

TPP2100 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS SPRING 2017

University of Florida/College of Fine Arts/School of Theatre & Dance
Section/Period/Location: 15C5 / period 8 (3:00-3:50) Constans Theatre, room G014

Instructor: Grace Abele

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Office Information: McCarty C, 3rd Floor (directions on canvas)

COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

The discipline and the creative process of acting: formal and improvisational techniques for developing vocal, physical, and analytical skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- * Students will demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline of acting.
- * Students will communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning, clearly and effectively, in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline of acting.
- * Students will analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using acting-specific methods and develop thoroughly reasoned solutions to problems.

COURSE CONTENT:

- * Students will participate in exercises and activities during class designed to develop the skills and vocabulary required for acting performance; work is expected to continue on specific skills outside of class and for any readings, etc.
- * Students will present performance pieces for the class and are expected to have rehearsed and prepared each piece thoroughly outside of class; there will be in-class discovery work, one workshop of each piece, and a final performance for each piece; selected performance pieces include: one monologue, selected by the instructor, and one scene, selected by the instructor.
- * Students will prepare written analysis work accompanying each piece, used to strengthen performance and understanding of methodologies and theories.
- * Students will be required to complete short writing assignments to show comprehension of the subject matter.
- * Students will write two performance critique papers to demonstrate knowledge of the subject material.
- * Students will keep a binder with syllabus, class handouts, daily notes, performance pieces, etc., which may be examined throughout the term.

REQUIRED MATERIALS/TEXTS:

- * Binder containing syllabus, class handouts, presentation pieces, notes, etc.
- * Appropriate writing utensils: pencils, pens, highlighters, etc.
- * Access to internet, email and Canvas for class information, updates, grades, and correspondence.
- * Water bottle (recommended) to keep vocal apparatus and body hydrated.

- * Appropriate apparel for class includes clothing and shoes to move in easily.
- * There is no required text for this course. There will be assigned readings and handouts for which students will be responsible. Students will be responsible for either buying or borrowing the scripts from which their dramatic scenes are chosen. All class material must come from published plays and be approved by the instructor.

CRITICAL DATES:

January 9: Syllabus/Course Contract
 January 23, February 20, March 27: Play Quiz
 February 8, March 29, April 19: Production Critique
 February 17, March 13, April 10: Character Analysis
 April 19: Concepts Exam

REQUIRED VIEWING:

Students are required to see at least *two* of the three productions at the School of Theatre and Dance:

January 27 – February 5	The Divine: A Play for Sarah Bernhardt
March 17 – March 26	Pity for the Wild: Three Grotesques by Tennessee Williams
April 7 – April 15	King Lear

Students are responsible for finding out the date and location of the performances by accessing the calendar of events on the School of Theatre and Dance website.

Students have two options for production critiques:

- *write three production critiques and drop the lowest grade
- *write two production critiques and keep both grades

Ticket vouchers will be provided for the shows, but the student is responsible for paying handling fees. Vouchers must be brought to the O'Connell Center Box Office/University Box Office to be exchanged for tickets. It is the responsibility of the students to find the exact dates and times for the productions and to select the night they wish to attend. If students miss a production, they must meet with the instructor outside of class. The instructor will then determine whether the work can be made up on an individual basis. Missed productions without a *verifiable excuse* will not be given a chance to make up the lost points.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of each class. Due to the participatory nature of this course, attendance is MANDATORY. Students are expected to be in class on time and ready to work. Two unexcused absences are allowed. Upon the for every unexcused absence after the first two, a full letter grade will be deducted from the student's final grade.

The ONLY excused absences allowed are religious holidays, medical emergencies (accompanied by a doctor's note on letterhead) and mandatory school requirements (which must be approved

by the instructor and a letter from the appropriate authority must be provided at least one week ahead of time). Failure to provide the appropriate documentation at least one week before an excused absence will result in an unexcused absence. Students must provide any missed assignments the following class period for an excused absence. Missed workshops or performances with an excused absence will be made up the following class period. In addition, two tardies will be allowed. Upon the third tardy, a half-letter grade will be deducted from the student's final grade. Please note, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor after class of any late arrival, otherwise the student might receive an absence for the day.

Please be respectful to not enter the room while another student is performing. Participation can only be evaluated if the student is in class, on time.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

No late or make-up assignments will be accepted without an excused absence.

DRESS CODE:

Dress appropriately for an acting class. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes that allow you to move with ease. Flip flops are not acceptable. On final performance days, appropriate professional attire or costume are required.

WORKSHOP DAYS:

Students are required to provide the following for workshops:

- Partially memorized lines (students may call for line, but not carry the script)
- All set pieces/props described in the Character Analysis

PERFORMANCE DAYS:

Students are required to provide the following for performances:

- Fully memorized lines (no calling for line)
- All set pieces/props described in the Character Analysis
- The feedback sheet provided by the instructor

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS:

Every Friday of the semester students must complete a short written assignment, the subject for which will be provided a week in advance. Students have all week to complete the assignment up until 11:59pm on the Friday it is due. Late weekly reflections will automatically receive 50% of the grade awarded.

EVALUATION & GRADING BREAKDOWN

Monologue (*performance + character analysis)	15%
Scene #1 (*performance + character analysis)	15%
Scene #2 (*performance + character analysis)	15%
14 Weekly Reflections	15%
*Participation	15%
2 production critiques	10%
Concepts Exam	10%
3 play quizzes	5%

*Participation is based upon the student's willingness to partake in all activities and warm-ups. A consistent display of apathy towards class content, cell phone usage, and disruptive behavior will result in a lower participation grade.

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 = 65-66
D- = below 65

CLASS DECORUM & CONDUCT:

When students are not working they must give full attention to those who are working. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced before class begins. All notes will be hand-written. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for cell phone use, lap top use, electronic devices, sleeping, eating, drinking anything but water, reading, working on other homework, disruptive talking etc. The instructor will exercise the right to remove any student from class who violates these policies and to deduct the appropriate amount of points from the participation grade.

All student views must be respected. It is conceivable that some material chosen for class work could be objectionable to some members of the class. Though no material should be blatantly perverse or offensive, it would be foolish to presume that all students feel the same on all issues. Be considerate when choosing material and when providing feedback. Listen with an open mind. This has nothing to do with freedom of speech – it is about common courtesy and each student must respect the cultures, lifestyles and individual choices for their fellow classmates.

This class is of an exploratory and experimental nature. Exercises require full participation and often a sense of humor and a sense of “play”. In order to foster a trusting and creative environment, respect of the instructor and of fellow students is essential. If there are any questions or reservations, please contact the instructor immediately.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

The instructor of this course fully supports the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. The members of the University of Florida Community pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. If a student cheats on a test or quiz, or plagiarizes material (ie. using someone else's words or ideas without attribution), they will automatically receive a failing grade in this class. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty. Student guidelines for ethical behavior can be found at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>. Student Conduct Code is available at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/>.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office at 352-392-1261. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If a student has a disability documented with the Disability Resource Center and wishes to discuss accommodations, please inform the instructor. If a student has a learning disability that has not been documented, contact the DRC at 352.392.8565 or accessuf@dso.ufl.edu. Counseling services are available at UF at 352-392-1575 or www.counsel.ufl.edu.

SYLLABUS NOTE:

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to make note of any changes discussed and be familiar with the current syllabus at all times.