



SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Acting I – TPP 2110C-0003 (11422)

Acting I – TPP 2185-0003 (18784)

Class Location: PAC T0110

M/W/F 12:30PM – 1:20PM

Instructor: Cynthia White

CynthiaWhite@ucf.edu

CW Office: PAC T218

CW Office Hours: M&F 11:00AM –
12:00PM or by appointment

TA: Andy Hansen

Andrew.Steven.Hansen@knights.ucf.edu

TA Office Hours: by appointment

Course Syllabus

COURSE OVERVIEW

A basic introduction to the fundamentals of acting. The course will explore the physical, vocal, emotional and technical aspects of the actor's art, with an emphasis on developing imagination, self-awareness, and the ability to execute basic stage tasks. Course content will be primarily based upon sensory and physical exercises and activities. There will be readings, lectures, and discussions of the history of actor training and introduction to various theories and approaches to the development of acting technique.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

General Goals

We will attempt to reach: truthful communication with others, shared moments of experience, recognition that there are many choices and possible solutions available to an actor, and personal growth.

Specific goals:

- To acquire a basic understanding of acting, particularly action and believability
- To acquire an experiential understanding of physical and vocal exercises

- To diminish self-consciousness and enhance self-awareness, self-respect, and self-confidence
- To develop a respectful and cooperative ensemble approach to performance work
- To free and release some of the inhibitions that block our creativity and connection to others
- To understand the discipline and commitment required to become an actor

REQUIREMENTS

Text and Materials

- A Practical Handbook for the Actor (by Bruder, Cohn, Olnek, Pollack, Previto, Zigler; A Vintage Original, May 1986 First Edition)
- Students may be required to print and copy reading material and scene work
- A composition notebook (acting journal) present in all classes.

Attire

Students are required to wear attire that will not inhibit their movement. As we will be moving during the class, please consider form fitting athletic wear.

- Please be reasonable with the clothing.
 - Anything that is too loose or too tight as to cause distraction or injury is not appropriate for the class.
 - Shoes such as high heels, boots, or other impractical footwear are not advised.
- If a student arrives at class in attire that inhibits their ability to participate in the day's activities, they will be given an absence.

Note

- This class will be mentally and physically demanding. Additionally, you will be called upon to be in close physical proximity to the instructor and the other students in the class. *If these demands are of concern, please speak with the professor regarding your success in the course.*

POLICIES

Attendance is mandatory and will be strictly monitored.

- Perfect attendance is assumed.
- A third unexcused absence will result in the dropping of a full letter grade.
- Four absences will result in your dismissal from the class.
- Lateness is disrespectful. It is not tolerated in the professional world nor in this class.
 - 3 lates = 1 absence
- If you are unavoidably detained, enter quietly and offer the class an apology at your first opportunity.
- NEVER enter during a presentation; wait until it's completed.
- Guests will not be permitted in class (without prior consent of the instructor and the class.)
- The following will be counted as excused absences with no penalty:
 - Authorized UCF functions, including participation in sporting events, academic functions, scholarly conferences, etc.
 - Illness that is documented by doctor's note or prescription.
 - Death or serious illness in the immediate family.

- The observance of religious holy days – you must submit in writing the dates and names of any religious holy days you must observe during the course of the semester and hand it into the instructor no later than Wednesday, January 18.
- ... ALL MUST BE DOCUMENTED within one week after returning to class. No late documentation will be accepted.
- All missed class work (excused or otherwise) must be made-up within two weeks of return.

Technology

The use of phones and other handheld electronic devices in class is forbidden unless requested by the professor.

- Any interruption caused by your cell phone, or other non-approved electronic device, will result in your removal from that day's activities and a forfeiture of all points associated with that day.
- Notes need to be taken on paper *not on your device*. Your journal is a paper composition book *not electronic*.
- If you have questions, please ASK THE PROFESSOR!

Academic Integrity

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow:

- University's Rules of Conduct (<http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>)
- The Golden Rule (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>).
- **Cheating of any kind will result in the suggestion of failure for the semester**
- Make sure you understand your professor's guidelines about working with other students on assignments, receiving assistance from other students on assignments, citing sources, and using notes or exams from previous classes. If in doubt – ASK YOUR PROFESSOR!

