

TPP3103-20Spring 0001

Intermediate Acting
TPP 3103-01
Section 01.

TuTh 8:00AM - 9:15AM

Professor: John Wayne Shafer
Office: PAC T-217
Class: PAC 107
Phone: 407-823-0871
PM

Fall 2020

Core Office Hours: T,R 9:15 AM- 10:15 AM, MWF 10:00-12:00

Or by appointment

e-mail:
john.shafer2@ucf.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an acting class designed for the inclusion of professional stage managers. As members of the AEA, stage managers are active, creative performers. This course will aid all students in achieving more comfort and understanding of the performance process. This course will provide insight to the shared journey behind theatrical success while cultivating personal skills useful to the achievement of personal career goals. Together, we will explore performance in different spaces, experiment with elevated language, learn new tools for the expansion of character range/flexibility, and try auditioning for differing purposes.

Class time will consist of a mix of lecture, performance evaluations, discussion, monologues, & scene work. Students may expect announced tests. Students are expected to have read/prepare all assigned material in a timely fashion. Students should be prepared to participate in class discussion and activities. At all times, students should be prepared to answer the following question: What relevance does this work have for my interaction with fellow theatre artists today and tomorrow?

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 Hogwarts' 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.
3. You are required to participate in class exercises. Exceptions for physical injuries are valid if discussed in advance.
4. You are required to maintain a positive, rehearsal appropriate presence at all times. This is most especially true for exercises where the 'point' is not immediately clear to the actor. Experience has shown that these are often precisely the drills that reveal the most to a young actor.

Recommend Reading:

Zen in the Art of Archery by Eugen Herrigel
Letters to a Young Poet by Rilke

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. Points will be deducted for failure to participate, take direction, lack of full commitment, or bringing negativity to the rehearsal space. Trying with full, unreserved effort is the standard required.
- *If an absence from the class is "excused", the student will not be penalized for missing that class, unless it affects their overall 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 (When possible) 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.

Instruction and Content:

Plays are not written about comfortable moments. Characters are often moving through traumatic and uncomfortable experiences. Actors must often move through the uncomfortable to become a stronger artist. Risk, flexibility, vulnerability, and courage are traits that help you become a stronger actor that will be able to deliver the

given circumstances in the play. Imagining ourselves living through our dramatic character's circumstances is inherently uncomfortable, i.e. Stanislavski's "magic if." (Think of the action in your favorite plays and films).

- There are plays and materials which may express adult or controversial themes in addition to strong language.
- You must inform the instructor during the first week of class if you have any physical challenges or otherwise that might impede your full participation and development of in class work. No need to go into details, just basic information to help the instructor understand your parameters and to set you up for success in the class.

In the workshop I took last semester with Theatrical Intimacy Education founder, Laura Rikard, she said that risking ourselves in a new acting exercise can sometimes be inherently uncomfortable. This does not mean it is a personal boundary. Our theatre work will be a 'safe space,' but in order to honor the given circumstances and life of the character, it must also be a 'brave space.' Her intimacy techniques help both faculty and students move through exercises needed in class to encourage courage and risk, while creating a way for you to voice any boundaries that may come up while you are working. First of all, she encourages students, when you first receive a scene to discuss material and to talk about areas that might be uncomfortable for you. But remember, something that is uncomfortable might not be a personal boundary. But, if you have just experienced a personal loss and you receive a scene while working with a partner, a personal boundary might be, "I have just experienced a personal loss." Again, no need to go into detail. That gives both the instructor and your partner information. Then you decide if you are ready to approach the scene or not.

One technique we will use is to employ the word "Button." If you hit a personal boundary, we are providing a safety outlet. Just say, "Button." This will inform the company that the actor may need to cease the activity. Button should not be abused or it loses its power for something like "I don't remember my line." It should be used for situations like when you have worked on a scene and created blocking that requires contact but you injured your shoulder the night before. You can say to your partner "I have a button with my left shoulder."

Physical contact does occur in acting class. Your instructor may spot you to keep you safe when engaging in stage combat, for example. Spotting occurs to facilitate a dancer, gymnast, circus performer, or actor when they attempt to execute a physical move. It helps keep them safe from injury. Your classmates may come into physical contact during movement exercises or scene work. If physical contact in a certain moment is a personal boundary, say, "Button." Everyone will do their best to adjust to your declaration of personal boundary. You will work with the instructor and your partner/s to develop physicality and/or physical contact that is comfortable for all parties involved and matches the given circumstances of the script.

Please, be patient with the efforts to accommodate. Since each instance is different and often unique to you, there is no one-size-fits-all response. Well-meaning efforts to

work through these kinds of moments can sometimes be clumsy. Breathe and work through it calmly. It's all right.

Obviously, the use of Button will not be a daily occurrence. Ask yourself, '*Am I uncomfortable? Or, is it a boundary?*' As an acting teacher, I hope you discover being uncomfortable and relaxing/exploring through it. This is the sweet spot where actors often grow the most. At the same time, I hope that you will not violate a harmful personal boundary.

Please, be aware that intimacy training is a new field, so as intimacy trainers deliver more workshops, more terminology is being practiced. Some members of the industry are not using, 'Button.' This may change. But, do not automatically expect this approach to be used, or, sometimes understood, outside this course.

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/Links to an external site>, for details.
- Students are expected to behave in a positive, 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, lack of engagement in exercises, or confrontational behavior will not be allowed in class.

