

University of Florida — School of Theatre and Dance

ACTING 2 – ANALYSIS AND APPLICATION

TPP 3103

Section 7553/7778: M/W/F, period 2-3, 8:30 am – 10:25 am **Location:** CON G15

Section 0980: M/W/F, period 4-5, 10:40 – 12:35pm **Location:** CON G005

Academic Term: Spring 2021

Professor: Michelle Tailor

Email: mtailor@ufl.edu

Course location: CON G15

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday
12:50 – 1:50 pm
McGuire Pavilion 219

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Experimentation with scripted material: scene study through analysis, scoring the script, and performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Building upon the skills gained in Acting 1, we continue to support the actor's ability to create complex and dynamic characters. Deeply intuitive, truthful, realistic, and heart-activated performances are supported through analysis of scenes and application of objectives through action. An actor's individual sense of creative impulse is encouraged and trained while adhering to a prescribed template for analysis of a script (please see Script Analysis document). This script analysis is meant to train, stretch, and strengthen your "actor's muscle": the imagination; a nuanced and mature application of your imagination, in order to serve the play and the character you are playing, is the goal of your training as an actor.

In-person exercises are a fundamental component of the experience of the course. They are meant to expand your awareness of and use of self. The following is a list of some of the exercises we will explore together: breathing; heart-activated presence; grounding; Stanislavski's three-circles of concentration; imagination exercises; spine activated awareness.

Questions you should be able to answer:

What are the given circumstances of the scene?

Who is the character you are playing?

What do you want and how do you get it?

What is the subtext?

How did you bring yourself to the character?

What you will be expected to accomplish in the course:

1. A brief play analysis.
2. A detailed scene analysis.
3. A complete character analysis.
4. A completed “Score” of the script with detailed and clear use of objectives and tactics in a scene.
5. Clear application of the script analysis and character profile in the performance using your unique and intuitive imagination.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

A Challenge for the Actor by Uta Hagen, Simon & Schuster, 1991 ISBN: 9780684190402

IMPORTANT: Additional readings, required scenes for performances, and other course readings will be announced at a later date and given to students via Canvas and handouts.

CRITICAL DATES

Please see course outline on Canvas for more specific details. Dates are subject to change.

Final Monologue Performance: Feb 19th

Final Scene Performance - Modern: March 19th

Final Scene Performance - Contemporary: April 9th

WORKS CLOTHES REQUIRED

This class requires students to be able to move easily and dynamically, often on the floor. Loose fitting, easy to move in clothes are required (sweats, leotards, t-shirts, footless tights, yoga pants; nothing revealing or embarrassing if you are rolling around on the floor). No jeans, no jewelry or watches.

Changing for class can be an important part of your preparation ritual. Please be dressed before class starts.

You will need to bring a Yoga matt to class for workshop dates. Marked in course outline as “Y”.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Full participation in class exercises.

Rehearsals: Students are expected to prepare and rehearse scenes in and outside of class for in class performances.

Performances: Various solo and partner/ensemble scenes will be evaluated for grading purposes. Scene work not prepared for presentation dates will receive a maximum grade of 60% for the remaining entire assignment, provided all follow through preparation work is done and the scene is fully work-shopped.

PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Self-Analysis Paper	25	11%
Monologue	50	Each performance assignment is worth 22 % of your course grade.
Scene 1 Modern	50	
Scene 2 Contemporary	50	
Participation and Attendance	25	11%
Journal	27	12%
TOTAL	225	100%

Analysis and Score/ Rehearsal and Performance Rounds:

- 15 points for “script analysis” paperwork
- 15 points for rehearsal round
- 20 points for performance round

ASSIGNMENT PRESENTATIONS

The monologue and scenes will be performed in two rounds. Both rounds must be performed on the scheduled day. Before a monologue or scene may be performed in class, the “Script Analysis Paperwork” must be given to the instructor. Please see the last page of the syllabus for details.

The minimum requirements are as follows:

Round One (Rehearsal):

1. Thoroughly memorized lines.
2. Simple, logical blocking.
3. Intelligent, action-oriented objectives for each beat
4. Emotional and physical choices.
5. All choices should evolve out of your understanding of the play.

Round Two (Performance):

1. Scene must have a sense of rhythm and movement.
2. Blocking must reflect emotion and style of the play.
3. Clarified objectives, tactics, and obstacles.
4. Specific emotional and physical choices.
5. Evidence that feedback and suggestions from round one have been carefully incorporated.

WRITTEN WORK

All papers and written assignments must be typed and presented **before** the rehearsal presentation round of each scene. Late assignment and papers will be given only partial credit. Please see COVID attendance policy.

JOURNAL

You will keep a journal beginning with January 13th class. Please date every journal entry. The journal will be a written response to what you've physically and emotionally experienced during the exploration of the concepts in class and the connection of those concepts during your performances.

The dates you are expected to journal are listed in the marked in course outline as “J”.

Please see the assignment handout for more details on content of the journal and due dates.

PLEASE bring your journal with you to every class.

