

BASIC ACTING
THA 2244-001
MWF 11-12:40
1080 Doudna
Spring 2014

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Office Hours: M 1-2:30, T 10-12, W 9:00-10:30 or by arrangement

Purpose of the Course:

This course is a beginning acting class. Basic skills and concepts of acting will be explored, along with the actor's internal (psychological-emotional) resources through exercises, theatre games, discussions, and performance projects. Open only to theatre majors and minors.

Texts:

Acting is Believing By McGaw, Stilson, & Clark

Course Requirements:

1. Monologues and Scenes: Students will be expected to perform two, memorized monologues and three scenes this semester. Expectations and requirements will be discussed at a later date.
2. Analysis: A complete, typed character analysis will be due the days you perform your scenes. **NO LATE OR HANDWRITTEN PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**
3. Open scenes and 2 minute project: A variety of open scene projects and a two minute project will be due at various points in the semester.
4. Film projects: This semester we will be pairing up with the Communication Studies Department and do two projects with them. Specific information will be provided at a later date.
5. Play reviews: Students are expected to attend all departmental productions and write a two page review of the show. A specific focus on acting should be addressed in your paper.
6. Participation: This class is completely dependent on individual participation. If you are not willing to do the work, please consider taking a different class as your dedication is required not only for you, but your performance partners as well.

Attendance Policy:

Regular class attendance is required. An important component of this class is the discussion/ participation.

- Two unexcused absences will be permitted. 25 points will be deducted from the total score for EACH absence over two. In other words, if you have three unexcused absences = -25 points, four unexcused absences = -50 points, 5 absences = -75 points, etc. EXCUSED ABSENCES include medical/family emergencies and approved school functions. Sorority/fraternity functions, “My ride is leaving early,” or “I overslept” are not acceptable excuses.
- Any student more than 10 minutes late for class will be considered absent.
- Unless it is an absolute emergency AND I have been informed, absences on performance days will result in a “0” for that grade and cannot be made up.
- An enjoyable aspect of this class is being able to share ideas and learn from each other. Therefore, you will be expected to complete the assignments on schedule.

Grading:

Monologues 2 @ 50 points each	100 points
Scene #1	50 points
Scene #2	100 points
Character Analysis 2@50 pts. each	100 points
Open Scenes 4@25 points each	100 points
2 Minute Project	50 points
Play reviews 4@25 points each	100 points
Video projects 2@50 points each	100 points
Class participation	100 points
Final presentation	200 points
Scene #3, Monologue and Character Analysis	

TOTAL POINTS 1000 points

A = 90-100% of total points	900-1000
B = 80-89% of total points	800-899
C = 70-79% of total points	700-799
D = 60-69% of total points	600-699
F = 59% or less	under 599

Important Note: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to comply with University rules and regulations on academic integrity and honesty. These rules and regulations are summarized in the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.eiu.edu/~judicial>).

Disciplinary sanctions may be imposed for violations of these rules and regulations.

Cell phones

The use of cell phones, pagers, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes and examinations is prohibited. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Use of Laptops during class/exams

Students may use laptops during class to take notes. Accessing the Internet, sending and receiving emails, etc. is not acceptable. Students who abuse the laptop privilege will be asked to keep their laptops stowed during class. Laptops may not be used during examinations.

Professionalism

Students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct in class. Students who engage in unprofessional behavior (such as tardiness, sleeping, reading non-class materials, talking, text messaging) may be asked to leave the classroom.

