

THEA 131: INTRODUCTION TO ACTING
Fall 2011
MWF 2:00 – 2:50pm

SECTION 01

Room: SPAC 117
Instructor: Sue Klemm
Office: PAC 204
Office Hours: MWF 10-11, 1-2
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SECTION 02

Room: Wintrode 118
Instructor: Billy Wilburn
Office: PAC 208
Office Hours: M 11-12, TTH 9-10, W 10-12
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Course Description

This course is designed for the student interested in exploring acting as a means of improving communication skills and self-expression. Acting includes a specific process for role development, text analysis, and opportunities to practice the craft and art of acting.

Course Goals

Acting (THEA 131) fulfills Goal Four of the System General Education requirements. "Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through the study of the arts and humanities."

Course Objectives

By the end of this course the successful student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of values, beliefs, and ideas embodied in the human experience.
Assessment: Students will prepare and perform theatre pieces, write critical analyses of actors' performing roles, and engage in discussion of characterization methods and performances of peers in prepared scenes.
2. Identify and explain basic concepts of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.
Assessment: Students will read the course text, discuss and employ these basic concepts in their own creative work and in evaluating the work of their peers. Two examinations will be administered during the semester.
3. Demonstrate creative and aesthetic understanding.
Assessment: Students will create pantomimes, prepare and perform monologues, and audition for and perform in theatre scenes. For each of these assignments, the students will engage in discussion and evaluate the performances. The students will also write an analytical criticism of an actor's performance in a State University Theatre production during the semester.
4. Explain and interpret formal and stylistic elements of the literary and fine arts.
Assessment: Students will appropriately employ the terminology of the discipline in their oral and written evaluations of their work and that of their peers. Two examinations will further assess this learning outcome.

Description of Instructional Methods

The course will consist of exercises, lecture and assignments in class, some written work, and two exams (over material from the text and assigned acting projects). This class is held in conjunction with directing. Acting students will be participating in scenes by students in the directing class.

Required Text

Cohen, R. (2008). *Acting One*. (5th Ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Attendance & Classroom Policies

- Attendance is Mandatory. Being present and receptive to the information and discussions in class is essential to the successful completion of this course. Your attendance grade is a percentage of days attended. The only absences that will be excused are those listed as University accepted excuses, verifiable illness, family emergency or University-sponsored trips. Therefore, it is recommended that after four unexcused absences, a student drop the course.
- Late arrivals will be noted and every three (3) late markings will equal one absence.
- Making up missed work will depend on the assignment. Arrangements will, of course, be made for work missed for legitimate reasons such as University accepted excuses.
- A cell phone cannot be used to meet any of the specific course requirements. Therefore, cell phones should be turned off or silent during class. Also, a cell phone should **NEVER** be answered in the classroom.
- Plagiarism, copying, or cheating will result in no credit for that assignment. Severe or repeated offenses will result in further disciplinary action such as reduction of the final grade and formal reporting of the incident to the student conduct committee.

Grade Breakdown

Assessments: One pantomime (with written script)	5 points	_____
One Duet Scene	5 points	_____
One Monologue (with character analysis)	10 points	_____
Performances in Children's Theatre Scene	20 points	_____
Midterm Exam	20 points	_____
Written critique of an acting performance	10 points	_____
Final Exam	20 points	_____
Attendance	<u>10 points</u>	_____
	100 points	_____

Grading Scale

90-100 points	A
80-89 points	B
70-79 points	C
60-69 points	D
0-59 points	F

Weekly Schedule (Subject to Change)

*Reading assignments are listed on the day they should be read by.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment
1	8/31	Course Introduction		
	9/2	Group Exercises (meet in PAC 117)	Lesson 1 and 2	
2	9/5	Labor Day – No Classes		