TEACHING METHOD

There will be assigned readings and discussions of text materials, practical exercises, and character studies. There will also be the traditional coaching/working of scenes. You will be expected to take notes of the feedback you are given in class by the instructor and implement those notes in your performances. The ability to develop and implement self-awareness is key to your success.

GRADING

Grading will be evaluated and will be based on methods and requirements listed above, as well as quality of work, approach, enthusiasm, development, completion of all assigned work, and the student's ability to express written and oral knowledge concerning the course topics. Final grades will be based on above criteria, evaluation and assessment of each student's attitude toward the work, and the individual development of each student throughout the semester.

UF GRADING SCALE

Percent	Grade
94.0 - 100.0	A
90.0 – 93.0	A-
87.0 – 89.0	B+
83.0 – 86.0	B
80.0 – 82.0	B-
77.0 - 79.0	C+
73.0 – 76.0	C
70.0 – 72.0	C-
67.0 – 69.0	D+
63.0 – 66.0	D
60.0 - 62.0	D-
0 - 59.9	E

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

COVID RELATED PRACTICES

We will have face-to-face and online instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. F2F and online class sessions are clearly marked in the course outline and subject to change based on the needs of the course. Your instructor will update you with any changes both verbally and on Canvas.

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom. • If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.

ATTENDANCE POLICY, CLASS EXPECTATIONS, AND MAKE-UP POLICY

This is an experiential class. You are expected to attend class daily and be on time. "The University recognizes the right of the individual professor has to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and then assign a failing grade for excessive absences." Normally, there would be only one excused absence in the course. I would like to hold that standard in a general sense for this course, however, with the following caveat....

*With a COVID based world in mind, please know that if you are affected by Covid, your professor will make every effort to guide you and support you in completing coursework and supporting you in an agile and empathetic environment while still upholding the standards of the work. Let's all work together in ways that allow for us to succeed and support our professional and creative growth.

DECORUM

Your work in class is a major part of your grade. This includes your classroom and out of class rehearsal decorum, because it strongly impacts the quality of instruction for you and your partners. You are expected to show respect for yourself, your partners, and the art and craft of theatre. You are also expected to respect the spaces in which we work by preparing the space for work and clearing it after you finish working. Part of learning the acting process is also learning how to act professionally. Unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated.

**** Food is not permitted in class.** Eat before or after class, not in class. Bottled water and a flip-top thermal travel mug with a warm drink are allowed.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

These must be turned off before the beginning of each class. It is strongly recommended that they be turned off before entering the classroom.

MAKE UP WORK

Performance assignments must be performed for the sake of your partner. You will not be able to receive a “make up” grade except under extenuating circumstances at the judgment of the instructor(s). Because the course depends on the co-operation of partners in scene work, it is imperative that work be presented ON TIME. In the event that an absence is known in advance, you must make arrangements to present the work early.

For written work: Partial credit runs as follows: up to two days late: -10% of grade; up to four days late: -25% of grade; up to one week late: -40% of grade. NO assignments accepted after one week late.

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.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://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the 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.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Student Code of Conduct is available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

SOFTWARE USE

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

STUDENT PRIVACY

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

SCRIPT ANALYSIS PAPERWORK

1. PLAY ANALYSIS- Use this outline format.

1-Theme, 2-Central Conflict, 3-List key events in Rising Action, 4-Climax, 5- Denouement

2. SCENE ANALYSIS is a written discussion of the following points, all of which should be clearly labeled and covered adequately:

- A. Given Circumstances (Who, What, Where, When)—A clear description of what has happened to the character you are playing in the scene just before your scene begins. This description should include the emotional-mental state, and the physical condition of the character just before the scene begins. Evidence from the script should be offered where support is needed.
- B. Intention or Objective—A description of the character’s overall motivation, what he/she wants throughout the scene)—the character’s super-objective in the scene.
- C. Obstacle—A clear description of what is blocking the character from achieving his objective.
- D. The Score—On a photocopy of your scene, use [brackets] to mark beats, objectives, and tactics. A beat is a motivational unit that contains a short term objective. A transition is a change in objective that takes the actor from one beat to the next. Your objective is what you want to do to the other character. Your tactics are the physical actions you will use to accomplish each objective.
- E. Result—A brief statement of the outcome or resolution of the scene.

3. CHARACTER ANALYSIS is a written assignment that should be submitted along with presentations. It consists of the following aspects, each of which must be covered adequately. The more detailed the description or choices, the more vivid the character will become to you:

- A. Physical Description—A full description of the character, justifying characteristics where necessary with text references. This description includes information on the character’s age, what he/she looks like, what he/she must wear in the scene. It also includes more active dimensions like how the character walks, moves, sits, gestures, talks.
- B. Emotional Profile—A full emotional profile of the character including habitual disposition and specific moods in the scene.
- C. Relationships—What is his/her relationship to the other characters in the scene and to the central conflict in the scene.
- D. Back Story—Create a statement of the most important and influential details about the character’s past history based on the given circumstances but enhanced by your imagination..
- E. Secret- 1) Shared, 2) Private or “Uber”. Make the character yours.