University-Wide Academic Participation Verification

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity, Acting For Non-Majors Verification Quiz, by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, **but no later than January 13 at 5PM**. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons 185, phone (407) 823- 2371, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Notes About Syllabus

- This syllabus may be modified by the course instructor.
- Notice of such changes will be made by announcement in class or by email notice.
- Any handouts provided to the student with guidelines for written or performance projects are to be considered part of the syllabus. In addition, verbal or written changes to the syllabus as announced during class, a lesson or via electronic means, are the responsibility of the student.

GRADING CRITERIA

- 1 Monologue and 2 Scenes = 60% of your grade
- Attendance at UCF Performances and Written Critiques = 15% of grade
- Tests and Journaling and Discussion Leaders = 15% of grade
- Class Attendance and Participation = 10% of grade
- This class will observe the plus and minus grade system. Realize that C is considered to be a failing grade for a BFA student.
- A = 100–94.0% A- = 93.9–90.0%
- B+ = 89.9–87.0% B = 86.9–84.0% B- = 83.9–80.0%
- C+ = 79.9–77.0% C = 76.9–74.0% C- = 73.9–70.0%
- D+ = 69.9–67.0% D = 66.9–64.0% D- = 63.9–60.0%
- F = 59.9–0%
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ASSIGNMENTS

Participation: (10% of grade) Students are expected to participate in every class. This includes class discussion and all exercises and activities. Participation also includes being fully prepared for class (memorized, rehearsed, homework done, dressed appropriately, and with necessary supplies including scripts).

Attendance at UCF Production and Written Critiques: (15% of grade) Students will be required to write a 3- to 4-page double-spaced response evaluation to a production at UCF. This should not be a review, but rather a critical response to the performance. Papers are due Friday after a production closes. This assignment will be graded for its cohesiveness, accuracy, and insights. Assignment will be described in greater detail in Assignments in Web Courses.

Monologue and Two Scenes: (60% of grade) Your work on the monologue unit and the two scene units (including the accompanying paper work that is due in addition to the performance of each piece) will amount to 60% of your semester grade.

Tests and Journaling and Leading one Discussion on the Reading Assignments: (15% of grade)

JOURNAL ENTRIES:

- A journal entry is a paragraph or two of your writing. You should be able to write it in a focused fifteen minutes. You should “compose” it and not write it on the fly. Put one journal entry per

page in your journal book.

- You are expected to use a composition notebook that is dedicated to chronological journal entries that are hand-written and legible. Some journal entries are listed in the class schedule, others will be assigned during the semester. Also, you are expected to write a journal entry about each of your outside-of-class rehearsals with your scene partner. Be sure that at a minimum, you are writing one journal entry per week.
- These entries are to be a place where you write down specific goals and objectives for rehearsals, where you note issues or concerns that arose in rehearsal, and discoveries you made about the scene/character or acting in general. You are expected to keep your journals up-to-date and to bring them to every class. Journals will be collected and reviewed by instructor a couple of times during the semester.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS:

- 1/3 of the class will be assigned to be “discussion leaders” on each book section. Discussion leaders will need to meet outside of class to collectively plan the discussion of this section of the book. You will collectively submit ONE outline of your game plan for the discussion that includes key points that you will cover. You will have forty minutes for this discussion and it should include some exercises to demonstrate major concepts in the material that is being covered.
- There will be an in-class quiz on each section of the book.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Activities	Quizzes and/or Assignments Due at Beginning of that day’s class
Week 1	WEEK ONE	
Mon 1/9	Syllabus, Class Overview, Introductions, Acting Exercise	
Wed 1/11	Assign First Monologues. Physical and Vocal Warm-ups Talking and Listening Exercise	#1 Journal Entry: Self-observation from parts 1 and 2 of acting exercise
Fri 1/13	Discuss first two-person scenes in American play —pick scene partners and find play for two of you by 1/20 (ONE WEEK FROM TODAY)	#2 Journal Entry: Initial thoughts on monologue
Week 2	WEEK TWO	
Mon 1/16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO CLASS	
Wed 1/18	Day One Monologues: (A) Work with Partner (B) to find ACTION (1 sentence) of your monologue	Begin reading #1 Pages 3–39

