

# Acting 2: Professional Development Lab

TPP 3103L, Spring 2023

School of Theatre + Dance  
College of the Arts  
University of Florida

*The University of Florida resides on the ancestral territory of the Potano (of Timucua affiliation) and the Seminole peoples. As this is a theatre arts course, it is especially relevant to our educational purpose to acknowledge the peoples and cultures indigenous to the Alachua region.*

## General Information

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### Instructor

Name: Dr. Manuel Simons (they/them/their)  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:30 PM; other times by appointment  
Office Location: McGuire Pavilion, Rm. 223 (2nd Fl.)  
Email: [bmanuel.simons@ufl.edu](mailto:bmanuel.simons@ufl.edu)  
Phone: 352-273-0505

### Class Meetings

Meeting Days/Times: Fridays | 8:30 - 10:25 AM  
Class Location: Constans Theatre Building, Studio G-12  
Canvas Website: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a lab course to be taken concurrently with Acting 2. This course serves as a forum for the following activities: performance laboratory, discussion forum, master classes, and guest lectures from faculty, staff, and industry professionals. Attendance is mandatory

### COURSE OVERVIEW:

Professional Development Seminar 2 is designed to promote an awareness of the skills and tools necessary for building a fulfilling career, not only as performing artists, but also as global citizens and advocates for the arts. Students become familiar with theory and research on diversity, social justice, culture, and identity, through participation in critical dialogues with each other to explore differences. This lab explores philosophical, political, and practical questions, thinking through who you want to be as an artist, what you want your art to do, and the tools you'll need to manifest that vision in the world.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To promote an awareness of the skills and tools necessary for building a fulfilling career
- To introduce the concept and responsibility of actors as global citizens and advocates for the arts
- To become familiar with theory and research on diversity, social justice, culture, and identity
- To explore philosophical, political, and practical questions in relating to the art and profession of acting
- To interrogate what kind of artist the actors want to be and the impact they want to make

## **COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change):**

Week 1 -- Introduction

Week 2 – Identity

Week 3 – Positionality

Week 4 – Arts in Medicine

Week 5 -- Harassment prevention

Week 6 – Consent Culture/Theatrical Intimacy

Week 7 – Theatre of the Oppressed

### **Synopsis of Lab for Theatre of the Oppressed & Theatre in Prisons:**

The workshop will be 50% experiential and 50% reflective/didactic.

Theater of the Oppressed is a collection of games, techniques, exercises for using theater as a vehicle for personal and social change. It uses the dynamized human body and the charged theatrical space as laboratories for exploring power, transforming oppression, and finding community-building solutions to the fundamental problems of conflict, inequality, injustice, and human suffering. Based on the radical pedagogy of Paolo Freire and Augusto Boal, it is a collective artistic exploration into the fullest expression of our human dignity, potential, and creativity.

Elements and theories of related counter-oppressive approaches will also be introduced, and practitioners of TO or will be invited as guest facilitators.

### **Readings and Viewings:**

#### **Article:**

Pgs 32-41 GAMES FOR ACTORS AND NON-ACTORS

Second edition, By Augusto Boal Translated by Adrian Jackson

Boal's description of his work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and his Theatre in Prisons

#### **Website Viewing:**

AmericanTheatre.org Prison Theatre Programs

Theatre companies, programs, and projects across the country that aim to rehabilitate incarcerated populations through the arts.

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/01/22/prison-theatre-programs/>

Week 8 – Branding: Visible & Invisible Identity markers for the Actor – Application Paper 1 Due

Week 9 – Theatre for Social Change

Round table discussion on the Harmful Uses of Disability Stereotypes in the American Theatre

Questions for discussion:

- What Is Able-Bodied Privilege?
- In what ways does theatre deny access to disabled people?
- What are some ableist phrases or language that is built into our culture? (examples include: standing ovation - stand up for your rights- stand and deliver)
- Does our culture 'neuter' disabled people or see them as asexual people?

**Websites Viewing:**

- <https://howlround.com/>
- <https://howlround.com/naming-trope-deep-dive-harmful-uses-disability-stereotypes-american-theatre>

**Video Viewing:**

- Ted Talks: Stella Young I am not your inspiration, thank you very much
- Netflix: Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution directed by Nicole Newfanham, James Lebrecht

**Article:**

Essay: "Willing and Able" Bitch Magazine (2011). C.T. Jones  
WILLING AND ABLE: Filmmaker Loree Erickson on Redefining Disability Through Pornography by Chesea Temple Jones. This article talks about her multi-layered video exploring the topic of sex being queer and disability.

