

Acting for Non Majors

TPP 2185

Section 03

Professor: John Wayne Shafer

Fall 2016

Office: PAC T-217

MWF 12:30 AM-1:20 AM

Class: PAC 115

Phone: 407-823-0871
posted outside the office door)

Office Hours: TBA (They will be

Or by appointment

e-mail: john.shafer2@ucf.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce the young actor to broader acting vocabulary. The student will work very specifically to discover and develop his/her acting technique through exercises that induce strength and flexibility in the voice and body, increase imagination and concentration and encourage trust. We will also work on "talking and listening," focus, packing, playing actions, and releasing your emotional life, as well as sharing the space with other actors without losing your sense of self critical behavior in the imaginary world.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Wear clothing that does not bind the trunk of your body, which you don't mind getting dirty and in which you can move easily. Can you stand on your head in it? Can you do the splits in it? Can you do it without flashing everyone in the room? THIS IS THE STANDARD. Leotards and tights (footless) are fine, as well as sweat pants and T-shirts. Each day, bring to class a sweater or sweatshirt for warmth. We may spend a lot of time on the floor. Before class, please remove jewelry and tie up long hair. Do not use dressing out as an excuse to be late to class.

PLEASE, NO FLIP-FLOPS! I am aware this footwear is part of the official student uniform for the state of Florida. However, flip-flops are horcruxes and described in detail in Hogwart's forbidden library of the dark arts. Your instructor knows an actor who lost a foot due to these dangerous, treacherous, noisy,

bilious, vile, deceitful, ugly, smelly, adulterous, and fascist things. Eve was first persuaded by the snake to wear flip-flops before she weakened and ate the apple. Hitler? Yep. You never see his feet. Now you know why. Round worm, acne, and low sperm counts are all caused by flip-flops. If YOU know a flip-flop wearer, shun them! Shun the non-believer! Shun! Shuuuuuuuuuuuuunn.

DID I MENTION, NO FLIP-FLOPS?

2. You are responsible for notifying me of any chronic conditions or injuries which may prevent your full participation in class activities. I must be notified the first week of class.

Recommend Reading:

Zen in the Art of Archery by Eugen Herrigel Uta Hagen's Respect for Acting Letters to a Young Poet by Rilke An Actor Prepares by Constatin Stanislavski

Attendance

☑Acting training is a progressive process, therefore, every class is valuable to your process.

☑Punctual attendance in class - as for rehearsal calls - is mandatory.

☑You will be given a daily attendance and participation grade that will average into your final grade.

☑If an absence from the class is "excused", the student will not be penalized for missing that class, unless it affects their over all understanding of the material covered during the semester. Therefore, they must make up the work assigned for the day they missed and they must be prepared to participate fully in class exercises or performances upon the day of their return.

☑Make-ups will be given for excused absences only. If you are absent during a group performance or presentation, you will not be allowed to make up this assignment. In this case, the other members of the group will be given an amended list of guidelines for completing the project without you. If you have an excused absence on the day of a group performance or presentation, then, arrangements may be made for the group to perform at a later date.

☑All excused absences require official documentation from the student (doctor type stuff) ☑notes, notification from the athletic dept or other university organizations).

The following will be counted as excused absences ; ☐University functions, including participation in sporting events, teams clubs academic functions, scholarly conferences) ☐Illness that is documented by a doctor's note.

☐Death or serious illness in the immediate family.

☐The observance of religious holy days - you must notate in writing the dates and names of any religious holy days that you must observe during the course of the semester and hand it into the instructor no later than two weeks before the date in question.

CLASS ROOM CONDUCT:

- Students must follow the university standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in the Golden Rule. Students are apprised when they are accepted at the university that they must be aware of and follow these policies of conduct. See <http://ucf.edu./goldenrule/> for details.
- Students are expected to behave in a courteous, respectful, and responsible manner at all times in order to maintain a productive learning environment in the classroom. Disruptive behavior in any form will not be tolerated and may be cause for dismissal from the class, removal from the course, or grade penalties. Pagers, cell phones, electronic devices of any kind, excessive talking, tardiness, leaving early, reading the newspaper, sleeping, or confrontational behavior will not be allowed in class. After three disruptive incidents, the instructor may reduce the final grade by one percentage point for each successive incident

COURSE EVALUATION:

Grade Scale (or, percentage equivalent):

A = 1,000-940

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

F = 599-0

Grading

All work will be based on a 100 pt grading scale. Major Assignments will count as two letter grades (200) 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 when rehearsing with partners outside of the scheduled class time ☒Professionalism (including attitude toward criticism, respect for fellow classmates, and respect for the process)

☒Demonstration of active application of the work covered in class ☒Your first unexcused absence will lower your final-grade. Your third unexcused absence may result in a failure of the course. Missing class for participating in a show is not a valid excuse.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Projects and exam dates will be announced in class. Students are responsible for seeing that the university e-mail system includes their own correct address.

