

# Acting IV – Creating The Role - TPP 4140C

Class Location: T 115 (Studio 3)

MF 2:30PM - 4:20PM

Instructor: David Reed

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PAC T219, 407-823-2397

Office Hours: T&R 11:30AM - 3:30PM

Or by appointment



## Course Syllabus

### COURSE OVERVIEW

To create, explore, and continue to define the acting process, with a focus on character work. This class will help foster each student's understanding and execution of the actor's work. At its core, it is a two-fold process: helping the student find their 'authentic self' and giving them the courage to stand up and show it to the world. The other half is instilling in them the tools and work ethic it takes to be successful.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

#### **REVIEW, REMEMBER, and RE-VISIT:**

- Connection with your partner: see and hear clearly; "say what you see and mean what you say."
- Playing the action: Acting is the reality of doing.
- Being truthful: believe fully in your given circumstances w/o comment or judgment.
- Additionally:
  - Open your instrument.
  - Expand and heighten your acting choices
  - Appreciate language as a crucial element of character
  - Embrace the sense of play during rehearsals - TRY NEW THINGS!
  - Continue to be aware of habits and free from unnecessary physical tension

### REQUIREMENTS

#### Text

Students may be required to print and copy reading material and scene work

#### Attire

Students are required to wear attire that will not inhibit their movement. Please wear comfortable rehearsal clothes to class. Because some of the exercises require you to lie on the floor, please wear clothes you might not mind getting dirty. Please do not wear shoes with high heels, cowboy boots, engineer boots, clogs, sandals, or ballet shoes. For scene work, though costumes are not needed, please dress appropriately for the scene and character.

## 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.
- Three absence will result in the dropping of a full letter grade. Five 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 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, August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ... 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.

### 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 the day's activities and a forfeiture of all points associated with that day. 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, 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 August 30. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

### Accessibility 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 Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons 185, phone (407) 823-2371, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

### 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

- 1000 point scale
- 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 = 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    |

### ASSIGNMENTS

- Presentations
    - 3 Scene Presentations (100 points each) 300
    - Written Self Eval (100 points each) 300
  - Attendance at UCF Performance and Written Response Evaluation 200
  - Classroom Attendance and Participation 200
- Total 1000 pts**

**Participation: (200 points)** 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: (200 total)** Students will be required to write a 5-6 page 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 insight.

|                                      |            |                   |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| <i>Iphigenia and Other Daughters</i> | Black Box  | September 14 – 24 |
| <i>Of Thee I Sing</i>                | Main Stage | October 12 – 22   |
| <i>An Octoroon</i>                   | Black Box  | November 9-19     |

**Performances: (100 points each):** Performances of scene work as discussed within the semester.

**Written Self Evaluation: (100 points each).** Students will track their progress from the selection of the scene through the final performance and feed back session.

**Why are you picking this? I need to see the Need!!!**

**Scene 1 – Contemp (no more than 5 years old) Push away from straight realism**

**Scene 2 – Caryl Churchill, Maria Irene Fornes**

**Scene 3 – Theatre of the Absurd (Ionesco, Genet, Beckett)**

## CLASS SCHEDULE

| Date     | Activities  | Quizzes and/or Assignments Due  |
|----------|---|---|
| Mon 8/21 | <b>No Class – Return From Italy</b>                                     | <b>No Class – Return From Italy</b>                                   |
| Fri 8/25 | Syllabus, Class Overview, Review<br>Read play                           | Find Scenes<br>Find All partners throughout year                      |
| Mon 8/28 | Ball and Contact Improv, Listening to your partner, Grounding exercises |   |
| Fri 9/1  | Ball and Contact Improv, Listening to your partner, Grounding exercises | Table work with partner for group one takes place during office hours |
| Mon 9/4  | <b>No class – Labor Day</b>   | <b>No class – Labor Day</b>   |
| Fri 9/8  | Biomechanics  | Table work with partner for group one takes place during office hours |
| Mon 9/11 | Scene work round 1 (1-3)  |   |
| Fri 9/15 | Scene work round 1 (4-6)  |   |
| Mon 9/18 | Scene work round 1 (7-8)  |   |

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Fri 9/22     | Final Showing   | Table work with partner for group two takes place during office hours   |
| Mon 9/25     | Notes   | Table work with partner for group two takes place during office hours   |
| Fri 9/29     | Lecture - Viewpoints/Feldenkrias/Commedia/Alexander/Other MVT                     |   |
| Mon 10/2     | Scene work round 1 (1-3)  |   |
| Fri 10/6     | Scene work round 1 (4-6)  |   |
| Mon 10/9     | Scene work round 1 (7-8)<br>Round 2 Group 1                                       |   |
| Fri 10/13    | Scene work Round 2 Groups 2-5   |   |
| Mon 10/16    | Scene work Round 2 Groups 6-8   |   |
| Fri 10/20    | First Showing<br><b>Notes available during Office Hours</b>                       |   |
| Mon 10/23    | Final Showing - Notes   |   |
| Fri 10/27    | Finish Notes<br>Lecture   | Table work with partner for group three takes place during office hours |
| Mon 10/30    | Scene 3 Group 1 -3 Round 1  | Table work with partner for group three takes place during office hours |
| Fri 11/3     | Scene 3 Group 4 – 6 Round 1   |   |
| Mon 11/6     | Scene 3 Group 7 – 8 Round 1<br>Round 2 Group 1                                    |   |
| Fri 11/10    | <b>No Class</b>   | <b>No Class</b>   |
| Mon 11/13    | Group 2-5 round 2   |   |
| Fri 11/17    | Group 6-8 round 2 – May meet outside for Round 2<br>(Travel day Guest Instructor) |   |
| Mon 11/20    | (Guest Instructor Available)  |   |
| Fri 11/24    | <b>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</b>  | <b>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</b>                                    |
| Mon 11/27    | All call work day and notes   |   |
| Fri 12/1     | First Showing<br><b>Notes available during Office Hours</b>                       |   |
| <b>Final</b> | <b>Friday, December 08</b>  | <b>1:00 PM – 3:50 PM</b>  |