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

Proper clothing for working on in class exercises is essential. On days when movement is scheduled clothing that allows for flexibility and proper participation in the exercises must be worn. This includes proper footwear.

Class must begin promptly! Due too 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 play and have fun with 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!

If you are not in class 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
2 scenes = 100 points each
1 monologue = 100 points
Final performance = 100 points
Response papers = 50 points each

Fall Semester Theatre Productions

Noises Off: September 28, 29 October 5, 6 at 7:30pm and September 30 and October 7 at 2pm
Candide: November 1, 2 & 3 at 7:30pm and November 4 at 1pm
Alice in Wonderland: November 30 and December 1, 7 & 8 at 7:30pm and December 2 at 1pm and December 9 at 2pm
January
M9 Intro and Syllabus
W11 Intro to acting exercises
F13 Intro to acting exercises
M16 MLK Holiday no classes
W18 ACTF no class
F20 ACTF no class
M23 In class rehearsal of Rock Star
W25 In class rehearsal of Rock Star
F27 Rock Star
M30 Voice

February
W1 Voice
F3 Voice
M6 Movement
W8 Movement
F10 Movement

M13 Staging and characterization
   (scene 1 handed out)
W15 Scene 1 rehearsal
F17 Scene 1 rehearsal
M20 Scene 1 rehearsal
W22 Scene 1 rehearsal
F24 Scene 1 rehearsal
M27 Scene 1 dry run
W29 Scene 1 dry run

March
F2 Scene 1 performance
M5 Scene 1 performance
W7 Finding a monologue
F9 rehearse monologue
M12-16 Spring Break No Classes
M19 Rehearse monologue
W21 Dry run monologues
F23. Dry run monologues
M26 Monologue performance
W28 Monologue performance
   (scene 2 handed out)
F30 Scene 2 rehearsal

April
M2 Scene 2 rehearsal
W4 Scene 2 rehearsal
F6 Scene 2 rehearsal
M9 Scene 2 dry run
W11 Scene 2 dry run
F13P Scene 2 performance
M16 Scene 2 performance
   (Final scene handed out)
W18 rehearsal of final scene
F20 rehearsal of final scene
M23 rehearsal of final scene
W25 dry run of final scene
F27 dry run of final scene

Final Exam:
Section C: (10am) Thursday May 3 at 9:45
Section A: (11am) Wednesday May 2 at 9:45