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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

1. Counseling
2. Loss of credit for specific assignment, examination, or project
3. Removal from course with a grade of 'F'

Conduct Review Action- Taken by the Office of Student Conduct

1. Warning
2. Probation
3. Suspension
4. Expulsion
5. 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.

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.

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.

ELECTRONIC AND ANALOG DEVICES

No cell phone use is permitted. No texting devices are permitted. No digital or analog recordings are permitted. We will be covering a lot of copyright sensitive material. No audio recordings which require the use of ear jacks/buds are permitted. No computers are permitted. Use of brains is approved. Consider yourself a Luddite during this class.

NOTE: Use of these devices during testing will automatically be considered cheating.

US Service personnel and their families may receive release on a case by case basis.

A Poem for a Day That Follows or Proceeds a Holiday or Exam day (with respects and apologies to Dr. Seuss)

INTENTION:

I will not change or cancel class

I could not, would not, for a house.

I would not, could not, for a spouse.

I would not change them for a pox.

I would not change them for some lox.

I would not move them here or there.

I would not move them anywhere.

I would not change a scheduled class

I do not like to, so don 't be crass!

Please, do not ask. Please, do not book travel. Please, inform your families they may not schedule you on trips during these times. Please, inform your employers they may not schedule you. Please, feed your family vitamins so they may be healthy on these days. Experience has shown these dates are perilous for your loved ones. Please, have no religious conversions, magic spells, alien abductions, exorcisms, big foot attacks, or out of body experiences on these days. Due dates, class, exams, and projects will go on without you.

Advice for care and feeding of professors- Never say the following to any instructor. Biting may occur.

1. Did we do anything important last class?
2. Will we do anything important next class?

The following are powerful incantations that can drive a professor to the dark side.

1. Do not lobby a professor for higher grades that are unearned
2. Do not ask for answers to questions that may be found in a syllabus, UCF academic calendar, or have been answered in class more than three times.
3. These dark acts have been known to transform professors into various evil creatures like banshees, ghouls, Glenn Beck, and Charlie Sheen.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WITH YOUR SYLLABUS IN HAND. DO NOT EXPECT CLASS SCHEDULES, TESTS, OR DUE DATES TO SHIFT. WE WILL HOLD CLASS EVERY DAY WE ARE SCHEDULED- ESPECIALLY JUST BEFORE HOLIDAYS.

Schedule

CLASS TOPICS:

Week ONE (August 22, 2016)

Topic: Definitions in Action

Week TWO

Topic: Exercises

Week THREE

Topic: Introduction to Style in Motion

Week FOUR

Topic: Assignment of Scenes

Week FIVE

Topic: Scene 1 Prep

Week SIX

Topic: Scene 1 Prep

Week SEVEN

Topic: Performance Midterm

Week EIGHT

Topic: More Exercises

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE! (October 31, 2016)

You should eject by now if you KNOW you need to...

Week NINE

Topic: More Exercises & Cattle Calls

Week TEN

Topic: Scene 1 Prep

Week ELEVEN

Topic: Scene 1 Prep

Week TWELVE

Topic: Performance Evaluation

Week THIRTEEN

Topic: Work on Scene 2 Final

Week FOURTEEN

Topic: Work on Scene 2 Final

Week FIFTEEN

Topic: Work on Scene 2 Final

NO CLASS ON THESE DAYS

Labor Day 9/5

Veteran's Day 11/11

Maybe Football 10/7

Turkey Day 11/24-11/26

August 22nd- Class begins

Faculty Confirmation of Academic Activity August 22-26

Withdrawal Deadline

October 31st

Last Day of Class

December 4th

Study Day

December 5th

Final Week

December 6- December 12

(NOTE: While the Finals Day for this class will be announced in class multiple times, please note that you may look this up at anytime during the course of the semester, too. Here is the link...

<http://registrar.ucf.edu/exam/2016/fall>

Actually, this tool is handy for looking up all your class Finals.) Your Final is... Wednesday, December 09, 2016

10:00 AM – 12:50 PM

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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. Topics of sex and violence are inherently political historically. Expect to have questions raised that may raise your hackles. The professor is going to engage you as 'devils' advocate in ways intended to inform your personal choices for yourselves. Some views expressed will not even be the position of the instructor. This is NOT a high school-hand holding-standardized test kind of course.

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.

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