

TPP 2100 – Acting for Non-Majors Fall 2017
University of Florida / College of the Arts / School of Theatre & Dance

Section: 7292

Period: MWF 3 (9:35-10:25)

Room: CON G012

Instructor: Matthew Bratko

Email: mbratko@uf.edu

Office Hours: M (10:30am – 11:30am) and by appointment.

Office Location: McCarty C Level 3 (room 306)

UF COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

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

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 or oral forms appropriate to the discipline of acting.
- Students will analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using acting-specific methods, and develop 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, one blank scene, and a final scene.
- Students will prepare written analysis work accompanying each piece, used to strengthen performance and understanding of methodologies and theories.
- Students will write three production critique papers (guidelines will be provided) to demonstrate knowledge of subject material.
- Students will be required to research plays at the library and prepare to discuss them in class.

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 including clothes and shoes to move easily in.

- There is no required text for this course. There will be assigned readings and handouts for which students will be responsible. Scene material will come from a play selected by the instructor; however, the student will be responsible for reading the play.

IMPORATANT DATES: (See course outline for all assignment dates)

| | |
|------------|---|
| Sep. 4 | Labor Day—NO CLASS |
| Sep. 18/20 | <i>1984</i> quiz and critique due |
| Oct. 2/4 | <i>The Seagull</i> quiz and critique due |
| Oct. 6 | Homecoming—NO CLASS |
| Oct. 18 | Final monologue presentations |
| Nov. 6/8 | <i>Kiss Me Kate</i> quiz and critique due |
| Nov. 10 | Veterans Day—NO CLASS |
| Nov. 22-26 | Thanksgiving break—NO CLASS |
| Nov. 27 | Final exam |
| Dec. 4-6 | Final scene presentations and last day of class |

REQUIRED VIEWING:

Students are required to see all three mainstage productions at UF: *1984* (Co-production with the Hippodrome Theatre), *The Seagull*, and *Kiss Me Kate*. Students must complete a two page, double spaced, 12-pt font, 1-in margin critique, for all three productions, with your ticket stub stapled on the BACK. The paper WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without the staple ticket stub. Students will write about the acting choices made by two of the actors in the show, what was effective, what was not, how they employed different techniques, vocal, physical, etc. Please note a critique is different from a plot summary, report, or synopsis. The course calendar indicates the paper due dates.

***1984* – Hippodrome Theatre (downtown Gainesville)**

- September 1-24
 - Tuesdays-Thursdays at 7pm
 - Fridays at 8pm
 - Saturdays at 5 & 8:30pm
 - Sundays at 2 & 7pm

***The Seagull*-- Black Box Theatre (McGuire Pavilion)**

- September 22-October 1
 - Sep. 22 at 7:30pm
 - Sep. 23 at 7:30pm
 - Sep. 24 at 2:00pm
 - Sep. 26 at 7:30pm
 - Sep. 27 at 7:30pm
 - Sep. 28 at 7:30pm
 - Sep. 29 at 7:30pm
 - Sep. 30 at 7:30pm
 - Oct. 1 at 2:00pm

***Kiss Me Kate*-- Constans Theatre (McGuire Pavilion)**

- October 27-November 5
 - Oct. 27 at 7:30pm
 - Oct. 28 at 7:30pm
 - Oct. 29 at 2:00pm
 - Oct. 31 at 7:30pm
 - Nov. 1 at 7:30pm
 - Nov. 2 at 7:30pm
 - Nov. 3 at 7:30pm
 - Nov. 4 at 7:30pm
 - Nov. 5 at 2:00pm

Ticket vouchers will be provided for the shows, but the student is responsible for paying handling fees (\$2). If the voucher is lost or stolen, it CANNOT be replaced. Tickets will be available through the O'Connell Center Box Office/University Box Office. Please arrive to the respective performance at least ten minutes early. DO NOT BE LATE – you may not be admitted. There is no other show that can be substituted for seeing the required UF production. Lastly, turn off your phones. There is no reason to have your phone out during a show... EVER.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of class. Due to the participatory nature of this course, attendance is mandatory. You are expected to be in class on time and ready to work. You are allowed two unexcused absences. If more than two absences occur, 10 percent will be deducted from your final attendance grade for each additional absence. Please use these allowed absences wisely as absolutely no exceptions will be made. In order for an absence to be excused, you must turn in the proper written documentation in a timely fashion (i.e., team travel, band, academic field trips, doctor's excuse, religious observance, etc.).

