

Theatre 381M

Acting Studio 1B: Contemporary Scene Study

Instructor:	Jimmy Bohr	Quarter:	Winter 2008
Phone:	(614) 292-9922	Call Number:	
Email:	bohr.6@osu.edu	Meetings:	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Office:	1106 Drake Center		11:30 AM – 1:18 PM
Office Hours:	MWF, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM or by appointment	Location:	DR 2064
		Course Style:	Lab, Rehearsal, Discussion

Course Description:

A practicum class in acting focused on the works of contemporary playwrights. Through in-depth script analysis and examination of the structure of action, we will explore the acting challenges of the current American theatre. The work will initially consist of duo scenes and progress to multi-person scenes. We will concentrate on the specifics of time, place, action, language, strong objectives and choices.

Required Texts:

McGraw, Charles, Kenneth Stilson and Larry Clark. *Acting Is Believing*. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2007.

Recommended Texts:

Hooks, Ed. *The Ultimate Scene and Monologue Sourcebook*. New York: Back Stage Books, 1994.

Schulman, Michael and Eva Mekler. *Play the Scene*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2004.

Course Objectives:

To provide students with skills in script analysis, rehearsal techniques, strong characterization and structural action with respect to contemporary drama. The course will also help to develop a strong personal discipline and artistry with a solid understanding of the work of the actor.

Attendance:

Your attendance and participation is necessary for your own growth and development, as well as your fellow actors'. You are allowed two (2) absences per quarter. After 2 absences your grade will drop one third of a letter (e.g. A to A-) for each absence.

Tardiness is unacceptable. 2 latenesses = 1 absence and arrival 15 minutes after the start of class is considered an absence.

As a professional courtesy to your fellow students and the instructor, be present, be on time, and be prepared.

Class Attire:

Dress appropriately for whatever work is being done, either rehearsal clothes, or character appropriate clothes for scene work.

Classroom Decorum:

Failure to observe any of these requirements will prevent you from working and affect your grade:

- No food or drink (except water) in class at any time, except what is necessary for scene work.
- No cell phones on in class at anytime. No text-messaging.
- Absolute attention to whatever work is being done.
- Respect each other's work, and only positive and constructive criticism, when requested.
- All monologues and scenes must be presented on due date.
- All work must be memorized when due.
- All written assignments must be handed in on due date. Late assignments will result in a lowered grade.
- There will be a 5-minute break mid-class. Please hold restroom breaks until then.
- Outside rehearsal is **NECESSARY** and **REQUIRED** for this class. You must be prepared to work in class by rehearsing, reading, analyzing, and exploring outside the classroom. A lack of preparation will prevent you from working in class and will affect your grade.

Assignments:

Classroom Participation vs. Daily Performance in Class

All students will be expected to perform in exercises and scenes in scheduled assignments. Each student will perform three scenes over the quarter. Additionally, all students are expected to participate in discussions and critiques of the work being done on a daily basis.

Scheduled Written Assignments

There will be scheduled written assignments in conjunction with the scene work being performed. These assignments consist of the actor's personal exploration of the scene and the character.

Production Response Paper

Students are required to see the Department of Theatre productions of *Labyrinth of Desire* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. A written response paper on both productions will be due on Monday, March 3. A separate handout will be provided with additional details regarding the required content of this 4-5 page response.

Final Scene and Paper

A final 3 person scene and the corresponding written work (see additional handout) will be the final examination of this class.

Grading:

Classroom Participation	20 %
Daily Performance in Class	20 %
Scheduled Written Assignments	20 %
Production Response Paper	20 %
Final Scene and Paper	20 %
Total	100 %

Grading Scale:

93 - 100.0	A
90 - 92.9	A-
87 - 89.9	B+
83 - 86.9	B
80 - 82.9	B-
77 - 79.9	C+
73 - 76.9	C
70 - 72.9	C-
67 - 69.9	D+
60 - 66.9	D
0 - 59.9	E

Safety Considerations:

The phone number for the University Escort Service is 292-3322. Use it or carpool with classmates at night.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Outline:

Week 1

F 1/04/08 Introduction

Week 2

M 1/07/08 Assignment of Scene 1 (2 person scene)
W 1/09/08 Discussion and review of Acting Technique
F 1/11/08 Lecture and discussion on an actor's scene breakdown
Read Chapters 8 & 9

Week 3

M 1/14/08 Discussion of rehearsal techniques
W 1/16/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 1
F 1/18/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 1

Week 4

M 1/21/08 Martin Luther King Day, university closed – no class
W 1/23/08 Presentations of scene 1, discussions of each presentation
F 1/25/08 Discuss reading and implementation into rehearsals for Scene 1, written assignment on Scene 1 due

Week 5

M 1/28/08 Students select 2 person scene (Scene 2), review with instructor
Read Chapters 10 & 11
W 1/30/08 Exercise Rehearsal Technique
F 2/01/08 Integrate rehearsal techniques with Scene 2

Week 6

M 2/04/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 2
W 2/06/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 2
F 2/08/08 Continued exploration of rehearsal technique

Week 7

M 2/11/08 Presentations of Scene 2, discussions of each presentation
W 2/13/08 Continue presentations of Scene 2 with discussions of each presentation, written assignment of Scene 2 due
F 2/15/08 Discuss reading (10 & 11) and implementation into rehearsals for Scene 2

Week 8

M 2/18/08 Students select multi-person scene (Scene 3), review with instructor
Read Chapters 12 & 13
W 2/20/08 Discuss methods for breaking down multi-person scenes
F 2/22/08 Integrate rehearsal techniques with Scene 3

Week 9

M 2/25/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 3
W 2/27/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 3
F 2/29/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 3

Week 10

M 3/03/08 Discussion of reading (12 & 13)
W 3/05/08 In-class rehearsals and discussions of Scene 3
F 3/07/08 Previews of Scene 3 presentation, production response paper due

Final Exam

TBD by Registrar Presentation of Scene 3, written assignment of Scene 3 due