

Acting Fundamentals-Theatre 280-(19962-8)- Spring 2008

Mondays and Wednesdays (9:30am-11:18am) Room 2064

Instructor: Kiana Harris
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Campus Escort Service: (614) 292-3322

Office hours: By Appointment ONLY
Best Times: M,W 11:30-12:30 Location TBD
T,Th 11:30-1:30 Location TBD

Course Description: Basic acting techniques; imagination, concentration, human psychology as applied to creation of character and development of stage presence. No prior acting experience necessary.

Course Objectives:

1. To become comfortable performing in front of an audience. Let your inhibitions go, have fun, and make a fool out of yourself in class. I not only encourage it: I require it. ☺
2. To learn basic acting techniques and apply them to performance.
3. To develop rehearsal skills.
4. To be able to articulately reflect on your own work, as well as the work of others.
5. To acquire a working knowledge of basic theatre vocabulary.

Required Text: Cohen, R. (2002). Acting One (4th or 5th Edition). McGraw Hill. ISBN# 0-7674-1859-X (fifth edition ISBN # may be different)

Other necessary materials: 2 plays (texts to be determined based on your performance material)
A notebook/journal separate from other work (bring to class daily)

Dress: Please where clothes and shoes that make you feel comfortable and will not restrict movement.

Production attendance: You are required to attend the productions listed below. Student ticket prices will be available soon at the theatre department's box office. Budget this expense along with your cost of books.

Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!

May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 at 7:30 pm
May 4 at 3:00 pm
Bowen Theatre

Working: A Musical

May 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 at 7:30 pm
May 18 at 3:00 pm
Thurber Theatre

Attendance: Because this course is based primarily on your work in class, attendance is crucial. It not only affects your success, but also the success of your peers and scene partner. Therefore, I follow the following department attendance policy: Two absences are allowed for the quarter. Each subsequent absence brings your grade for the course down 1/3 of a letter grade (Ex: B to a B-). Two lates equal one absence. If you are more than 15 minutes late, it is considered one full absence.

Disability statement: Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Also, contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Grading Scale

A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82

C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C- 70-72
D+ 67-69
D 60-66
E 59 or below



Grading:

Getting to know you paper (1pg) 5pts
Participation 10pts
Journal 10pts
Production Quizzes 20pts
Monologue (includes written work and performance) 20pts
Midterm 15pts
Final Scene (includes written work and performance) 20pts
Total 100 pts

Your Grade

_____ /5
_____ /10
_____ /10
_____ /10
_____ /20
_____ /15
_____ /20
_____ /100pts

Assignments:

Getting to know you paper: 1 page double space 12pt. font. Briefly tell me about yourself. (class rank, major, background, interest in acting, experience with acting, what you expect out of this class, why you took it, other commitments you have, something interesting about yourself unrelated to this class, anything else you think I should know about you)

Participation: Participation in class is mandatory, and will be an important part of your grade. Participation not only includes the level of enthusiasm you bring to your own work, but also how attentively you respect and respond to others during their performance time.

Journal: You will keep a journal which chronicles your experiences and progress in this class. You should have an entry for each day we have class. Journal entries should reflect on what you personally experienced in class and what you observed of your peers. You may also discuss occurrences outside of class that relate to your acting progress (personal experiences, rehearsals, etc.). Do not simply restate what was done that day in class. I know. I was there. Journals may be collected at anytime and should be kept separate from work for your other classes.

Quiz: Quizzes will be given on *Working* and *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*

Monologue: Everyone will choose a 1-2 minute monologue, which we will workshop in class. You must research and choose this monologue outside of class time. Local libraries and the Theatre Research Institute(14th floor Lincoln Tower) are good places to look for material. Start looking as soon as possible. It takes awhile to find a good one. We will discuss this more in class. You must also read the play that the monologue comes from, and write background information for your character. (Written work is due at the time of your monologue performance).

Readings: Read the text as it suggests in the syllabus. We will discuss these concepts in class, and you may be quizzed at anytime. The midterm will also assess your knowledge from the readings.

Midterm quiz: You will be tested on everything we have covered in class (readings, discussions, exercises, etc.)

Final Scene: Everyone will perform a 5 minute scene with a partner. We will workshop these scenes in class, but you must also meet and rehearse with your partner outside of class. I will assign your scenes. We will discuss this more in class. You must also read the play that the scene comes from, and write background information for your character (written work is due at the time of your scene performance). You will receive individual grades for your scene.

******I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK.****** As we say in theatre, "The show must go on" and on time! I may choose to make exceptions on a case by case basis, but do not count on it.

**** All written work except your journal **MUST BE TYPED******

Class Schedule: *(Instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary)*

- Mar. 24 M** Introduction and Acting Exercises (**Today's goal: make fools of ourselves!** ☺)
26 W Improvisation and Acting Exercises **Getting to know you paper due**
- 31 M** Monologue selection (**Bring in three monologue choices**) (Cohen pgs 1-65)
- Apr. 2 W** Monologue work (Cohen pgs 66-80, 243-247)
- 7 M** **Monologue off-book** (Cohen pgs 81-117)
9 W Monologue work
- 14 M** Monologue work
16 W Monologue work (Cohen pgs 117-184)
- 21 M** Monologue work, Midterm review
23 W **Midterm**, Monologue work
- 28 M** **Monologue Performance and paperwork due** (Break a leg! ☺)
30 W Partner exercises and scene work
- May 5 M** Scene work (Cohen pgs 185-242)
7 W **1st half of scene off-book**
- 12 M** **2nd half of scene off-book**
14 W Scene work
- 19 M** **Quiz: *Wild Stages: Kabarett MFA!*** - Scene work
21 W Scene Work
- 26 M** *Memorial Day - No Classes*
28 W **Quiz: *Working*** - Scene Work

Final: Scene Performance and Paperwork due: Tuesday June 3rd 9:30 am -11:18 am