

Instructor: Elaina Walton

Office Hours: Appointment only via Zoom

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Course Description:

The root of Acting 2 is experimentation with scripted material. Building upon the basics of the craft of acting, as explored in your prerequisite course, Acting 2 provides a deeper examination of how to approach scene study and script analysis. The intent is to craft nuanced performances with clarity of thought and intentional actions. The course consists of partner exercises to develop physical awareness, concentration, imagination, and trust. Students are expected to develop their own creative process, using the methods and approaches explored in class as a springboard.

Course Objective:

- A) To experiment with scripted material in a thoughtful and intentional way.
- B) To examine a piece of text to uncover the myriad ways the scene can be played.
- 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 broad strokes, and alternatively, the meticulous approaches with which an actor can scrutinize scripted material.
- E) To develop an individualized script examination regiment that honors the students' own creative process.

Course Content:

Students will build upon their intuitive knowledge of the craft of acting and develop a reusable, repeatable method of script analysis. A strong emphasis is placed on assuring that the script analysis serves the work of the actor. Students are expected to have (and/or develop) a strong sense of self-awareness, imagination, the mechanics of staging, and character development.

Students will analyze their characters in a thoughtful and intentional way. A variety of methods and approaches will be explored; however, the student is expected to craft a process that resonates most with their instrument. Said process will be represented in all submitted assignments.

Expectations of Monologue Work

- Thorough analysis/prep-work
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity of objective(s) and tactics
- Vocal exploration
- Physicality

Expectations of Scene Work

- Thorough analysis/prep-work
- Both characters “live” in the same world
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity in objective(s)

- Clarity in tactics
- Vocal explorations
- Physicality

All performances are to be fully memorized whenever presented in class. The course concludes in a final performance utilizing the skills and techniques acquired throughout the semester.

Attendance at UF/Hippodrome State Theatre Productions:

Students are required to see all UF main stage shows and be prepared to discuss them in class. For 2 productions, you will submit a 2-page (double-spaced, 1 inch margin, name & section number in page header) commentary to class (see timetable for due dates). The critique *should not be* a synopsis of the play. Rather, attention should be paid to the use of creative imagination, physical awareness, proper vocal technique, and the overall creative development. Discuss individual performers, for example. The idea is to report your observations. Draw parallels between what you observe and your work in class.

*Reaction Paper Required

Class Attendance:

This is a performance class, therefore, (unless you are experiencing symptoms related to Covid-19 which would prohibit you from physically attending class) 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. In the event that you are absent from a class, an emailed explanation must be sent to the instructor by 5pm on the day of the absence.

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

Late Assignment Policy:

1. If your written assignments are late (i.e., after the due date) don't bother turning it in. You will receive **zero** credit. Keep track of due dates that are outlined on the timetable which accompanies this syllabus.
2. **** THERE ARE NO MAKE UP DAYS FOR PERFORMANCE DAYS**** If you miss your *assigned* performance day, you forfeit the points for that day. Only in extreme cases will scenes be rescheduled.

*NOTE: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Grading:

Students may have varying degrees of “talent” and experience in acting. Therefore, students will not be graded solely on the basis of the skills and talents they bring to the class. Consideration will be given to the student’s improvement and effort that are demonstrated.

Participation is 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.

Obviously, assignments must be *complete* in order to receive *complete* points. 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.

300-270	A	225-239	C+	180-194	D
255-269	B+	210-224	C	193 and below	E
240-254	B	195-209	D+		

“Acting/Self Analysis” Paper	15pts
Monologue	25 pts
Monologue Analysis	10 pts
Reaction Paper	20 pts (40 pts total)
Scene #1	25 pts
Scene #1 Analysis	20 pts
Scene #2	25 pts
Scene #2 Analysis	20 pts
Final Scene	25 pts
Final Scene Analysis	25 pts
Participation	70 pts
	TOTAL POINTS = 300

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please visit: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/.

Physical Contact Policy:

Unlike most classes, acting can require a certain amount of physical contact between students or between instructor and student. This contact may be used to aid in releasing tension, promote deeper breathing, or to fuel a deeper emotional connection. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with any physical contact suggested in class, you have the right to refuse it with no repercussion towards any sort of grade.

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner while pursuing their studies. They are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy, which defines an academic honesty offense as “the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage.” In the context of this course, this includes conducting original research and properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in the writing reaction papers, journals, and self-analysis paper. Submitting work that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade. For more information on the UF Academic Honor Code visit: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified

when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Campus Resources/Health & Wellness:

1. *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
2. *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
3. *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.
4. *University Police Department*: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
5. *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; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Final Business:

Acting is *ACTION*. Acting is not about attitude, or being clever. It's not about your ability to conjure up or manufacture a feeling or emotion. Acting is about the *TASK*. To get forgiveness, to get them to love you, etc., etc., etc. Be deliberate. Be direct. Be fearless. Learning how to do the aforementioned is the function of this class.

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

This timetable is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

WEEK 1:

Orientation, syllabus
Exploration of script and character analysis methodologies

WEEK 2:

Monologue #1 workshop and critique
Individual Inventory: Body Awareness and Vocal Awareness
* DUE Wednesday, September 1st: MONOLOGUE #1 ANALYSIS

WEEK 3:

NO CLASS – Monday, September 6th: Labor Day
Monologue #1 workshop and critique
*Friday- Monologue #1 final performance and feedback
**DUE Friday, September 10th: 2-3 page paper – Why Acting?
Who are you? Where do you call home? Of all of the possible majors, why did you choose Acting? What do you hope to take away from this class?

WEEK 4:

Monologue #2 workshop and critique
The Acting Space—in class workshops and exercises in exploring the actor's instrument
*DUE Wednesday, September 15th: MONOLOGUE #2 ANALYSIS

WEEK 5:

Monologue #2 workshop and critique

The Acting Space Cont.—in class workshops and exercises in exploring the actor's instrument

*Wednesday- Monologue #2 final performance and feedback

WEEK 6:

Scene #1 workshop and critique

*DUE Wednesday, September 29th : SCENE #1 ANALYSIS

WEEK 7:

Scene #1 workshop and critique

*Wednesday- Scene #1 final performance and feedback

NO CLASS- Friday, October 8th : Homecoming

WEEK 8:

Scene #2 workshop and critique

*DUE Wednesday, October 13th: SCENE #2 ANALYSIS

WEEK 9:

Scene #2 workshop and critique

*Wednesday- Scene #2 final performance and feedback

WEEK 10:

Monologues and Scenes workshop and critique

MIDTERM PERFORMANCES

WEEK 11:

Scene #3 workshop and critique

*DUE Wednesday, November 3rd: SCENE #3 ANALYSIS

WEEK 12:

Scene #3 workshop and critique

*Wednesday- Scene #3 final performance and feedback

WEEK 13:

Monologue and Scene Selection for Final Presentation

Finalizing Final Presentation Order

Final Presentation rehearsal

WEEK 14:

NO CLASS! Happy Thanksgiving!!!

WEEK 15:

Final Presentation Rehearsal

WEEK 16:

Final Presentations - TBD

Wednesday, December 8th – Last Day of Class

This syllabus is a good approximation of what this course will be like this semester. The instructor reserves the right to make reasonable additions or subtractions to the syllabus or to allow more or less time for certain sections based on how the work progresses this semester.