Rehearsal Notes: It is imperative that we treat each other- and the work we do in class- with respect and open, positive energy. Growth in a rehearsal can be much more challenging if energy is negative and/or withdrawn. We must respect the positive environment of the ensemble. Respect includes: an energetic and positive working relationship that is collaborative and an environment that promotes focus on everyone's success. (This must occur even and especially when you may not 'see the point' of an exercise or 'don't see how it applies to me' or even if you 'disagree with the director's choices.' Actors are responsible for maintaining positive exploration for a rehearsal environment and for their own personal growth. Happiness in the work and positive energy is an artist's responsibility.) Daily class points will be impacted if this discipline fails to be employed during course activities. Remember, the ultimate goal is classroom success, respect and collaboration- just like the rehearsal environment and mounting of a play. Plus, the added advantage is that we all get to give ourselves permission to enjoy the work we do in preparation for collaboration and performance. It will make for a very enjoyable course.

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, willingness to try, 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.

A WORD ABOUT OUR WORK FOR THIS SEMESTER

Your course runs this semester from 1/6/2020 to 4/20/2020. (There is a **Finals** Period, too. Don't schedule anything during **Finals!** April 21-27)

Let's start by laying out the expectations for the class.

WARNING: SOME MATERIAL MAY CONTAIN ADULT CONTENT

The basic foundational content of the course that needs to be completed by you within to the course deadlines during the semester is pretty basic. **You will need to complete the following in a timely manner.**

1. Come to class on time
2. COMPLETE THE MONOLOGUE AND SCENE PREPARATION FROM ASSIGNED PLAYS
3. Complete the **In Class Exercises** as offered. (There were approximately 20 points bearing classes last semester)
4. Participate in class discussion
5. Participate in class activities
6. Remain respectful to everyone
7. Complete the **Final Exam**

See? Very simple.

The specific dates and numbers of **Assignments** are impossible to share at this time as they vary for each class. Why? Well, each class has its own personality. You are not robots. Why should your class be taught as if by- and for- a robot?

- This Instructor notes the needs of each individual class and will often adjust timing when it seems to benefit the entire group.
- This Instructor hates a boring class so he often re-writes and or creates new delivery designed improve the class.
- Occasionally, your Instructor deletes content or adds content to match the needs of each class
- During the three recent Semesters at UCF, we have needed to make adjustments for Hurricanes.

These things and others mean we will work and schedule specifically, from week-to-week. **You are expected to be positively active in this class every week.**

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.

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

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.

These dark acts have been known to transform professors into various evil creatures like banshees, ghouls, Shawn Hannity, and Charlie Sheen

The following will be counted as excused absences with compelling documentation;

***University functions, including participation in sporting events, teams clubs academic functions, scholarly conferences)**

***Illness that is documented by a doctor's note.**

***Death (do not try to convince me that you are dead- I probably won't buy it) 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 in advance. (Note- if you can prove you are a robot, I will also honor Robonica.) This class policy is slightly more lenient than the official University policy outlined below.**

US Service personnel and their families may receive release on a case by case basis. The Professor is very supportive of our servicemen and women and their families.

Schedule:

CLASS TOPICS:

Week ONE (January 6, 2020)

Topic: The Life Body

Week TWO

Topic: Exercises

Week THREE

Topic: Introduction to Style in Motion

Week FOUR

Topic: Discussion 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! (March 20, 2020)

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

Week NINE

Topic: Single Performer Asynchronous

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

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/DROP MODULES & QUIZZES EVERY DAY WE ARE SCHEDULED- ESPECIALLY JUST BEFORE HOLIDAYS.

CLASS TOPICS:

Week ONE 1/6/2020

Topic: Introduction to the Semester

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE! March 20th
Eject by now if you KNOW you need to...

Schedule

January 6 - Class begins

Faculty Confirmation of Academic Activity
January 6th-January 13th

NO CLASS ON THESE DAYS

Martin Luther King Day

[no-classes](#)**[Links to an external site.](#)**

Monday, January 20

Spring Break

[no-classes](#)**[Links to an external site.](#)**

March 9-14

Withdrawal Deadline
March 20th

Last Day of Class
April 20th

Final Week April 21- April 27

(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://exams.sdes.ucf.edu/2017/springLinks to an external site.>

Actually, this tool is handy for looking up all your class Finals.)

Your Final is...

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020
7:00 AM – 9:50 AM**

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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

4. Counseling

5. Loss of credit for specific assignment, examination, or project

6. Removal from course with a grade of 'F'

Conduct Review Action- Taken by the Office of Student Conduct

6. Warning

7. Probation

8. Suspension

9. Expulsion

10. 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.

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 in writing two weeks prior to the holiday.

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.

NEW SYLLABUS CONTENT:

Advice:

Professor Shafer's Syllabi have just recently included a safety section. Schools can no longer be considered Safe Zones. It is up to all of us to stay alert before things happen and to think through a strategy for when things do happen. I encourage you to look up UCF emergency procedures and campus safety advice. Simply be aware of your surroundings and familiar with actions to take in various types of emergencies. This will help keep you safe.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (Links to an external site.).
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (Links to an external site.) (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (Links to an external site.) and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert," fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video. [You CAN Survive an Active Shooter \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#) ([Links to an external site.](#))

Attendance Policy

It is the policy of the University to reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays. The student must provide proof of observation and the student will be held responsible for any material covered during the absence. If you know of any dates you will miss due to religious observance you must inform the instructor through email during the first week of classes.

Academic Honesty

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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](#)[Links to an external site.](#), Student

Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

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.