Theatre 251: Acting 1    MWF 1:10-2:00    Pearson 2140
Instructor: Kelly Marie Schaefer    Office # 294-7627    email: kellyms@iastate.edu

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

Text
A Practical Handbook for the Actor by: Melissa Bruder, Lee Michael Cohn, Madeleine
Olnek, Nathaniel Pollack and Scott Zigler.

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 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 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**

Only 2 unexcused absences are allowed during this course. Additional unexcused absences beyond 2 will result in the lowering of your grade one half letter.

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!

**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. Do not turn in a paper that you have written for another theatre class. 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**

3 scenes = 100 points each
1 monologue = 100 points
Daily participation = 10 points each (440 points total available)
Final performance = 200 points
Response papers = 50 points each

**Fall Semester Theatre Productions**

Orpheus Descending - October 1,2,8,9 at 7:30 October 3 at 1pm October 10 at 2pm
The Arabian Nights – November 5,6,12,13 at 7:30 November 7,14 at 2pm
You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown – Dec 3,4,10,11 at 7:30 Dec 5 at 1pm Dec 12 at 2pm
Acting1 Schedule

August
M23 Intro and Syllabus
W25 Auditions / Monologues
F27 Monologue feedback for auditions
M30 Movement

September
W1 Movement
F3 Movement
M6 No Classes Labor Day
W8 Focus Exercises
F10 Focus Exercises
M13 Voice
W15 Voice
F17 Voice
M20 Open Scenes
W22 Open Scenes
F24 Analyzing a scene Assign scene #1
M27 In class work on scene #1
W29 In class work on scene #1

October
F1 In class work on scene#1
M4 Performance of Scene #1
W6 Performance of Scene #1
F8 Improvisation Games
M11 Stanislavski lecture
W13 Stanislavski exercises
F15 Stanislavski exercises
M18 Improvisation Games Assign Scene #2
W20 In class rehearsal of scene #2
F22 In class rehearsal of Scene #2
M25 In class rehearsal of Scene #2
W27 Performance of scene #2
F29 Performance of Scene#2 Assign Sc. #3
November
M1 In class rehearsal of scene #3
W3 In class rehearsal of scene #3
F5 In class rehearsal of scene #3
M8 Performance of scene #3
W10 Performance of scene #3
F12 Improvisation Games
M15 Monologue work Assign Monologue
W17 In class rehearsal of Monologue
F19 In class rehearsal of Monologue
M22-F26 No Classes Thanksgiving Break
M29 Performance of Monologues

December
W1 Performance of Monologues
F3 Discussion and assignment of final scene
M6 In class rehearsal of final scene
W8 In class rehearsal of final scene
F10 In class rehearsal of final scene

Final Exams:
Section C: Thursday Dec.16 12:00-2pm