

TPP2100/AFNM SYLLABUS

TPP2100 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS FALL 2025

University of Florida/College of the Arts/School of Theatre & Dance

General Education: Humanities (H)

Section/Period: 8210, 8:30-9:20am

Building/Room: Constans G-12

Instructor: Stephanie Lynge

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Office/Office Hours Information: Scheduled upon request

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The discipline and the creative process of acting, including formal and improvisational techniques for developing vocal, physical and analytical skills applicable to a variety of theatre styles, including those from the Western canon.

In *The Creative Spirit*, Stephanie Arnold states, “The art of the actor is the primary force of the theatre...Through [her] charismatic presence, [she] inspire[s] the audience’s belief in the stage action.” And in realistic storytelling which (according to Arnold) “presents incidents, characters and language that appear to come from daily life”, actors quite often work in a way that “emphasize the actor’s identification with the character’s psychological motivation.” It is the actor’s personal identification with the role she inhabits that lays the groundwork for what we commonly call “acting” in our mainstream forms of storytelling, including works on stage, film and television—stories about situations, individuals and interactions we as an audience recognize to be true and human. Simply put, these realistic actors strive to craft (out of fictional, scripted material) performances that have the appearance of “being real”. This course introduces foundational facets of the discipline and the creative process of acting, exploring formal and improvisational techniques for developing vocal, physical, and analytical skills of the realistic actor.

GENERAL EDUCATION (HUMANITIES [H]) COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon. Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline of acting.
- Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning, clearly and effectively, in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline of acting.
- Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using acting-specific methods and develop thoroughly reasoned solutions to problems.

COURSE CONTENT

- Students participate in exercises and activities during class designed to develop the skills and vocabulary required for acting performance; some work will be expected outside class.
- Students 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 per piece, and a final performance for each piece.
- Students prepare written analysis work accompanying each piece to strengthen performance and understanding of methodologies and theories.
- Students complete short writing assignments to show comprehension of the subject matter, which includes

- performance critique papers.
- Students will participate in warm-up exercises and may be asked to prepare a warm-up for the class on a selected date.
- Students keep a binder with syllabus, class handouts, daily notes, written assignments, copies of performance pieces, etc., which may be examined throughout the term.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Binder containing syllabus, class handouts, copies of performance 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 in class.
- Appropriate apparel (clothing and shoes) that allow students to move easily.
- There is no required text for this course. 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. All class material should come from published work and must be approved by the instructor.

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Warm up and exploration

Week: 2 Intro to Concepts

Week: 3-8 In class Exploration; written paperwork due

Week 9: Supplemental Concept introduction

Week 10-14: In class Exploration; written paperwork due

Week 15- 16: Written exam, final papers, and final performances

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING EFFORT

One goes to a good school to get a good education and, in turn, to get a leg up in her profession. The professional workplace demands disciplined work and behavior. A similar work ethic is required of you in this class, as a college student, a responsible citizen, and future professional. Assignments will be completed in a timely, thorough fashion. They will meet a level of sophistication fitting for advanced students of the theatre.

Criteria by which performance work will be assessed:

- Energy & Commitment
- Authority (including memorization)
- Devotion to Course Concepts
- Openness to Exploration

Criteria by which written work will be assessed:

- Content (presentation, support, detail, development, and evidence of course concept knowledge)
- Quality of Writing (grammar, spelling, syntax, and punctuation)

Criteria by which participation will be assessed:

- Frequency of Participation
- Quality of Comments
- Listening Skills
- Behavior

REQUIRED VIEWING

Students are required to attend specified SoTD productions (TBA). Each student must complete and submit a two-page, double-spaced (12-pt font and 1-inch margin) critique for each production via email or Canvas (per the instructor's request.) Students will write about the acting choices made by 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

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different from a plot summary, report, or synopsis:

[https://uswvarious1.blob.core.windows.net/uswvarious-prod-uploads/documents/How to Write a Critique.pdf](https://uswvarious1.blob.core.windows.net/uswvarious-prod-uploads/documents/How_to_Write_a_Critique.pdf)

Proof of attendance is also required. The paper WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without proof, which may include a ticket stub, screenshot of an electronic ticket, or a selfie taken before/after the show in the theatre.

Critiques are due the first class after the show closes.

There will also be a quiz with questions related to each production, so please provide your full attention to the show.

