

TPP2100 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS SPRING 2023  
University of Florida/College of the Arts/School of Theatre & Dance

Section/Period: 7292 MWF 8 (3:00-3:50 PM)

Building/Room: CON, G13

Instructor: Sabrina Blakney

Email: sblakney@ufl.edu

Office/Office Hours Information: Yon Hall - *By appointment. Email to set up time.*

**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 outside of class is expected for expanding specific skills, memorization, readings, etc.
- \* Students will present performance pieces for the class and are expected to have rehearsed and prepared each piece (monologues and/or scenes) thoroughly **outside of class**; there will be in-class discovery work, (at least) one workshop of each piece, and a final performance for each piece.
- \* 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, which may include performance critique papers.
- \* Students may be expected to 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:**

- \* Notebook for note taking in class on materials covered and discoveries made in class
- \* Binder containing syllabus, class handouts, presentation pieces, notes, etc.
- \* Appropriate writing utensils: pencils, pens, highlighters, etc.
- \* Access to internet, email and Canvas/UF e-Learning 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 may be assigned readings and handouts for which students will be responsible. In addition, students will be responsible for reading and having a full understanding of all source material from which their monologues and scenes come (the full play). All class material should come from published work and must be approved by the instructor.

**CRITICAL DATES:**

January 11<sup>th</sup> - Monologue Selection DUE  
 January 13<sup>th</sup> - Diary Entry DUE / Syllabus Contract DUE  
 January 30<sup>th</sup> – Who are You Paper DUE

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – FINAL Presentation of First Monologue (EVERYONE’S PAPERWORK IS DUE)  
 Feb 10<sup>th</sup> - FINAL Presentation of First Monologue  
 Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – Discussion of *Yemaya’s Belly* / *Yemaya’s Belly* Critique Paper DUE

March 6<sup>th</sup> - FINAL Presentation of Second Monologue (EVERYONE’S PAPERWORK IS DUE)  
 March 8<sup>th</sup> - FINAL Presentation of Second Monologue  
 March 10<sup>th</sup> - Discussion of *Reader’s Theatre* / *Reader’s Theatre* Critique Paper DUE

April 19<sup>th</sup> – FINAL Presentation of Scene (EVERYONE’S PAPERWORK IS DUE)  
 April 21<sup>st</sup> - FINAL Presentation of Scene  
 April 24<sup>th</sup> - Discussion of *Blood at the Root* / *Blood at the Root* Critique Paper DUE

**REQUIRED VIEWING:**

Students are required to see the Spring semester productions of *Yemaya’s Belly*, *Reader’s Theater*, and *Blood at the Root* at UF. Students must complete a two page, double spaced, 12-pt font, 1-in margin critique, for one of the productions, stapled together with the ticket stub. Students will write about the acting choices made by one or 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. The Fall UF shows include:

<b>Feb. 10-19</b>	<b>Yemaya’s Belly - Black Box Theatre</b>
<b>Mar. 6 -9</b>	<b>Reader’s Theater - Black Box Theatre</b>
<b>Apr. 14 - 23</b>	<b>Blood at the Root - Constans Theatre</b>

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 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 (at least) one day to workshop their pieces in front of the class before their final performance days. Upon arrival, the student must have the following:

1. TWO copies of the script (monologue or scene): one for the student and one for the instructor.
2. Any assigned written work including but not limited to analyses (monologue/scene/character) and scoring for the instructor.
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 (final) day to perform their piece for the class. Before arrival, the student must have the following items submitted electronically:

1. A final, updated draft of all written work related to the project.

On the day:

1. 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.

2. Appropriate attire: thoughtfully costumed (props if needed).

### **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, staged reading at UFSOD, productions at the Hippodrome 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 at least one of the main stage may NOT complete an extra credit critique.

**Mar. 29 -Apr. 2      Dance BFA Showcase – G-6 Studio\***

**EVALUATION & GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

Class Participation	250
Attendance	150
Diary Entry For Character	50
Who Are You Paper	50
Critique Paper	50
Character Hot Seat	20
Concepts Quiz	25
Discussion of SOTD Productions	30
First Monologue Final Performance	125
Second Monologue Final Performance	125
Scene Final Performance	125

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, 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:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

### **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](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu). Counseling services are available at UF at 352-392-1575 or [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu).

### **University Counseling Service:**

3190 Radio Rd.

P.O Box 112662

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://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.