points
Short Paper #1 5 points
Scene Elements Assignments 1-8 40 points (5 points each)
Character Monologue & Performance 20 points
If you have a condition that requires special accommodations, please make an appointment to discuss your VISA.

University Policies & Procedures:  
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

ASSIGNMENTS:  
- **The Sparrow D2L Response**: After viewing The House Theatre of Chicago’s production of The Sparrow, students will write a short response on D2L.
- **Short Paper #1**: After reading an assigned folktale, students will write a short paper discussing memorable moments in the folktale.
- **Scene Elements Assignments**: There will be a total of 8 scene element assignments. Each assignment is worth 5 points. The first assignment will focus on an assigned folktale. Assignments 2-8 will focus on each chapter in *The Graveyard Book*. This assignment will focus on defining important moments in the assigned story.
- **Character Monologue & Performance**: Each student will create a 1-minute monologue based on an assigned character from *The Graveyard Book*. Each student will also revise, rehearse and perform the monologue in class.
- **Final Presentation**: During the week of final exams, the class will perform an adaptation of *The Graveyard Book*. This performance will include devised scenes and character monologues.

COURSE POLICIES:  
- **Participation**: Students are expected to participate in all class activities. Participation includes bringing the required materials, such as notebook, writing utensil, assignments, etc…
- **Assignment**: No late work is accepted.
- **Attendance**: Each student is allowed 1 absence without penalty. Each subsequent absence will result in a grade deduction. Four absences will result in an "F."

**NOTE**: If you miss class for any reason, you must take the responsibility to contact the instructor. You will still be responsible for turning in assignments on time.
CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
January 23 (M) — Introductions; Syllabus

January 25 (W) — Viewing of The Sparrow Meet in Media Reserve Library. Please arrive at least 5 minutes early!
Homework
• The Sparrow D2L Response—Due in D2L Discussion area by 8am, Monday, January 30.

WEEK 2
January 30 (M) — David Lozano, Artistic Director of Cara Mia Theatre Co.

February 1 (W) — David Lozano, Artistic Director of Cara Mia Theatre Co.
Homework
• Read Assigned Folktale
• Short Paper #1 due in hardcopy at beginning of class on February 6.

WEEK 3
February 6 (M) — Discuss Assigned Folktale, Scene Breakdown Group work
Homework
• Folktale Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due Feb. 8

February 8 (W) — Discuss Scene Elements Assignment, Devise folktale

WEEK 4
February 13 (M) — Devise folktale

February 15 (W) — Devise folktale
Homework
• Read Chapter 1 The Graveyard Book
• Ch. 1 Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due February 20

WEEK 5
February 20 (M) — Discuss Chapter 1

February 22 (W) — Devise Chapter 1
Homework
• Read Chapter 2 The Graveyard Book
• Ch. 2 Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due February 27

WEEK 6
February 27 (M) — Discuss Chapter 2
March 1 (W) — Devise Chapter 2
   **Homework**
   • Read Chapter 3 *The Graveyard Book*
   • Ch. 3 Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due March 6

**WEEK 7**
March 6 (M) — Discuss Chapter 3

March 8 (W) — Devise Chapter 3
   **Homework**
   • Read Chapter 4 *The Graveyard Book*
   • Ch. 4 Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due March 13

**WEEK 8**
March 13 (M) — Discuss Chapter 4

March 15 (W) — Devise Chapter 4
   **Homework**
   • Read Chapter 5 & Interlude *The Graveyard Book*
   • Ch. 5 & Interlude Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due March 27

March 20-24 **SPRING BREAK!!!**

**WEEK 9**
March 27 (M) — Discuss Chapter 5 & Interlude

March 29 (W) — Devise Chapter 5 & Interlude
   **Homework**
   • Read Chapter 6 *The Graveyard Book*
   • Ch. 6 Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due April 3

**WEEK 10**
April 3 (M) — Discuss Chapter 6

April 5 (W) — Devise Chapter 6
   **Homework**
   • Read Chapter 7 & 8 *The Graveyard Book*
   • Ch. 7 & 8 Scene Elements Assignment. Hardcopy due April 10

**WEEK 11**
April 10 (M) — Discuss Chapter 7 & 8

April 12 (W) — Devise Chapter 7 & 8
Homework
• 1-minute character monologue. Hardcopy due April 17.

WEEK 12
April 17 (M) — Discuss Character monologues
Homework
• Revise character monologue

April 19 (W) — Perform character monologues, Review Devised Scene Ch. 1

WEEK 13
April 24 (M) — Review Devised Scenes Chapter 1-4
April 26 (W) — Review Devised Scenes Chapter 5-8

WEEK 14
May 1 (M) — Rehearsal of all devised Scenes
May 3 (W) — Rehearsal of all devised Scenes

WEEK 15
May 8 (M) — Dress Rehearsal
May 10 (W) — Dress Rehearsal

May 15 (M) — Final Presentation 10-12pm (yes. We will use all this time.)