

TPP 2110 - Acting 1: Instrument and Discipline
Fall 2017, Section 06F9
MWF - 4:05-4:55pm

Instructor: Matthew Bratko

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

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TPP 2110 - Acting 1: Instrument and Discipline is the foundation for all performance majors and students seeking entrance into the program. This course introduces basic physical, vocal and analytical concepts; methods; vocabulary; and discipline required of the beginning actor. Students will explore the creative process through exercises in observation and awareness.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

- A) To establish a common vocabulary that serves as a foundation for the entire acting sequence.
- B) To increase observational skills and develop self-awareness through exercise and improvisation.
- C) To develop in the student an understanding of the discipline of the art and to refine concentration skills necessary within that discipline.
- D) To introduce the student to the basic methods of relaxation as well as physical and vocal freedom and control.
- E) To develop in the student a sense of the ensemble nature of the discipline through exercise in trust and communication.

REQUIRED TEXT:

An Actor's Work. Stanislavski, Konstantine. trans. Benedetti, Jean.

Published plays and reference materials, both of which may be obtained from the campus libraries, will be utilized by the student in class. Handouts may be distributed as well.

COURSE CONTENT:

Through the use of exercises, both structured and unstructured, the student will explore the basic skills of acting, which include: a repertoire of relaxation and warm-up exercises from which to build upon for use in the study of the entire acting sequence, and the development of self-awareness, imagination, the mechanics of staging, character-process, and foundational work in script analysis.

Students will be required to memorize the general vocabulary of acting through the use of the addendum to the texts and in-class exercises and explorations. A comprehensive, written vocabulary exam will be given at the end of the semester.

Execution of the basic acting skills will be demonstrated by the student in the form of in-class performances of monologues and in scene work with partners. Students are expected to be fully memorized for these performances, and will be required to submit written analysis for each performance, the content of which will vary according to the student's development of skills.

EXPECTATIONS OF MONOLOGUE WORK

- Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- Clarity of tasks
- Clarity of tactics
- Vocal exploration
- Physicality
- Presentations are fully memorized at the time of first performance (which may be the workshop day)

EXPECTATIONS OF SCENE WORK

- Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- Both characters “live” in the same world
- Clarity in tasks
- Clarity in tactics
- Vocal explorations
- Physicality

Students are required to keep a weekly journal detailing their observations regarding class work and the development of their skills. (See handout for due dates and specific journal requirements.)

ATTENDANCE AT UF/HIPPODROME STATE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS:

Students are required to see all UF mainstage shows and be prepared to discuss them in class. Students will turn in a 2-page reactions paper for each of these shows (see timetable for due dates) with special attention being paid to the use of creative imagination, physical awareness, proper vocal technique, and opening up to the creative process. **YOU MUST NOT INCLUDE A SYNOPSIS.** Discuss individual performer’s performances. The idea is to report your observations. Draw parallels between what you observe and your work in class.

School of Theatre and Dance FALL 2016 Theatre Productions

- Sep 1 — Sep 24 *1984* at the Hippodrome Theatre downtown
 - Sep 21 — Oct 1 *The Seagull*
 - *Oct 27 - Nov 5 Kiss Me Kate*

Tickets go on sale two weeks before the first performance. Pick up your coupon tickets at the earliest date to assure yourself a seat.

EXTRA CREDIT VIEWING: The Hippodrome State Theatre

*Extra Credit will be given for papers written following the same guidelines as those for the required viewing. Each extra credit paper is worth up to 5 pts.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

This is a performance class, therefore, attendance is MANDATORY. You must be present to perform. If you miss class, the work cannot be made up. We learn from each other—your presence, whether or not a “performance” is involved that day, is important to the collective learning process that is engaged in this class.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Please note that it is your responsibility to notify the instructor after class that you came in late, if you come in after attendance has been taken.

***You are allowed two excused or unexcused absence.** Your final grade will be lowered 2 pts for each additional absence.

You are allowed 2 tardies. Your final grade will be lowered 1 pt for each additional tardy.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

Assignments must be complete in order to receive points; “complete” constitutes the total execution of the directive given by the instructor regarding each individual assignment- whether that be in-class performances/exercises or written work.

Written assignments which are turned in after the due date will receive **only partial** points.

It is your responsibility to keep track of due dates as laid out on the timetable which accompanies this syllabus.

GRADING:

Students may have varying degrees of talent and experience in acting: therefore, the students cannot be graded solely on the basis of the skills and talents they bring to the class. Consideration will be given to the student’s improvements and efforts that are demonstrated.

Participation is also a key factor in grading. Criteria for this grade include attentiveness, participation in and/or leadership of exercises, willingness to participate in class discussions, etc... in general, the TIME, EFFORT, and COMMITMENT the student displays toward this class.

Each assignment will be awarded a specific point value. Points will be tallied at the end of the semester to determine the student’s final grade.

251-270	A
231-250	B+
216-230	B
201-215	C+
189-200	C
176-188	D+
162-175	D
174 and below	E

Critique Papers	10 pts ea. (30 pts total)
Stanislavski Papers	10 pts ea. (30 pts total)
Journals	10 pts ea. (30 pts total)
Monologue	30 pts
Scene	40 pts
Vocabulary/Terminology Exam	40 pts
Blank Scene	20 pts
Participation	30 pts

TOTAL POINTS = 250 pts

FINAL BUSINESS:

REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

HONOR CODE

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.

Be certain to credit sources in character analysis.

Please make sure that you understand the University's Academic Guidelines and policies regarding Academic Honesty and Ethical Conduct.

*Please be sure to turn off/silence all electronic devices (telephones/pagers/alarms,etc) when entering the classroom.

Please be sure to dress appropriately for class. Know that much of our work is physical and plan to dress accordingly. You may work in or out of shoes, but flip flops will not be acceptable.

Food, drink, and gum are not allowed in class. Water in a sealed container is permissible.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

*****This syllabus is a contract. If you read this information and return to class, then you have agreed to the terms provided and are expected to abide by them. Do not ask for special exceptions to be made.*****