

Theatre 120: Fundamentals of Acting Spring 2010

Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 – 2:55 PM CRN 20435

Instructor: Deirdre Rowley Office # 2792 Phone: 760-355-6484
Office Hours: MW: 7:30-8:30AM, 1:30-4PM TTH: 7:30-8:30AM, 9:30-11AM
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Course Description: An introduction to the interpretation of drama through the art of the actor. Development of individual insights, skills, and disciplines in the presentation of dramatic materials to an audience.

Course Objectives:

- To become familiar with standing, moving, and speaking effectively before an audience.
- To learn how to effectively use the body to present emotions.
- To understand how to work with a group.
- To demonstrate responsibility with deadlines.
- To understand and utilize stage directions.
- To learn to read and interpret a script.
- To understand the director's point of view.
- To learn how to subjugate the self for the success of the scene.
- To learn, practice, and improve memorization techniques.
- To explain various acting techniques.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Show growth in the ability to project. (demonstration)
- Show improvement in presenting emotion through physicality. (demonstration)
- Explore personal growth in dramatic presentation of characters (demonstration)

Required Texts and Materials:

- Acting Essentials or Just Say Your Lines Like You Mean Them and Don't Bump into the Scenery by Alex Golson
- Actor's Scenebook by Schulman
- It is your responsibility to obtain your textbooks in a timely manner. Books may be purchased from the college bookstore, privately from another student, or through an online source such as amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, albris.com, all of whom offer used as well as new textbooks.
- When purchasing privately or from an online source, make sure you are obtaining the correct edition.
- Familiarity with word processing for our of class journals.

How to Contact Your Instructor:

- You may call and leave a voice mail. Make sure you speak slowly and distinctly. All too often voice mails are gabled and impossible to understand.
- If I attempt to return your call, and your phone is busy, I can only try again a limited number of times.
- The best way to contact me is through email. Put Theatre 120 in the subject line.
- Whether you call or email, remember, I may not be in the office on holidays and week-ends.

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class on time, prepared with the completed assignments. If you expect you will be tardy, absent, or unprepared once in a while this is not the class for you.

- Students not present for the first class will be dropped.
- Regular attendance is expected. You have a grace period of one absence. You will be dropped upon the second absence.
- Students will be marked tardy when arriving within 15 minutes of class start time. Late arrivals after this time are marked as absences. Three tardies = one absence. Early departure, unless dismissed by the instructor, is unacceptable and counted as an absence.
- After the drop deadline, any "extra" absences result in a zero for that day's work which cannot be made up even though the student was absent.

- Do not schedule any appointments that conflict with class meetings. This includes medical, financial, counseling, or mechanical appointments. An absence is an absence.
- Emergencies do occur. Contact me as soon as possible, or see a classmate for the day's assignment.
- An absence due to an emergency is still counted as an absence. An absence is an absence.
- The only excused absences are those where the student is a representative of the college at officially approved conferences, contests, field trips, and sports events.

Student Responsibilities:

- Bring your class materials to each class meeting.
- All assignments must be completed and turned in by the due date to receive credit. Late work is not accepted and earns a zero.
- Keep track of your own assignments, due dates, grades, and attendance. An assignment notebook is a wonderful thing.
- If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to talk with classmates regarding what went on in class while you were absent.
- Group presentations go on as scheduled, even if a member of the group is absent. Be kind to your group. Avoid being absent when your group is presenting.
- Sending an email to me, requesting the homework for the period of time you were absent is not sufficient. I teach other classes and am required to attend meetings. I may not even see your email until the day of the next class meeting. **Contact your classmates to find out what you missed.**
- If you have problems understanding an assignment, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for a conference with me in my office, to discuss this problem before the assignment is due. Lack of understanding on your part is not an excuse for turning in an assignment late.
- Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) office as soon as possible: Room 2117, Health Sciences Building, (760) 355-6312.

Making an Appointment:

- See me in person immediately before or after class.
- Stop by my office. I may be in.
- Send an email, **several days in advance** of when you want the appointment. Make sure you have a return email confirmation that lets you know I will be in my office at the time you request.
- As much as is possible, if you can not make my office hours, I will try to meet with you at your convenience.
- I have office hours directly after class. Do not expect to stay after class to discuss your situation in detail. Meet me in my office or make an appointment.

Classroom Courtesy:

- Give your family and friends your schedule. Tell them they can call your cell phone outside of class hours.
- Turn off your cell phone or pager. No calls are to be received during class. Leaving class to make or answer a cell phone call will result in being dropped from the class.
- If you have a family situation that requires your cell phone to be left on for a single, particular class, this must be discussed with me prior to class.
- No iPods or CD players in class.
- No food or drink in class, outside of plain water. [This is a college rule.]
- Make arrangements for childcare. Legally no children are allowed in regular classrooms.
- Save discussion of private topics, (grades, reasons for absences, personal problems), for my office. Do not try to discuss these topics with me in the classroom.
- Theatre takes a group effort. Your participation supports what others are presenting whether you are back stage, on stage, or in the audience.

