

THEATRE CAREERS

TPP 3082 Section 1

Professor: John Wayne Shafer

Spring 2017

Office: PAC T-217

Lecture Hall: HEC 111

Phone: 407-823-0871

TR 1:30-2:45

e-mail: john.shafer2@ucf.edu

Office Hours: by appointment- posted

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on the development of professional goals, knowledge, marketing materials, and skills for the active theatre and entertainment professional. Topics will include: job search techniques for specific markets, knowledge of agents, contracts, applications, managers, unions, casting directors, auditions, academic opportunities, interview skills, cover letters, headshots/resumes, business strategies, cold readings, publicists, regional markets, financial planning, behavior on the set, print, & industrial production. Large sections of the class will be cross discipline study designed to cross pollinate.

Our course will identify and examine the personal career goals of the student. The student will develop personal strategies and marketing materials appropriate to the student's career goals. The student will develop these materials and strategies. Attention to cross discipline entertainment opportunity will be explored and developed.

Class time will consist of a mix of lecture, discussion, & interviews. Students may expect announced tests, unannounced quizzes, written work, and outside preparation. Students may expect to incur outside expenses as they set up their business. Students are expected to have read all assigned material in a timely fashion. Students are expected to complete a professional level marketing package. Students should be prepared to participate in class discussion and activities. At all times, students should be prepared to answer the following question: how might I combine skills to sell myself in the market place today? How might I use these skills to sell myself in the marketplace in the future? And, vitally, what am I doing NOW to be able to market myself 1-3 years from now?

REQUIRED TEXT:

Producing Theatre: A Comprehensive Legal and Business Guide, 3RD Revised Edition

by Donald C. Farmer

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Theatre Management & Production in America Producing & Managing the Performing Arts by Stephen Langley

How To Be a Working Actor by Mari Lyn Henry & Lynne Rogers (Fifth Edition)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Careers Kit (contents to be discussed)

Note: all materials must be professional grade for your area and suitable to the target market. This may include a web presence.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

Photo Grade Color Capable Printer

Computer w/ Internet Access

Cell Phone

Adobe Photo Shop

Note: NO late assignments, or papers will be accepted. Some exam/quiz questions will be pulled directly from student presentation and discussion. All written assignments are to be typed unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

The Dramatist's Guild Resource Directory 2016

2016 Guide to Literary Agents

The Business of Theatrical Design by James L. Moody ASLD

Making Documentary Films & Reality Videos by Barry Hampe

Audition by Michael Shurtleff

The Ross Reports Television & Film published by Back Stage/Back Stage West Productions

The Actor's Encyclopedia of Casting Directors by Karen Kondazian

100 Best Careers in Entertainment by Shelly Field

Breaking & Entering: Land Your First Job in Film Production by April Fitzsimmons

Writing for Academic Publication: A Guide to Getting Started by Frank parker & Kathryn Riley

Building the Successful Theatre Company by Lisa Mulcahy

The Health & Safety Guide for Film, TV, & Theatre by Monona Rossol

The Art & Craft of Play Writing by Jeffery Hatcher

Making It in New York by Glenn Alterman

The Screenwriter's Bible by David Trottier

Running Theatre's: Best Practice's for Leaders & Managers by Duncan M Webb

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. The student is responsible for any missed classes. However, there will be NO make-up tests. There will be NO make-up presentations or interviews. A request for an exception may rarely be granted in extreme circumstances, but only with compelling documentation. In addition, students that miss more than the three days of class allowed for illness and emergency may have 100 points deducted from their final grade tabulations. Some absences may be excused with compelling documentation. Under these circumstances, the student is still solely responsible for any missed material or assignments. A student with more than six days of absences may fail the course automatically. Three tardy appearances are equivalent to one full absence. Please, be punctual.

Some videotape and multimedia will be used to support lecture & discussion. It is vital to keep up with readings. Please, make an appointment early in the semester to see me if you are having trouble.

DRESS:

Dress appropriate to the interview circumstance is required. On guest days, appropriate interview dress is required. Inappropriate dress will lower your grade.

Grading

All work will be based on a 100 pt grading scale. Major Assignments will count as two letter grades and the Final will count as two letter grades. Your final grade will be based on the accumulation of points for the following areas:

• Major Assignments

• Possible Quizzes

• Participation in daily assignments and exercises

• Assignment deadlines and punctuality

• Willingness and Consistency

• Professionalism (including attitude toward criticism, and respect for fellow classmates)

• Demonstration of an active application of the work covered in class

•Your first unexcused absence will lower your final grade five points, your second unexcused absence will lower your grade 10 points (which will lower it a full letter), your third unexcused absence will result in a failure of the course. Missing class for participating in a show is not a valid excuse.

CLASS TOPICS & REQUIRED READING SCHEDULE:

Week ONE Class begins January 9,2017

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE March 22, 2017

SPRING BREAK March 13-18

NO CLASS ON THESE DAYS

Spring Break March 13-18

MLK January 16

Study Day April 25th

Last day of class April 24th

Final Week

April 26-May 2nd

Tuesday, May 02, 2017

1:00 PM – 3:50 PM

The presented schedule is intended as a study guide that will keep the student on track. This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Violations of student academic behavior standards are outlined in The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's student handbook. See [HTTP://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/](http://www.ucf.edu/goldenrule/) for further details.

Plagiarism- whereby another's work is deliberately used or appropriated without any indication of the source thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another source has plagiarized.

Cheating- whereby non-permissible written, visual, or oral assistance including that obtained from another student is utilized on exams, course assignments, or projects. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material shall also constitute cheating.

A student who has assisted another in any of the aforementioned breach of standards shall be considered equally culpable.

Academic Action- Taken by Instructor, Chair, or Dean of College

Counseling

Loss of credit for specific assignment, examination, or project

Removal from course with a grade of 'F'

Conduct Review Action- Taken by the Office of Student Conduct

Warning

Probation

Suspension

Expulsion

Permanent conduct record with UCF accessible by other institutions by request

The plays, materials, and ideas covered during this class may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to access

your chances for success in the course. Since the theatre requires the use of mind, voice, body, there might be situations that will require a certain amount of physical contact between you and the instructor and other students. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to access your chances for success in this class.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunity.

It is the policy of the University to reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays. However, the student will be held responsible for any material covered during the absence and must inform the instructor two weeks prior to the holiday.