The Fall 2025 UF shows are:

Harvest - performances September 19-27

Rent - performances October 15-16, October 19-25

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 are 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, students are expected to be in class on time and ready to work. One unexcused absence is allowed. Upon the second unexcused absence, a deduction of 30 points will be taken 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/late assignments for any unexcused absences.

Acceptable reasons for EXCUSED absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor. ALL excused absences require documentation at least a week before a planned absence or no more than a week following an unplanned absence. Make-up assignments will be due no later than the week after the student's return to class.

In addition, two tardies are permitted. 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 unexcused absence for the day. If arriving late, please be respectful to not enter the room while another student is performing. Participation can only be evaluated if the student is in class and on time.

POLICIES REGARDING MAKE-UP WORK AND LATE WORK

Absences do not make one exempt from class obligations. Work must be made up in a timely fashion, at the discretion of the instructors, typically in the week following the student's return to class. Unexcused late work will be penalized with penalties increasing relative to lateness; anything past deadline is at least 1 day late:

<u>Days</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
1	10% off
2	25% off
3+	40% off

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: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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 costume choices are required.

MONOLOGUE/SCENE WORKSHOP DAYS

Students will be assigned (at least) one day to workshop their pieces in front of the class before their final performance days. On their workshop day, the student must:

- Have TWO copies of the script (monologue or scene); one for the student and one for the instructor.
- Have any assigned written work including but not limited to analyses of the monologue/scene/character and scoring.
- Display evidence of thorough preparation and rehearsal, including a significant level of memorization.
- Wear appropriate attire.

PERFORMANCE DAYS

Students will again be assigned a final day to perform their piece for the class. On that day, the student must:

- Have final, updated drafts of all written work related to the project.
- Display thorough preparation and rehearsal. Workshop discussions and suggestions from the instructor should be fully integrated into the piece. BY PERFORMANCE DAY, THE PIECE MUST BE FULLY MEMORIZED.
- Wear an appropriate costume.

EVALUATION & GRADING BREAKDOWN

Class Participation	200
Production #1 Quiz	25
Production #1 Critique	50
Production #2 Quiz	25
Production #2 Critique	50
Terminology/Concepts Quiz	50
Monologue/Character Analysis (Initial)	50
Monologue/Character Analysis (Final)	50
Monologue Exploration	100
Monologue Final Performance	100
Scene/Character Analysis (Initial)	50
Scene/Character Analysis (Final)	50
Scene Exploration	100
Scene Final Performance	100

Total 1000 points

For each performance-based project, there are the following SLO assessments:

Area	Institutional Definition	Institutional SLO	How the assignment fulfills the SLO
Content	Content is knowledge of the concepts, principles, terminology, and methodologies used within the discipline.	Students will demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline.	Students demonstrate their knowledge of acting technique, including but not limited to physical, vocal, and psychological sensitivities in character development, as well as script analysis. Examples of terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories: given circumstances, character biography, scene scoring, beat/beat change, action, objective, tactic, obstacle, blocking/staging terminology, breath, "ending consonants".

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Communication	Communication is the development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms.	Students will communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline.	Students construct written detailed character biographies from information gathered from a careful reading of the published plays from which their pieces come. These written biographies, in turn, are used to interpret and justify their respective characters in performance. Students also create script "scores" of their scenes, written actor "maps" by which students dissect scene action and identify character needs and intentions. Students exercise discipline-specific vocabulary and concepts in discussion of their classmates' work in "workshop" presentations monologues and scenes. The actors themselves self-evaluate their own "workshop" presentations, exercising discipline-specific vocabulary in articulating their working processes.
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking is characterized by the comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.	Students will analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.	Through thoughtful analysis of the plays from which their pieces come, students construct written detailed character biographies, which are used to interpret and justify their respective characters in performance. Students also create script "scores" of their scenes, written actor "maps" by which students analyze scene action and identify character needs and intentions. Students exercise discipline-specific vocabulary and concepts in analysis of their classmates' work in "workshop" presentations of their final scenes. The actors themselves also analyze their own "workshop" presentations, exercising discipline-specific vocabulary in articulating their working and problem-solving processes in performance.

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

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

A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit.

UF POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

FEES

\$140.00

SYLLABUS NOTE

By enrolling in this course, students are bound (like a contract) by the rules and expectations of this syllabus.

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to make note of any discussed changes and be familiar with the updated syllabus.