In addition to 2 unexcused absences, you will be allowed 2 late arrivals. Upon your 3rd late arrival, 10 percent will be deducted from your final attendance grade. (In other words, three tardy arrivals equal one absence.) Please note that it is your responsibility to notify me after class that you arrived late. If you come in late and I'm unaware, you will receive an absence for that day.

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. Late work or assignments for excused absences will not be penalized. Late work or assignments for unexcused absences will result in a ten percent deduction of the grade per late day.

Electronic submission of work will not be allowed.

DRESS CODE:

Dress appropriately for an acting class. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes that allow you to move with ease. Feel free to work barefoot, but flip flops will not be allowed. On final performance days, dress in a manner that complements your performance.

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PREPARATION:

All final showings of monologues and scenes should include full memorization of script and set blocking. In the work sessions prior to final showings, there should be an escalating level of expectation regarding memorization/preparation.

EXTRA CREDIT:

In Addition to the required productions, each student may attend one additional performance and write an extra credit critique, worth a possible 25 points. **The show must be approved with the instructor first.** These performances can include, but are not limited to, productions at the Hippodrome State Theatre, Florida Players, Across Town Rep, Gainesville Community Playhouse, and Phillips Center for the Performing Arts or any other performance that you may be interested in. The same guidelines for the required critique apply to the extra credit critique.

EVALUATION AND GRADING BREAKDOWN:

| Assignment: | Points | Percentage |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Syllabus Contract | 10 | 1% |
| <i>1984</i> Quiz | 30 | 3% |
| <i>1984</i> Critique | 50 | 5% |
| <i>The Seagull</i> Quiz | 30 | 3% |
| <i>The Seagull</i> Critique | 50 | 5% |
| <i>Kiss Me Kate</i> Quiz | 30 | 3% |
| <i>Kiss Me Kate</i> Critique | 50 | 5% |
| Vocal Scoring #1 | 30 | 3% |
| Character Analysis #1 | 40 | 4% |
| Monologue Scoring | 40 | 4% |
| Final Monologue Presentation | 100 | 10% |
| Blank Scene Performance | 30 | 3% |
| Vocal Scoring #2 | 30 | 3% |
| Character Analysis #2 | 40 | 4% |
| Scene Scoring | 40 | 4% |
| Final Exam | 100 | 10% |
| Final Scene Presentation | 100 | 10% |
| Attendance | 100 | 10% |
| Participation | 100 | 10% |
| Total Points | 1000 | 100% |
| Extra Credit Possibility | 25 | 2.5% |

Grading Scale:

A+ = 97-100

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|----|---|-------|
| A | = | 93-96 |
| 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 | = | 63-66 |
| D- | = | 60-62 |
| E | = | 00-59 |

CLASS DECORUM & CONDUCT:

When students are not working they must give their full attention to those who are working. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced before class begins. All notes must be hand written. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for cell phone 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 they will receive a 10% deduction from their participation grade for each occurrence.

All students' views must be respected. It is conceivable that some material chosen for class work *could be objectionable* to some class members. 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 of their 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 the other 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.”

If you cheat on a test or quiz, or plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you 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>

The Student Conduct Code is available at:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/>

LEARNING DISABILITIES:

If you have a disability that is documented with the Disability Resource Center and wish to discuss accommodations, please see me during office hours. If you have a learning disability that has not been documented, contact the DRC at 352 392 8565.

(accessuf@dso.ufl.edu).

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:

3190 Radio Rd.
P.O. Box 112662
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2662
Phone: 352-392-1575
Web: www.counsel.ufl.edu

FACULTY EVALUATIONS:

Towards the end of the semester each student must complete a faculty evaluation. You will receive an email when they become available.

FINAL NOTE:

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

SYLLABUS CONTRACT: Section 4534

I have carefully read over the TPP 2100 – Acting for Non- Majors Syllabus for the Fall 2016. I AGREE to all the rules and regulations of the class as outlined in this syllabus. Please return this form to your instructor. This form serves as a contract between student and instructor.

PRINT NAME_____

UF ID#_____

SIGNATURE_____

DATE_____