Week 10 – Commercial Theatre

Week 11 – Community Building Through Theatre

Week 12 – Alumni Guest Speakers – Last week to submit mini-interview summaries

Week 13 -- How to Handle Audition Anxiety,

Week 14 – Review for Self-Paper

Week 15 – Alumni Guest Speakers – Application Paper 2 Due

**GRADES:**

*Grades are based on:*

Application Paper 1 (20%)

Application Paper 2 (20%)

Weekly on-line discussion on Canvas (30%)

Mini-Interviews (3) (30%)

***Grading Policy***

| <b>Percent</b> | <b>Grade</b> | <b>Grade Points</b> |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 90.0 - 100.0   | A            | 4.00                |
| 87.0 - 89.9    | A-           | 3.67                |
| 84.0 - 86.9    | B+           | 3.33                |
| 81.0 – 83.9    | B            | 3.00                |
| 78.0 - 80.9    | B-           | 2.67                |
| 75.0 - 79.9    | C+           | 2.33                |
| 72.0 – 74.9    | C            | 2.00                |
| 69.0 - 71.9    | C-           | 1.67                |
| 66.0 - 68.9    | D+           | 1.33                |
| 63.0 - 65.9    | D            | 1.00                |
| 60.0 - 62.9    | D-           | 0.67                |
| 0 - 59.9       | E            | 0.00                |

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#calculatinggpa>

**APPLICATION PAPERS (2)**— Papers will reflect on the information gained from class meetings and how the information has changed a perspective for you regarding the life of the professional actor. The papers will include how you will apply the information to your professional practice. All papers are to be well-written and proof-read. These papers will include an introduction paragraph that will specifically state the thesis and the 3-5 main points to be discussed in the body of the paper. At least one complete paragraph will be used to support and describe each main point citing specific examples from the class, testimony, comparisons, etc. Transition statements from paragraph to paragraph will help the document flow well. The final or concluding paragraph will restate the main points of the paper, rephrase the thesis, and end with a thought-provoking statement. You are in a university and you are expected to demonstrate university level writing skills. Expect this to be graded as an English Assignment.

**LATE PAPERS:** Late papers are accepted, but they are penalized 10% (25 points) for each 24-hour calendar day the paper is late. *Note:* Emailed documents will not be accepted.

**DISCUSSION ON CANVAS** – All students are expected to make a comment on the canvas discussion page regarding the topic of the week and respond to a peer’s comment weekly. Comments might include discussion a new perspective or a new habit or a realization.

**MINI-INTERVIEWS** – 3 “interviews” with upper-class BFA Acting students or Alumni discussing professional practices and habits to stay healthy and hone skills or helpful hints to keep in mind during your tenure at UF’s SoTD. Interview summaries will be submitted on Canvas.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR PERFORMANCE CLASSES THAT MEET 1 TIME A WEEK**

Students are expected to stay home and seek medical help for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill). The culture of hiding illness or the “show must go on” mentality must be avoided. Students who are medically required to quarantine will have documentation from a medical provider. Students who self-quarantine must communicate with the instructor and “attend” courses remotely synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor.

**Students are expected to be in attendance daily (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) and to be on time. The first “unexcused” absence will result in a half letter grade (5%) from the final grade. All additional “unexcused” absences will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade. To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation. Three tardies are counted as one absence barring trouble for internet connections for online classes.**

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

**Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course's instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student's continued participation in the course.**

For Majors: Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

**Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 2 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student's final grade.**

## Due Dates

All written assignments are due at the start of the class period on the date listed on the course schedule.

Submission of late assignments without penalty requires a valid and documented reason, such as an excused absence. Otherwise, 1/3 of a letter grade for the assignment will be deducted for EACH school day that the assignment is late (holidays and weekends excepted). If an assignment is missed due to an excused absence, then the assignment will be due by the next class period following the excused absence. An assignment missed due to unexcused absence cannot be made up.

## Formatting Written Assignments

Written assignments will be submitted as MS Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) documents to the course site on Canvas. PDFs will NOT be accepted. Papers should be formatted in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and pages numbered. You must include a word-count at the top of the first page. Include your name, course number, date submitted, word-count, and an engaging and appropriate title for each written assignment.

## Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, to participate, and to conduct themselves in a professional manner that is always respectful to the instructor and fellow students. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion must be avoided.

Cell phones are NOT permitted in this classroom. Phones must be turned off or silenced (and NOT on vibrate) AND phones must be stored entirely out of sight completely inside a pocket or bag; a visible cell

phone or cell phone use will count as lateness to class (3 instances of lateness = 1 absence). Cell phone use in class is disrespectful to the instructor and fellow students.