	9/7	Group Exercises/Assign Pantomime		
	9/9	Group Exercises (meet in PAC 117)		Scripts for pantomime due
3	9/12	Work on Pantomimes	Lesson 3	
	9/14	Work on Pantomimes		
	9/16	Present Pantomimes		
4	9/19	Present Pantomimes/Partners assigned for duet scene	Lesson 4	
	9/21	Work on Duet Scenes	Lesson 5-8	
	9/23	Work on Duet Scenes/Monologue Assignment		
5	9/26	Work on Duet Scenes		
	9/28	Present Duet Scenes		Monologue selection due
	9/30	Complete Duet Scenes/Work on Monologues		
6	10/3	Work on Monologues	Lesson 9/Lesson 28	
	10/5	Work on Monologues	Lesson 10-14	
	10/7	Work on Monologues		
7	10/10	Native American Day – No Classes		
	10/12	Auditions with Directing Class in PAC Studio Theatre		Monologues Due
	10/14	Auditions with Directing Class, PAC Studio Theatre		
8	10/17	Auditions with Directing Class, PAC Studio Theatre		
	10/19	MIDTERM EXAM (Covers lessons 1-14,28, and lectures)		
	10/21	Meet with Scene Directors, PAC Studio Theatre		
9	10/24	Class Meets	Lesson 15-20	
	10/26	Scene Rehearsals – Class Does Not Meet		
	10/28	Scene Rehearsals – Class Does Not Meet		
10	10/31	Class Meets	Lesson 21-27	
	11/2	Scene Rehearsals – Class Does Not Meet		
	11/4	Scene Rehearsals – Class Does Not Meet		
11	11/7	1 st Scene Presentation –PAC Studio Theatre		
	11/9	1 st Scene Presentation –PAC Studio Theatre		
	11/11	Veteran’s Day – No Classes		
12	11/14	1 st Scene Presentation –PAC Studio Theatre		
	11/16	1 st Scene Presentation –PAC Studio Theatre		
	11/18	1 st Scene Presentation –PAC Studio Theatre		
13	11/21	Class Meets		
	11/23	Thanksgiving – No Classes		
	11/25	Thanksgiving – No Classes		
14	11/28	2 nd Scene Presentation – PAC Studio Theatre		
	11/30	2 nd Scene Presentation – PAC Studio Theatre		
	12/2	2 nd Scene Presentation – PAC Studio Theatre		
15	12/5	Honor Band in PAC – No Class		
	12/7	2 nd Scene Presentation – PAC Studio Theatre		
	12/9	2 nd Scene Presentation – PAC Studio Theatre		

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 14th 2:00-3:40pm (Covers lessons 15-27 and lectures)

Important Dates:

Performances:

Septmeber 7-8	<i>Almost Maine</i>	7:30 pm	Doner Auditorium
October 19-22	<i>The Rocky Horror Picture Show</i>	7:30 pm	Doner Auditorium
October 21-22	<i>The Rocky Horror Picutre Show</i>	Midnight	Doner Auditorium
October 23	<i>The Rocky Horror Picture Show</i>	2:00 pm	Doner Auditorium
Nov.-Dec. 1-3	<i>Noises Off</i>	7:30pm	Doner Auditorium
December 4	<i>Noises Off</i>	2:00pm	Doner Auditorium
December 8	<i>Student Showcase</i>	7:30 pm	PAC Studio Theatre

Auditions:

September 12-13	<i>The Rocky Horror Picture Show</i>	7:00pm	Doner Auditorium
October 26-27	<i>Noises Off</i>	7:00pm	Doner Auditorium
December 6	<i>Buried Child</i>	7:00pm	PAC Studio Theatre
December 7	<i>Buried Child</i>	4:00pm	PAC Studio Theatre
December 10	<i>CAPERS</i>	Noon	PAC

Freedom in Learning

Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should first contact the instructor of the course to initiate a review of the evaluation. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/ or dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

ADA

This course acknowledges the importance of ADA requirements. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 605/688-4504 (Voice) or 605/688-4394 (TTD), or at the office in Wintrode, Room 123 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.