Fri 1/20	Day Two Monologues: (B) Work with Partner (A) to find ACTION (1 sentence of your monologue	#3 Journal Entry: ACTION in your or your partner's monologue
Week 3	WEEK THREE	
Mon 1/23	Discuss Actions/Objectives and Beats and how to apply it to Monologues; Submit Scene Ideas with Scene Partner	#4 Journal Entry: ACTION in your or your partner's monologue #5 Journal Entry: List of scenes/characters you and scene partner are considering and rationale for scene choice; SUBMIT scene idea with partner: copy of scene with legible description of this scene and why you are selecting it; your names, Act and Scene of Play and Author
Wed 1/25	Day Three Monologues: ALL MONOLOGUES MEMORIZED. WORK EXERCISES WITH MONOLOGUES IN CLASS.	Monologues Memorized
Fri 1/27	Day Four Monologues: ALL MONOLOGUES STILL MEMORIZED! Work more exercises with monologues in class.	DUE: Submit monologue with 1 sentence action; beats noted and described on additional sheet of paper. (for grade)
Week 4	WEEK FOUR	
Mon 1/30	BOOK DISCUSSION Pages 3–39	*Discussion Leaders* ready with outline and to lead discussion of pages 3–39
Wed 2/1	Present ½ of monologues; group discussion and critique of monologues	Monologues graded.
Fri 2/3	Present ½ of monologues; group discussion and critique of monologues	Monologues graded.
Week 5	WEEK FIVE	
Mon 2/6	QUIZ IN CLASS ON BOOK Reading #1	
Wed 2/8	SCENE WORK IN CLASS. EXERCISE ORIENTED.	Begin Reading # 2 pages 40-66 (Review terms Objectives, Obstacles, Verbs, First Moment)
Fri 2/10	SCENE WORK IN CLASS. EXERCISE ORIENTED.	By this time, you should have rehearsed scene 1 for at least 1 hour outside of class.
Week 6	WEEK SIX	

Mon 2/13		By this time you need to have memorized your scene.
Wed 2/15	BOOK DISCUSSION pages 40–66	*Discussion Leaders* ready with outline and to lead discussion of pages 40–66
Fri 2/17	Scene 1 Round 1 Presentation	
Week 7	WEEK SEVEN	
Mon 2/20	Scene 1 Round 1 Presentation	
Wed 2/22	Scene 1 Round 1 Presentation	
Fri 2/24	Scene 1 Round 1 Presentation	
Week 8	WEEK EIGHT	
Mon 2/27		
Wed 3/1	QUIZ IN CLASS ON BOOK Reading #2	
Fri 3/3	Scene 1 Round 2 Presentation	Begin Reading # 2 pages 69–86
Week 9	WEEK NINE	
Mon 3/6	Scene 1 Round 2 Presentation	
Wed 3/8	Scene 1 Round 2 Presentation	
Fri 3/10	Scene 1 Round 2 Presentation	
3/13- 17	SPRING BREAK	
Week 10	WEEK TEN	
Mon 3/20		
Wed 3/22		
Fri 3/24	BOOK DISCUSSION Pages 69–86	*Discussion Leaders* ready with outline and to lead discussion of pages 69–86
Week 11	WEEK ELEVEN	

Mon 3/27		
Wed 3/29		
Fri 3/31	QUIZ IN CLASS ON BOOK Reading #3	
Week 12	WEEK TWELVE	
Mon 4/3		
Wed 4/5		
Fri 4/7	Scene 2 First Presentation	
Week 13	WEEK THIRTEEN	
Mon 4/10	Scene 2 First Presentation	
Wed 4/12	Scene 2 First Presentation	
Fri 4/14	Scene 2 First Presentation	
Week 14	WEEK FOURTEEN	
Mon 4/17	Scene 2 Second Presentation	
Wed 4/19	Scene 2 Second Presentation	
Fri 4/21	Scene 2 Second Presentation	
Week 15	WEEK FIFTEEN	
Mon 4/24	Scene 2 Second Presentation—Last Day of Class	
	Final Friday April 28, 2017: 10am–12:50pm	Final Performance and Discussion