Do NOT gather your things or pack up your bag until the official end time of the class; doing otherwise is disrespectful to the instructor and fellow students and will count as lateness to class (3 instances of lateness = 1 absence).

You may consume only beverages with a very secure lid. There will be a 10 minute break and I encourage you to bring a snack to eat outside of the classroom. You must properly dispose of all trash.

An open line of communication between you and me is of the utmost importance. *Always feel free to communicate with me*; my job is to guide and support you in learning. If you have a question, concern, confusion, or problem relevant to this course, please don't worry, don't fret, and don't go to other people before you come to me. Reach out to me and I will help.

*PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH ME.*

## **Canvas and Email**

All students in this course are required to use Canvas, UF's official learning management system. Students will access Canvas frequently for updates to the course schedule, to access assignment information and materials, to turn in assignments, and for other important course information.

All students are required to have an active UF email account (@ufl.edu), which they check at least once a day (or more often, if possible). State laws require that all emails related to a course must come from students' UF accounts rather than personal accounts (such as Gmail or Yahoo).

Emails to the instructor should be respectful and use professional standards of language and communication. The instructor will make every effort to respond to student emails within 24 hours during weekdays and within 48 hours during weekends and holidays.

Both Canvas and UF email are extremely important modes of communication between student and instructor, and the instructor will use Canvas and UF email to communicate crucial course information to students.

To resolve technical issues with email or Canvas visit the [UF Computing Help Desk website](#) or email [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) or call 352-392-HELP (4357).

## **Content Alert\***

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in a process of learning and intellectual development we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. Content in the humanities often includes works and discussions that address themes, situations, actions, or language that can be offensive to some students on the grounds of sexual explicitness, profanity, violence, or blasphemy.

Given that this is an acting class in which we will examine plays, you should assume that we will address controversial or challenging topics. After all, drama does not focus primarily on the uneventful, serene, and harmonious times in people's lives. On the contrary, drama is built upon conflict, betrayal, injustice,

disaster, and calamitous circumstances. Dramatic material often addresses issues of identity, oppression (economic inequity, sexism, racism, homophobia, etc.), abuse, violence, and death.

Please communicate to me privately (verbally or by email) as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the course, if you wish to be alerted before a specific topic will be addressed and I will accommodate your request. Otherwise, I will assume that all topics relevant to our course work may be addressed without advance alerts. In class, if you need to step away briefly as we cover particular content, you may do so without penalty, but please remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

As UF is devoted to the principle of academic and artistic freedom, it is not the University's practice to censor controversial works on any of the above grounds. Part of the student's work is to learn how to investigate and analyze content that may convey perspectives that differ significantly from their own views. Learning can be challenging and uncomfortable at times. Our goal is to establish a learning environment that is both a safe space (physically, emotionally, mentally) AND a brave space where we can experience new and challenging ideas, take healthy and creative risks, and grow as artists, scholars, and human beings. If you have questions or concerns about these issues, then please communicate privately with the instructor as early as possible in the semester.

\*This Content Alert has been adapted in large part from the syllabi of Tiza Garland, Associate School Director and Associate Professor of Theatre, School of Theatre + Dance, University of Florida.

## Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities or clinically diagnosed neurological or mental health conditions 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.

## UF Evaluations Process

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 <https://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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## In-Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may NOT publish recorded class lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and

delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does NOT include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services.

**A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.**

## 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 specifies several potential violations, including *plagiarism*. Section 3.E. prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

**Plagiarism.** A Student must not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the student’s own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the student’s own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the student did not author.

Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in the referral of the student to the Dean of Students for consideration of academic and student status 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 TA in this class.

The Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code may be read in their entirety at:

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



## V. Campus Resources

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### ACADEMIC AND CAREER

- **E-Learning Technical Support:** Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto: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.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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](#).
- **Sexual Assault Recovery Services:** Visit [Student Health Care Center](#) or call 352-392-1161.
- **University Police Department:** [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 911 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](#).
- **Food Insecurity:** Visit [UF's Food Pantry website](#) or call 352-294-3601 or email [fieldandfork@ufl.edu](mailto:fieldandfork@ufl.edu) for help if you are experiencing food insecurity.
- **Veterans and Military-Affiliated Students Resources:** Visit the [UF Collegiate Veterans Success Center website](#) or call 352-294-7233 or email [vetsuccess@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:vetsuccess@dso.ufl.edu) for resources, community, and support.
- **Other Concerns and Needs:** See this [comprehensive list of concerns](#) with links to UF resources for help and support.

## VI. Freedom of Thought and Opinion

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Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief.

**The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and/or course schedule as deemed necessary. Students will be notified via email and/or in class of any substantive changes to the syllabus.**