

TPP2100 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS SPRING 2020

University of Florida/College of the Arts/School of Theatre & Dance

Section/Period: MWF 8

Building/Room: TBA

Instructor: William Eissler

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Office Information: Yon Hall/By appointment

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 student, approved 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 prepare a warm-up for the class on a selected date.
- * 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. In addition, students will be responsible for finding a monologue and reading the play it is from. Scene material will come from a play selected by instructor; however, the student will be responsible for reading the play. All class material must come from published plays and be approved by the instructor.

CRITICAL DATES:

Jan. 13: Syllabus Contract and Reflection Paper #1 due

Jan. 17: Monologues Selection due

Feb. 3: ...*And Jesus Moonwalks on the Mississippi* Quiz

Feb. 5: ...*And Jesus Moonwalks* Papers due

Feb 10: Monologue scoring due

Feb 14: Concepts Test

Feb 24-26 (28?): Monologue Final Presentations

Mar 25: Scene analysis/scoring due

Mar 30: *Eurydice* Quiz

Apr 1: *Eurydice* Papers due

Apr 13: Extra Credit Paper due

Apr 15-17: Scene Final Performances

Apr 15: Reflection Paper #2 due

REQUIRED VIEWING:

Students are required to see the Fall semester productions of ...*And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi*, *Eurydice*, and *Macbeth* at UF. Students must complete a two page, double spaced, 12-pt font, 1-in margin critique, for each production, stapled together with the ticket stub. The paper WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without the ticket stub stapled. 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. Papers are due the Monday after the show closes. No late or emailed critiques will be accepted. There will also be a quiz with questions related to each production, so please provide your full attention to the show. The Fall UF shows include:

Jan 24 - Feb 2 ...*And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi* on the Constans main stage

Mar 19 – Apr 1 *Eurydice* in the Black Box Theatre

Apr 9 – Apr 19 *Macbeth* on the Constans main stage

Ticket vouchers will be provided for the shows, but the student is responsible for paying handling fees. 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 show at least 10 minutes early. DO NOT BE LATE – it is highly disrespectful to the actors and the audience. There is NO other shows that can be substituted for seeing the required UF productions. Lastly, turn phones off during the show! NEVER take a call or text during a show...EVER!

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 third unexcused absence, a deduction of 30 points will be reduced from the final attendance grade, and 30 points will be deducted for each additional absence thereafter. Please use these absences wisely, since absolutely NO exceptions will be made for unexcused absences. There are NO make-up assignments for any unexcused absences.

The ONLY excused absences allowed are religious holidays (student must write a letter stating such and provide it to the instructor at least one week prior to the absence), medical emergency (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, 30 points will be deducted from the final attendance grade and 30 points for each additional tardy thereafter. Please note, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor after class of any late arrival, otherwise the student will 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 will be assigned a day to workshop their piece in front of the class. Upon arrival, the student must have the following:

1. TWO copies of the Scored Script, one for the student, one for the instructor.
2. A copy of the Character Analysis for the instructor; please staple the Character Analysis to the Scored Script.
3. Display of thorough preparation and rehearsal; complete memorization is HIGHLY suggested, since it creates more focused work.
4. Appropriate attire.

PERFORMANCE DAYS:

Student will again be assigned a day to perform their piece for the class. Upon arrival, the student must have the following prepared items:

1. A copy of the final Scored Script and Character Analysis with any changes made for the instructor. Attach the original Scored Script and Character Analysis.
2. Display of thorough preparation and rehearsal. Workshop discussion, exploration discoveries, and other suggestions from the instructor and class should be fully integrated into the piece. Piece MUST be fully memorized.
3. Appropriate attire: professional or costume.

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, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts or any other acting performances that you may be interested in. The same guidelines for the required critiques apply to the extra credit critique. Students who do not attend *Never the Sinner and Guys and Dolls* may NOT complete an extra credit critique.

EVALUATION & GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Class Participation 250

Attendance 150

Reflection Paper #1 25

Reflection Paper #2 25

...And Jesus Moonwalks Quiz 25

...And Jesus Moonwalks Paper 50

Eurydice Quiz 25

Eurydice Paper 50

Monologue Character Analysis 50

Monologue Scored Script 50

Monologue Final Performance 100

Scene Character Analysis 50

Scene Scored Script 50

Scene Final Performance 100

Total 1000 points

Grading Scale:

A = 1000-940

A- = 939-900

B+ = 899-870

B = 869-840

B- = 839-800

C+ = 799-770

C = 769-740

C- = 739-700

D+ = 699-670

D = 669-640

D- = 639-600

E = 599-0

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, laptop 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 deduction of 20 points from their participation grade and an absence for the day.

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.

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

I have carefully read over the TPP2100 - Acting for non-Majors for Fall 2020 Syllabus. 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: _____

UPDATE: _____

UPDATE: _____

UPDATE: _____