

Eastern Illinois University
Department of Theatre Arts
Fall Semester 2013

THA 2000— HANDS-ON THEATRE: PERFORMANCE
I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges! (2013-14 Season)

*Professor/
Director of
Show.*

Dr. Chris Mitchell

Office: 2347 Doudna Fine Arts Center ([map](#))
Hours: MW, 12:00 – 2:30 pm, or by appointment

Telephone: (217) 581-3451

E-mail: cjmitchell@eiu.edu

Facebook: Dr. Christopher J. Mitchell

Class Meets. Rehearsal schedule, performances, and additional meetings as negotiated with you, the cast member.

Texts. Script for the play, *I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges!*, that was issued to you.

Other Costs. None.

Prerequisites. None.

Overview. “Practical acting experience in faculty-supervised Theatre Arts Department Mainstage or Studio productions or for significant participation in departmental student productions.” (from *Eastern Illinois University 2013-2014 Undergraduate Catalog*)

In other words, you have opted to register for academic credit for your successful completion of the role in which you have been cast for the show, *I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges!*. The completion of this course is an integral part of the core requirements for the Theatre Arts major.

Requirements And Grading. The grading scheme is easy to follow for this class. Please note the individual point values for each numbered assignment below.

The course requirements are as follows:

1. **Strict adherence to proper professional behavior**, as spelled out in the “Actor Contract” issued to you on the first day of rehearsal. This component is worth **500 points**; you begin with this score and the points are yours to lose. You will lose points for violating the contract. Infractions are classified as **serious**, **significant**, and **minor**.

SERIOUS infractions are ones that gravely disrupt the flow and integrity of the rehearsal/performance process. These include:

- Missing an entire rehearsal for an unexcused reason (see “excused” vs. “unexcused,” below).
- Missing strike for an unexcused reason.
- Being so not prepared for an “off-book” rehearsal that the rehearsal is irretrievably disrupted.
- Attending a rehearsal impaired by an unexcused factor; prominently, intoxication.
- Deliberately creating a safety hazard for yourself or the other members of the show. (If you are unclear on safety regulations, ask.)
- Chronically showing disrespect to production personnel in authority (the director, stage manager, dramaturg, and designers) or to your fellow actors in the show.

A **serious** infraction will cause you to lose 50 points from your score here. Please note in the grand scheme of things, this is **half a letter grade**. (See calculation below.)

SIGNIFICANT infractions are ones that reflect considerably less-than-professional behavior, and interfere with the flow and integrity of the rehearsal/performance process. These include:

- Not accurately reporting a conflict to the stage manager to the best of your knowledge.
- Reporting a conflict during the rehearsal process for an unexcused reason.
- Missing a costume appointment for an unexcused reason and without notifying the costume designer or shop supervisor, as appropriate.
- Going into rehearsals chronically not properly warmed up.
- Being late for an established call time during tech week for an unexcused reason.
- Chronically failing to take notes in your script from directions given you by the director.
- Not reporting contagious personal illnesses to the stage manager that could affect the cast.

A **significant** infraction will cause you to lose 35 points from your score here.

MINOR infractions create a distraction or interrupt (but not irretrievably) the flow and integrity of the show. These still reflect unprofessional behavior and include:

- Being late to a rehearsal for an unexcused reason.

- Forgetting your script and/or something to write with to an “on-book” rehearsal for an unexcused reason.
- Committing a minor breach of rehearsal decorum in a single rehearsal after being warned by the director or stage manager. This prominently means having distractingly loud conversations offstage, as well as not being near the rehearsal area when offstage unless given permission to be away.

A **minor** infraction will cause you to lose 20 points from your score here.

A word on **excused** versus **unexcused** reasons appearing in the language above: In a nutshell, an **excused** reason results from something reasonably beyond your control, such as an accident, illness, or family emergency. This also includes academic commitments that ran unanticipatedly over the scheduled time, as well as reported conflicts that unanticipatedly ran over the scheduled time. (You are still responsible for communicating with the stage manager as soon as humanly possible, though.) Otherwise, it’s an **unexcused** reason. Please note that Greek life, RSO Activity, and sudden social engagements will in most cases NOT qualify as excused reasons, unless it is sanctioned as an official University event and your attendance is required.

2. **Evidence of taking direction well and incorporating this into your development as an actor. Evidencing growth as an actor as a result.** Your professor/director is there to help you in your process of growth as an artist. While you will be given considerable input into the process (as is inherent in all rehearsal processes), it is paramount that you diligently follow the instructions and suggestions given to you by your director, to the best of your ability. As such, you will be rated to this regard— up to **500 points** possible. Your score here can be interpreted as follows:

450 – 500: You evidenced a clear and consistent openness to process and development, and thus were a joy to direct. You remained physically, mentally, and emotionally engaged throughout the production.

400 – 449: You were mostly open to process, though perhaps there might have been moments in which you were distant or disengaged. Nevertheless, it was clear that you applied yourself to the end of improving yourself as an actor, and you were an asset to the show.

350 – 399: You were generally easy to work with, though somewhat resistant to process. Scores in this range

often reflect ego getting in the way, or unwillingness to reflectively listen to the director.

300 – 349: You were somewhat difficult to work with. You were significantly less than willing to change preconceived ideas, and/or generally resistant to process. Often “not with us” even though you were physically present.

Below 300: You were difficult to work with— meaning unwilling to take direction and/or be open to process. You evidenced a rehearsal ethic that would give a director serious pause in deciding to cast you again if the behavior were not corrected.

Your director/professor will give you feedback as often as possible to this regard. If even in doubt about your “directability” as evidenced during the rehearsal process, ask! (One important note to this regard: if you are given a direction that conflicts with your religious or ethical beliefs, it is important to communicate this to the director discreetly and in a timely fashion off-rehearsal so that a reasonable accommodation can be made.)

So, in sum, it breaks down like this:

Adherence to professional behavior	=	500 possible
Taking direction / development as actor	=	500 possible

TOTAL	=	1000 possible

Your final score will correspond to the following final letter grade:

- A = final score 900 – 1,000 points
- B = final score 800 – 899 points
- C = final score 700 – 799 points
- D = final score 600 – 699 points
- F = final score less than 600 points

Extra Credit. There are no extra credit opportunities for this course.

Disabilities. Should you require any special accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact the office of disability services at 581-6583 as soon as possible. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to give me a copy of the “Academic Accommodations” statement no later than August 30.

***THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROFESSOR.***