Syllabus
Acting II-THTRE 351
Iowa State University
Spring 2011

Course: THTRE 351 (3 credits)
Time: (Sec. 3) 12:10-1:00 PM M-W-F (Sec. 2) 1:10-2:00 PM 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:
Continued development of actor craft with the addition of text and scene work.

Course Objectives

- To apply the lessons of spontaneity, play and imagination learned in Acting 1 to texts and scenes.
- Continue to develop a strong sense of play as both an individual and ensemble.
- To use improvisations of given circumstances to develop rich, resonant and truthful scenes through the use of Chekhov’s texts.

Required Texts:

ISBN: 978-006092875

Assignments and Grading:

Daily Participation and Attendance—50%

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 points cannot be made up.**

The collaborative nature of theatre requires commitment of all individuals to the group. Punctuality is also extremely important to the health of a career in the professional theatre. This is an ensemble based course, and the majority of your points are accrued in 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. There is no extra credit available for this course.

There is a strictly enforced attendance policy for this course. Illness, emergencies, etc, will happen during the semester and this free week of absences should be used for those contingencies.

Additionally, all performances will be presented on the day assigned. Performances dates cannot be made up.

Arriving to class unprepared to work will also result in the loss of daily points.

Studio and Performance Work—25%

This class is 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. Despite the subjective nature of this form of evaluation, competition is not helpful for the 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.

Given Circumstances Assignments—25%

The first week of class a quiz will be given over Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov. A close understanding of this text is vital for your success and work in this course. This two-part quiz and any subsequent quiz during the course of the semester serve as ¼ of your grade.

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: Again, attendance and promptness are vital for all theatre classes. The collaborative nature of theatre requires commitment of all individuals to the group. You are allowed two 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. Attendance and class participation points cannot be made up.
Cell Phones: All phones are to be turned off. Failure to comply will result in loss of Class Participation points. If the problem persists, 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.

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