

BFA Acting I: Instrument and Discipline (Technique)

TPP 2110 (co-requisite: TPP 2110L)
Fall 2024

Prerequisite: BFA Performance: Acting Major

Days & Times: M/W 12:50-2:45 pm

CON G013

Credit Hours: 2

Instructor: Eric Loscheider

Office: 203 McGuire Pavilion

Email: loscheidere@ufl.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

The recommended method of communication outside of scheduled class time is email

Course Summary:

Acting I 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 physical 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 begin to develop their own creative processes through exercises and scene work.

Course Description:

As the beginning point of the training, this course explores the fundamentals of an actor's technique common to contemporary, Stanislavsky-based traditions. Through the repetition of an expanding set of exercises, the actor begins the process of conditioning an instrument that works truthfully, and is available to the spontaneity of the impulse in partnered work.

Course Objectives:

- 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 apply the methods and techniques of the actor's process and apply these methods and techniques of acting to one's own work through exercises and scene work.
- D) To develop in the student an understanding of the discipline of the art and to refine concentration skills necessary within that discipline.
- E) To introduce the student to the basic methods of relaxation as well as physical and vocal freedom and control.
- F) To develop the ability to work as a supportive, courageous, and accountable member of an ensemble through improving discipline, building trust, and strengthening communication skills.
- G) To demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the building blocks of working on a monologue and a scene.

Learning Outcomes:

Exploration and application of the fundamentals of the craft of Acting:

- Physical awareness
- Concentration
- The Reality of Doing
- The Actors Faith
- Placing your attention on your partner
- Listening and responding
- Moment to moment truthfulness
- Spontaneous, impulse-driven, meaningful behavior
- Point of view and emotional truth
- Meaning
- Relationship
- Professional collaboration

Required Texts:

Zen and the Art of Archery, Eugen Herrigel

Highly Recommended Texts:

The Actor's Art and Craft, William Esper and Damon DiMarco

Respect for Acting, Uta Hagen

An Actor Prepares, Konstantin Stanislavski

Required Materials:

- A dedicated journal or notebook
- pen or pencil
- any physical materials distributed by the instructor
- materials/props/clothing as needed for exercises (see **Student Expectations** below)

Course Outline:

Weeks 1-5: Introduction to the fundamentals of acting (relevant terms), beginning warm-up, Circle of Attention, Simple Tasks, adding the elements of time, passive contact, and meaning.

Weeks 6-7: The Event.

Weeks 8-10: Five Minutes of Reality, The Knock, partnered work, and the Principle of Acting.

Weeks 11-15: Application of fundamentals to Structured Open Scenes.

Week 16: Final presentations.

Performance Attendance and Response Papers:

Students are required to attend all SOTD productions during this course.

Each student will submit a 1-2 page Response Paper for each production, and will be expected to contribute to an in-class discussion of each production.

Ticket vouchers will be provided for shows, but the student is responsible for paying handling fees (usually under \$5).

- If the voucher is lost or stolen, it CANNOT be replaced.
- Tickets absolutely must be purchased well in advance of the performance.
- Students have been advised to purchase tickets early and given ample notice and therefore will be accountable for this assignment even if tickets are sold out.
- 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 artists and the audience.

There are NO other shows that can be substituted for seeing the required UF productions.

Production Dates for Fall 2025- TBD

Students may also attend other productions at the Hippodrome Theatre and submit a corresponding Response Paper as EXTRA CREDIT (percentage TBD)

Deadlines for Response Papers:

48 hours from time of attendance, OR from from production's close.

Proof of Attendance:

Staple your ticket stub to your playbill, and submit both with the Response Paper.

A note for ALL written assignments submitted for this class:

All papers MUST:

- Be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman or Arial 12 pt font, with 1" margins.
- Be sent electronically, and in hard copy in the instructor's mailbox, within 24 hours of the due date. The hard copy will satisfy the timeliness of your paper (in that it will not be penalized for lateness); the digital file is for the instructor's convenience.

University Honor Pledge:

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 Student 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.

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/>

Attendance:

Is **Mandatory**.

This work is **cumulative and experiential**. If you miss a single class, you are:

- missing experiential lessons that cannot be fully replicated through notes borrowed from a classmate, and
- that classmate might be your scene partner, who is
- a fellow actor, dependent on your partnership in
- an inherently collaborative art form.

Much of the work of this class involves building **good, professional habits, whether on or off stage.**

Show up fully.

And when in doubt, let FOMO be your guide.

“Everybody gets one”. In accordance with the Spiderman rule, students are granted one (1) “unexcused” absence that does not require documentation and does not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.” After that, any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of half a letter grade (5%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence.

Excused Absence:

To be considered excused, an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official

documentation (except religious holidays/observances, which do not require documentation).

