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
August
M20 Intro and Syllabus
W22 Intro to acting exercises
F24 Intro to acting exercises
M27 Movement
W29 Movement
F31 Movement

September
M3 No Classes Labor Day
W5 in class rehearsal of rock star
F7 Rock Star
M10 Voice
W12 Voice
F14 Voice
M17 Staging/Characterization and Rehearsal techniques
W19 rehearsal Scene 1
F21 rehearsal Scene 1
M24 rehearsal Scene 1
W26 rehearsal Scene 1
F28 rehearsal Scene 1

October
M1 rehearsal scene 1
W3 dry run scene 1
F5 dry run scene 1
M8 performance scene 1
W10 Performance scene 1
F12 Monologue info
M15 rehearse monologue
W17 rehearse monologue
F19 rehearse monologue
M22 rehearse monologue
W24 Monologue Performance
F26 Monologue Performance
M29 Scene 2 rehearsal
W31 Scene 2 rehearsal

November
F2 Scene 2 rehearsal
M5 Scene 2 rehearsal
W7 Scene 2 rehearsal
F9 Dry Run Scene 2
M12 Dry Run Scene 2
W14 Performance Scene 2
F16 Performance Scene 2
M19-F 23 Thanksgiving Break
M26 rehearsal of final scene
W28 rehearsal of final scene
F30 rehearsal of final scene

December
M3 rehearsal of final scene
W5 rehearsal of final scene
F7 Dry Run of final scene

Final Exam:
Section B (MWF class) Thursday
December 13 at 9:45AM
Section C (TR class) Wednesday
December 12 at 9:45
August
T21 Intro and Syllabus
R23 Intro to acting exercises
T28 Movement
R30 Movement

Final Exam:
Section C (TR class) Wednesday
December 12 at 9:45AM

September
T4 In Class rehearsal of Rock Star
R6 Rock Star
T11 Voice
R13 Voice
T18 Staging/ Characterization/
Rehearsal Techniques
R20 rehearsal Scene 1
T25 rehearsal Scene 1
R27 rehearsal Scene 1

October
T2 Dry Run Scene 1
R4 Perform Scene 1
T16 Performance Scene 1
R18 rehearse monologues
T23 rehearse monologues
R25 dry run monologues
T30 perform monologues

November
R1 rehearse scene2
T6 rehearse scene 2
R8 rehearse scene 2
T13 dry run scene 2
R15 perform scene 2 (hand out final
scenes)
M-F 19-23 Thanksgiving Break
T27 rehearse final scene
R29 rehearse final scene

December
T4 rehearse final scene
R6 dry run final scene