Successful Study Techniques:

- Create a schedule for work, eating, rest, play, class time, reading lab, and study/reading time. Post your schedule. Tell family and friends they can contact you are available outside of work, class, and study/reading time.

- When studying outside of class, it is wise to turn off your cell phone or pager.
- Working and studying while you are hungry produces poor results. Eat prior to these activities. Eating while studying divides your attention.
- If you have children, you usually don't take them to work with you. Make arrangements so they don't interrupt your class time or your study/reading time either.
- Often a discussion with children, even small children, explaining how going to school requires concentration and quiet time, helps them to understand you won't be available during this time. It also sets an excellent example for their academic experiences.
- Do your reading/study/homework in advance of class. Don't wait until an hour or two before class.
- Read the assigned material before attempting the assignments.
- Doing your best at all time results in your best getting better.
- Carefully read, then re-read the TIME section that follows.

Time:

- A face-to-face class spends 3 hours in the classroom with lectures and discussion.
- A general rule of thumb for a college student is to spend approximately 2 to 3 hours studying outside of class for each hour spent in class. This means a student can expect to spend between 6 and 9 hours a week reading, practicing, memorizing material, and doing written assignments outside of time spent in the classroom. Some weeks will require less time. Some weeks will require more time.
- As Confucius said, "Learning is labor, call it what you will."

Class Assignments:

- Homework is due at the beginning of class. No late work is accepted.
- An absence entitles the student to turn in assignments due the day of the absence immediately at the beginning of the next class meeting when the student returns. Assignments due the day a student was absent will not be accepted the second, third, or succeeding class meeting after a student returned to class.
- When turning in work collected when you were absent, please write "Absence" at the top of the assignment.
- All work assigned when a student was absent is due the day the student returns to class.
- If absent, check with your classmates for any assignments you missed.
- Missed tests and quizzes may be only made up **by student request** within five school days of the original test or quiz date. If you miss a test or quiz contact me immediately upon your return to class to make arrangements to take the test or quiz. Make-ups are usually given in my office.
- Tests or quizzes not taken within five school days of the date a student returns to class earn a zero. Once this five day grace period is passed, missed tests and quizzes may not be made up.
- If a student is allowed to stay in the class after exceeding the one absence limit, work missed on the second or succeeding absences earn a zero and may not be made up expect for extreme circumstances as determined by the instructor.
- After the drop date, any work missed due to absences over the one absence limit earns a zero and is not available for make-up.
- Presentations must be given on the day assigned even if a member of your group is absent.

Phone Numbers of Other Students in My Class

Names	Home phone	Cell Phone

Types of Assignments

Journals: These are due at the beginning of every Tuesday class. Journals must be typed so creative handwriting is not a barrier to their being read and understood. Journals are not marked down specifically for poor writing, but your meaning will come across more easily if you proofread before printing.

Acting Essentials: Expect the occasional quiz.

Actor's Scenebook: Used as a resource. There is space in the assignments area for writing your group's specific assignments.

Lectures: These are brief. Students are expected to take notes. Expect the occasional quiz.

Research: You will be asked to look up plays, read them, and write an assigned journal. These plays may be found in the library and online.

Grading:

Journals	10%	Performance	40%	Final	15%
Quizzes	10%	Mid-Term	15%		

- Grades are available throughout the semester at engrade.com. Any questions must be brought to my attention before the next class. After that time, the posted grade is considered accurate.
- Keep a file of graded and returned assignments.
- No past or previously un-submitted assignments will be accepted once final grades are submitted to Instruction, so do not ask, plead, or even inquire.
- Grades are available 24/7 throughout the semester. Therefore, no discussion of grades is entertained after final grades are posted.
- Your grade is the grade you earn. No grade will be changed due to problems with financial aid, graduation, or transfer requirements.
- The mid-term and the final both have two parts: a written section (5%) and a performance section (10%).
- Grades in other classes, math, P.E., art, music, reading, math, or literature classes are not necessarily indicative of grades in this class.
- This is a transfer level class. Expect to have to spend some time and effort to earn an "A".
- This is largely a practical class. Willing, successful, and enthusiastic participation in individual and group activities is essential to passing this class.
- Remember your math classes. A string of zeros worth 10% can often sink or float a grade.

Assignments for Spring 2010

This schedule may be altered at any time during the semester if circumstances require.

Week	Date	Journal	Acting Essentials	Actor's Scenebook
1				
2		A	Ch. 1	
3		journal		
4		is	Ch. 2	
5		due		
6		at	Ch. 3	
7		the		
	Mid-	Term	exam	
8		start	Ch. 4	
9		of each		
10		and	Ch. 5	
11		every		
12		Tuesday	Ch. 6	
13		class	Ch. 7	
14		without		
15		fail.		
16	Final	Exam		