Course: THTRE 251 (Section 6733020) – 3 credits
Time: (A) 2:10-3:00 PM, M-W-F
(D) 10:00 – 10:50 AM, M-W-F

Room: Pearson 2140

Instructor: Matt Foss
Office: 2236 Pearson
Office Hours: TBA
Email: mfoss@iastate.edu (quickest and most efficient way to get in contact with me)

Course description:
An introduction to the vocabulary of the stage, the process of acting, improvisation, and ensemble work.

Assignments and Grading:

Daily Participation, Studio and Performance Work—70%

The material of the course is experiential in nature. Therefore, attending each class is fundamental to your success in this course in addition to a focused, curious and courageous participation in class activities. Attendance and class participation is worth ten points a day and these points cannot be made up. There is a strictly enforced attendance policy for this course. Arriving to class unprepared to work will result in the loss of daily points.

This class if focused on creating experiences that will help you to develop skills, awareness, methods and techniques for your theatrical work. As this is process orientated, you will be graded on the quality of your effort and engagement with the work, your discipline and courage in the course activities, and the progress you make throughout the semester. Since this is an acting class, participation and performance is a major component of the course. However, this isn’t the Oscars and competition is not helpful for the kind of foundational work we will be doing. Evaluations of your performances will be based on your individual effort, progress and achievement throughout the process and your ability to apply our studio work into performance. The majority of our effort will be focused on the foundational skills in developing a system of acting. The remaining time will be given to an introduction to audition skills and applying what you have learned to the necessary evil of monologues.
Play Attendance and Responses—30%

Seeing other actors work is an important habit and a valuable learning opportunity for actors at any level—beginning or professional. For the purposes of this class, you will be required to see all plays, as per the syllabus, and write a play response, to be handed in, for each. For all plays, you must hand in a program signed by the house manager, with your ticket stub stapled on the front cover on the day assigned in the syllabus. For information about ushering to see the plays for free, stop by the Theatre Office in Pearson Hall.

Classroom Policies:

Decorum: Students in this class will feel safe to succeed and fail. Any behavior or action that acts contrary to that safety will result in that individual being asked to leave the class.

Attendance: Attendance and promptness are a requirement for all theatre classes. The collaborative nature of theatre requires commitment of all individuals to the group. Punctuality is also key to the health of your career in the professional theatre. Attendance is taken for every class. You are allowed three absences without penalty (Two tardies are equivalent to one absence). Every absence after the third will result in an automatic reduction of one letter grade for the class. Six total absences will result with you being asked to drop the course.

All assignments will be turned in on time. Assignments received late will have grades lowered by one half grade for each class session past due date.

Cell Phones: All phones are to be turned off. Failure to comply will result in loss of Class Participation points. If the problem persist, you will be asked to leave the class for that day and counted absent.

Dress: Unless specified, please wear clothes and shoes that you can actively move and work in: tee-shirts, sweats or workout pants and appropriate shoes. Skirts, dress shoes and any clothes that will limit your ability to participate in the work will result in the loss of Class Participation points.

Academic Integrity: All work should be your own. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of the assignment to dismissal from the university. Acknowledge all sources in your writing.