

TPP 2110 - Acting 1: Instrument & Discipline
3:00 p.m. – 4:55 p.m. M,W,F*
Constans Theatre Building G13 Studio
Fall 2021

Instructor: Haley Johnson

Office Hours: 12:00pm-1:00pm Mon./Wed.

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Course Description:

Acting One is an introduction to the craft of acting and the foundation for all performance majors and students seeking entrance into the program. The course consists of group exercises to develop awareness, concentration, imagination and trust. Basic physical, vocal and analytical concepts; methods; vocabulary; and discipline required of the beginning actor will also be explored. Students will develop their own creative process through monologues, scene work, and exercises in observation and awareness.

Course Objective:

- A) To establish a common vocabulary that serves as a foundation for the acting process.
- 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:

I will be providing text that will be available to canvas for future classes. Text will come from *Respect for Acting* By Uta Hagen and *The Practical Handbook for the Actor* By Melissa Bruder

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 acting, and the development of self-awareness, imagination, and character-process/analysis.

Students will memorize the general vocabulary of acting through the use of the addendum to the syllabus and in-class exercises and explorations. A comprehensive paper pertaining what the students have learned will be due 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.

Expectations of Monologue Work

- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity of Objective(s)
- Clarity of Tactics/Actions
- Clarity of Given Circumstance
- Clarity of Obstacle
Vocal exploration
- Physicality
- Presentations are fully memorized at the time of first performance

Expectations of Scene Work

- Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- Both characters “live” in the same world
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity in objective(s)
- Clarity in tactics
- Clarity of Given Circumstance
- Clarity of Obstacle
- Vocal explorations
- Physicality

Students will maintain a weekly journal detailing their observations regarding class work and the development of their skills.

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.

Sept. 16th---Sept 26th

Dog Act
@ McGuire Black Box Theatre

Oct. 22nd – Oct. 31st

Night Music by
@ Constans Theatre

Nov. 3rd – Nov. 7th

BFA Dance Showcase
@ G-6

Nov. 5th – Nov. 10th

New Berry
@ Hippodrome Theatre

Dec. 3rd – Dec. 5

Agbedidi: A Fusion of Traditional and Contemporary Dance
@ Constans Theatre

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.

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. With that said, **you are allowed 1 unexcused absence and 1 tardy.**

2 tardies = 1 unexcused absence

1 Unexcused absence = 30 points from your final grade

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 WORKSHOPS OR PERFORMANCE DAYS****
If you miss your *assigned* workshop or 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.

100-90	A	79-76	C+	65-60	D
89-86	B+	75-70	C	59 and below	F
85-80	B	69-66	D+		

“Why Acting”	20pts
Journals	12 pts ea.
Reaction Paper	20 pts
Monologue	30 pts
Scene	30 pts
Final Scene	55 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.
6. Academic Resources E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
7. Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

8. Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
9. Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
10. Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
11. Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information. On-Line St.

COVID GUIDELINES:

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - 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.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - 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.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

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 to do this is the function of this class. (RHT)

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.