BASIC ACTING

Tentative Schedule/Subject to Change

- 1/13 Class Introduction/Syllabus review; Who? What? Why?
1/15 Discussion: **Training Your Talent & Approaching the Creative State.** Exercises-wear comfortable clothing!
- 1/17 Discussion: **Discovering Physical Actions & Defining Simple Objectives.** Exercises and Improvisational Games. Monologue Introductions.
- 1/20 MLK Birthday-No Class
1/21 *DEPARTMENTAL AUDITIONS! The Theatre @ 6 p.m.*
1/22 Discussion: Complete **Defining Simple Objectives.** Exercises and Improvisational Games. *Two Minute Assignment given.*
- 1/24 Discussion: Audition process and feedback. **Developing Your Powers Of Observation & Exploring Circles of Attention.** Exercises-wear comfortable clothing! *Open Scene #1 & Monologue assignment given.*
- 1/27 Complete **Circles of Attention.** Exercises-wear comfortable clothing!
1/29 **Two Minute Project due for grade!** Work on Open Scene #1
1/31 **Open Scene #1 due for grade!**
- 2/03 Discussion: **Investigating the Subconscious & Creating a Character.** Exercises will relate to your monologue!
- 2/05 **Round #1 –Monologues.** Work time following presentations.
2/07 Discussion: **Expressing the Super-Objective, Interpreting the Lines & Communicating the Subtext.**
- 2/10 **Monologue #1 –Graded performance**
Continue Discussion: **Expressing the Super-Objective, Interpreting the Lines & Communicating the Subtext.**
- 2/12 Exercises: Open Scene #2
2/14 Lincoln's Birthday-No Class
- 2/17 **Open Scene #2 due for grade!** Discuss/work day Monologue #2
2/19 **Film project #1 in class.**
2/21 **Work day/Round #1 for Monologue #2.**
- 2/24 **Monologue #2 –Graded performance.** *Scene #1-Partners assigned and scenes handed out.*
- 2/26 Discussion: Scene #1 expectations and character analysis. Work times assigned.
- 2/28 Discussion: **Transforming into Character.** Exercises: Acting our Action Verbs!
- 3/03 Discussion: **Revisiting Methodology of Stanislavski and Meisner.**
Exercises: Applying ideas and techniques to scene work.
- 3/05 **Scene #1-Work day!** Groups 1-4

3/07 **Scene #1-Work day!** Groups 5-8

3/10 Spring Break-NO CLASS
3/12 Spring Break-NO CLASS
3/14 Spring Break-NO CLASS

3/17 **Scene #1-Work day!** Groups 2, 4, 6, 8
3/19 **Scene #1-Work day!** Groups 1, 3, 5, 7
3/21 **Scene #1-Graded performance! Character Analysis DUE!**
Discussion following scenes. Open Scene #3 assigned.

3/24 **Open Scene #3:** Work scenes in class. Scene #2 assigned.
3/26 **Open Scene #3 due for grade!** Discussion: Scene #2.
3/28 Discussion: Improvisational games and technique exercises.

3/31 **Scene #2 selections due/handed out!** Open Scene #4 assigned.
4/02 **Open Scene #4: Work day!**
4/04 **Open Scene #4 due for grade!** Review Monologues #1 & #2.

4/07 **Scene #2-Work day!** Groups 1-4
4/09 **Scene #2-Work day!** Groups 5-8
4/11 **Scene #2-Work day!** Groups 1-4

4/14 **Scene #2-Work day!** Groups 5-8
4/16 **Scene #2-Graded Performance! Character Analysis DUE!**
Final Scene Partner Selection!
4/18 **Final Scene assignments.** Scene discussion with each group.

4/21 **Final Scene-Work Day! /Film Project #2**
4/23 **Final Scene-Work Day! /Film Project #2**
4/25 **Final Scene-Work Day!** Groups 1-4

4/28 **Final Scene-Work Day!** Groups 5-8
4/30 **Final Scene-Work Day!** All groups report to class
5/02 **Last Class Day! Final Scene-Work Day!** All groups report to class.
Final Examination order selection

5/06 FINAL EXAMINATION 12:30-2:30

Department of Theatre Arts Production Schedule & Important Dates

Macbeth

The Theatre

Feb. 26, 27, 28, March 1-7:30 p.m.

March 2-2 p.m.

'Night Mother

The Black Box

April 2, 3, 4, 5 — 7:30 p.m.

April 6 — 2 p.m.

Beanie and the Bamboozling Book Machine

The Theatre

April 25, 26 — 7 p.m.

April 26, 27— 2 p.m.

Department of Theatre Arts Showcase

The Movement Studio

Apr. 26 — 6 p.m.

**1/14 Majors, Minors and Others Meeting-5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Movement Studio**

**1/21 Open Auditions-'Night Mother and Beanie... 6 p.m.
Sign in at Movement Studio**
