Class Description

This course is an introduction to fundamental acting techniques. This course will emphasize developing the actor’s instrument, introducing the student to the fundamentals of acting and making the student a more informed observer of the acting experience. Through exercises, improvisation, monologue, and scene work students develop the important skills of concentration, listening, physicalization, and spontaneity.

Course Objectives

• engage in relaxation exercises to eradicate “stage fright”
• learn body control and vocal projection techniques
• participate in improvisation exercises
• learn theatre vocabulary
• read and analyze scenes, monologues, and plays
• practice line memorization
• rehearse with scene partners outside of class
• receive and give constructive criticisms
• attain self-awareness and confidence

Class Conduct

Class must begin promptly! Due to the participatory nature of this class continual tardiness will result in the lowering of your grade. It is always a good idea to arrive at least 5 minutes early to prepare for class.

Cell phones will be silenced prior to entering class!

No food, gum, drinks will be allowed in class. Bottled water in a closed container is allowed.

Participation and collaboration are expected, and will factor in the final grade for the course. Participation means that you are prepared to have fun with and volunteer for games, exercises and improvisation each class meeting. Your participation also includes asking and responding to questions related to class work, and taking initiative in your work progress. Collaboration means that you will work with your assigned groups by being generous with ideas, skills and talents. You will respect the time and effort of others in your group by being prompt and prepared for rehearsals scheduled outside of class.

Attendance Policy

This is a participation course. You learn by being present in class at every scheduled class period. If you miss a class you miss everything that happened on that day. I do not repeat classes and I will not play catch up. I do not accept Doctor’s notes or any other form of excuse for absences except for official university field trips or obligations. You must hand in an official university excuse form on university letterhead signed by the advisor of that field trip or event.
Attendance at scheduled out of class rehearsals will also factor into your grade for this course. In other words: Don’t blow off your scene partner!!! I will hear about it!

**For every class period that you are not present and actively participating your grade will be marked down.**

**Response Papers**

Students will be required to attend all *three* of the productions listed at the bottom of this syllabus, and write a response paper for each of the productions. Papers are to be typed, 2 pages in length, and will be due the next class period following closing night. You may also email me your paper, (I prefer this method) same rules apply to emailed papers. I will reply that I have received your submission. Your paper is to focus on the *acting* of the production, not the sets, lights or costumes. If your paper has obviously altered font size or margins you will be asked to rewrite!

**Grading**

Rock Star = 100 points  
3 scenes = 100 points each  
1 monologue = 100 points  
Response papers = 50 points each

**Fall Semester Theatre Productions**

*The Seagull*  
Sep. 27 and 28, Oct. 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. Sep. 29 and Oct. 6 at 2 p.m.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*  
Nov. 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 and 10 at 2 p.m.

*Romeo and Juliet*  
Dec. 6, 7, 13, and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.

**Class Disclaimer**

In this class student will be exposed to adult themes and adult language. If any student cannot handle adult language or adult situations that might presented in classroom scenes or in the required plays you are encouraged to find an alternate class. This is not a class designed for those that are easily offended.