Only the following types of absences can be excused (and only if official documentation is provided):

- Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with doctor name, address, phone number, noting date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying absence from class is warranted and doctor's signature.
- Serious family emergency
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participating in official university activity (e.g., music performance, athletic competition, debate)
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)
- Religious holiday/observance (documentation not required for this type of absence)

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

If a student must miss a class meeting for any reason they **must** notify the instructor and any group partners **PRIOR** to the missed class; this does NOT “excuse” the absence; it is simple professional courtesy.

If absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain information about missed course content, which may include information or directions for upcoming assignments; class buddies, study partners, or small study groups are strongly recommended; reach out to your classmates and build community.

Three instances of lateness count as one unexcused absence.

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class period. Any arrival after the official start time of the class as published on ONE.UF will be considered late.

Be aware that the UF policy on absence states:

The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

All requirements detailed above for class attendance and make-up exams/assignments and other work in this course are fully consistent with university attendance policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) may 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.

According to department policy, **three unexcused absences will result in failure of this class. No Exceptions.**

Participation:

This work is demanding, and a student's full participation and engagement is mandatory. The cumulative, praxis-based, collaborative nature of this work requires diligence and personal commitment.

Active, attentive participation in class discussions, and relevant feedback/observations (within the parameters defined by the instructor) are a **major part of a student's final grade.**

Readiness:

Each student must be prepared to work when class begins. This means actors may need to arrive early in order to mentally and physically prepare. Professionally speaking, five minutes early is on-time.

Lateness:

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class period.

Once the door is closed, class has begun. Late entrances are disruptive to the work. Please enter in the least disruptive way possible. Do not walk through scenes or while people are working.

You will be marked as late. **Three lates equal one unexcused absence.**

Student Expectations:

- Students will attend all classes, and will arrive on time, fully prepared..
- Students should expect to work every class, unless or until notified by the instructor.
- Students will wear non-restrictive, loose-fitting, movement-friendly clothes—No skirts, tight pants, heels, jewelry, etc.— except as needed by an exercise or scene. Hair should be pulled back out of the face. Not hats with brims. No pajamas.
- Full, attentive participation is required in this class. This means:
 1. active engagement in any warm-ups, exercises, and performances, whether working or observing.
 2. focused, relevant questions, comments, or feedback as elicited by the instructor.**Both contribute to a major part of a student's final grade.**
- Students must complete all assignments on or before their assigned due date.
- Students will be supportive and respectful of their fellow classmates. This class must always be a safe place to work. If at any point a student's behavior becomes unsafe

and/or disrespectful, they will be asked to leave and given an **unexcused absence** for the day.

- Props- Miming is not tolerated in this class. **Please bring any props you need to do this work.** This includes **clothing/costuming as required** for an exercise or scene. This class is based on truthful doing, and miming does not foster truth in *this* work.
- Students will restore the space after they work- dispose of any trash, restore any furniture or fixtures to where they were before students began working.
- Students will respect the sanctity of the space, their work, and the work of their colleagues.

Rehearsal Expectation:

Between classes, actors are expected to engage with any material we have covered for at least one hour outside of class, as a Personal Rehearsal.

For any group work assigned, there is a minimum one hour of Group Rehearsal expected, in addition to the standard Personal Rehearsal.

Unauthorized Use of 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 allowable purposes include “for personal educational use.” Students may not publish recorded 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 presentation 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 a guest 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. 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.

Communication:

Electronic mail or “email” is considered an official method for communication because it delivers information in a convenient, timely, cost effective and environmentally aware manner. Students are expected to check their official UF email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to remain informed of university-related communications. The

university recommends checking email daily. Students are responsible for the consequences of not reading, in a timely fashion, university-related communications sent to their official student email account. This policy ensures that all students have access to this important form of communication. It ensures students can be reached through a standardized channel by faculty and other staff of the university as needed.

CANVAS and ZOOM:

Much of the administration of this course will be done via Canvas.

Course delivery is subject to change as the semester demands. The course Zoom link can be found on Canvas.

Grading:

In-class work and participation/professionalism- 50%

Final Scene- 30%

Response Papers- 20%

Criteria by which in-class work and participation/professionalism will be evaluated:

- Attendance.
- Preparation for and participation in all exercises (including outside rehearsal).
- Willingness to explore and take personal artistic risks
- Focused, frequent, and relevant contribution to class discussions.
- Artistic growth over the semester.

Criteria by which all written work will be evaluated:

- Content
 - Well-supported arguments, with clear, specific details.
 - Application of course topics and vocabulary.
- Quality of writing
 - Grammar, syntax, punctuation, etc.

Criteria by which Final Scenes will be evaluated:

- Application of the technique elements covered over the semester, including (but not limited to): relationship, meaning, moment to moment work, specificity, contact, the Principle of Acting, active doing, following the truthful, spontaneous impulse, etc.
- Commitment and effort
- Evidence of preparation and rehearsal

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	100-94	4.0
A-	93-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33

B	86-84	3.00
B-	83-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-74	2.00
C- *	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.00
D-	63-60	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59-0	0.00

Please note that a C- is not an acceptable grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major.

UF Policy link:

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>