

TPP 2100 – Acting for Non-Majors Spring 2021

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

Section: 15C5

Period: 8 (3:00 am - 3:50 pm) – MWF

Room: Online/Zoom Room

Instructor: Nina Dramer

Email: nina.dramer@ufl.edu

Office Location & Hours: -124 Yon Hall, between Gates 14 and 15 in the Stadium
 -On Zoom (via our class link)
 -By appointment.

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, workshops of each piece/scene, and a final performance for each piece/scene; 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 write two actor critiques/responses to demonstrate knowledge of subject material.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Access to the internet, email and Canvas for class information, updates, grades, and correspondence. (The majority of communication will happen via Canvas and all student will be expected to stay up to date with notifications via that service.)
- A device in which to take notes. (It does not matter whether students use a notebook and pen or if they use their computer.)
- Appropriate apparel for class including clothes to move easily in. (Expect to move!)

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS/TEXTS:

- Binder containing syllabus, class handouts, presentation pieces, notes, etc.
- Water bottle (recommended) to keep vocal apparatus and body hydrated.
- A
- 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 the 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- There is no required text that students need to buy for this course. However, there will be assigned readings and handouts for which students will be responsible:
 - Select readings from Konstantin Stanislavsky, Uta Hagen, and David Mamet
 - The play that the student's monologue is from (found by the student, approved by the instructor)
 - The play that their student's scene is from (assigned by the instructor)
 - Scene material will come from a play selected by the 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:

01/15	Syllabus Quiz
01/18	NO CLASS: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
01/29	Monologue Selection Due
02/01	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> Response Due
02/05	Monologue Character "I" Statements Due
02/12	Monologues are OFF-BOOK
03/05	Final Monologue Presentation Day
03/12	Scene Character "I" Statements Due
03/15	<i>John Proctor is the Villain</i> Response Due
03/26	Scenes are OFF-BOOK
04/12	<i>Three Sisters</i> Response Due
04/16	Final Scene Presentation

REQUIRED VIEWING:

Students are required to see one digital production and two of the UF SoTD's productions:

- Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare
(Virtually on Digital Theatre +)
- Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov
(Virtually at UF)
- John Proctor is the Villain* by Kimberly Belflower
(Virtually at UF)

Students must complete a one page, double spaced, 12-pt font, 1-in margin critique, for each production, stapled together with the ticket stub. Students will write about the acting choices made by one 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.

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare **(Streaming)**
Performances on Digital Theatre+
www.digitaltheatreplus.com
-Username: ufl
-PW: ufl123

John Proctor is the Villain by Kimberly Belfower **(3 Performances)**
Performances in the Constans Theatre, McGuire Pavilion
-Friday March 12th, Available from 6:00 pm - 11: 59 pm
-Saturday March 13th, Available from 6:00 pm - 11: 59 pm
-Sunday March 14th, Available from 6:00 pm - 11: 59 pm

Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov **(3 Performances)**
Performances in the Black Box Theatre, McGuire Pavilion
-Friday April 9th, Available @ 7:30 pm
-Saturday April 10th, Available @ 7:30 pm
-Sunday April 11th, Available @ 2:00 pm

All performances are free; students will not need to pay to see any of these shows. However, they will need to *register* for *Three Sisters* and *John Proctor is the Villain* via UF's online ticketing system. Further details will be provided at a later date.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of 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; they will be considered tardy if they are not in the Zoom Classroom by 3:02pm.

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. If more than two absences occur, 10 percent will be deducted from their final attendance grade for each additional absence. Please use these allowed absences wisely as absolutely no exceptions will be made. In addition to 2 unexcused absences, you will be allowed 2 late arrivals. 3 tardy arrivals equal one absence.)

Students will not be allowed to "make up" a missed performance. There is no excuse for missing a performance date for your monologue or your scene. Students have these dates available to them at the beginning of the semester and will need to schedule any potential conflicts around those dates. (There are always exceptions to this rule, but students are expected to construct their instructor in a timely manner to avoid any conflicts.)

Late work or assignments for unexcused absences will result in a ten percent deduction of the total grade per late day.

DRESS CODE:

-Wear clothes that you feel comfortable moving and sweating in. It will happen. Be ready.

-On final performance days, appropriate professional attire or costume are required.

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PREPARATION:

All monologues and scenes have an OFF BOOK DATE (Being off book means that you have fully memorized your lines). Failure to be off book by this date will result in a reduction of your preparation grade (See assignment Rubric).

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

EVALUATION AND GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Syllabus Quiz		50
Monologue		400
-“I” Character Statements	[40]	
-Initial Scoring	[40]	
-Off-book Due 02/12	[40]	
-Final Scoring	[40]	
-Performance	[40]	
-Participation	[200]	
Scene		400
-“I” Character Statements	[40]	
-Initial Scoring	[40]	
-Off-book/1st half Due 03/26	[40]	
-Concepts Worksheet	[40]	
-Scene Presentations	[40]	
-Participation	[200]	
Responses/Discussion		150
- <i>Much Ado</i> Response	[25]	
- <i>Much Ado</i> Discussion	[25]	
- <i>John Proctor...</i> Response	[25]	
- <i>John Proctor...</i> Discussion	[25]	
- <i>Three Sisters</i> Response	[25]	
- <i>Three Sisters</i> Discussion	[25]	
Total Points		1000
Extra Credit Possibility		20

GRADING SCALE:

A+	=	97-100	C+	=	77-79	E	=	00-59
A	=	93-96	C	=	73-76			
A-	=	90-92	C-	=	70-72			
B+	=	87-89	D+	=	67-69			
B	=	83-86	D	=	63-66			
B-	=	80-82	D-	=	60-62			

CLASS DECORUM & CONDUCT:

When students are not working they must give their full attention to those who are working. Cell phones must be silenced before class begins.

This class is heavily discussion-based--(not lecture)--and students are expected and encouraged to speak in every single class period. All microphones should be unmuted during this time, unless you get express permission to mute from the instructor.

There is ZERO TOLERANCE for cell phone use, sleeping, 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).

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 at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>

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

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 and calendar at all times.