

The University of Georgia
DRAM 2010
Introduction to Acting

Instructor: Jacqueline Carey
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Section: 56-665
Time: MWF 2:30-3:20pm
Room: Fine Arts 352
Semester: Spring 2009

Course Description: An introduction to acting, 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. The course will also introduce the student to the fundamental rehearsal process culminating in a final performed scene.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop an ensemble within the class.
2. To develop the student's observational skills towards life, its experiences, towards artistic sensibility and towards becoming a more informed audience member.
3. To introduce the student to the basic imaginative, physical and vocal skills necessary for acting.
4. To develop in the student a beginning rehearsal approach to scripted scenes.
5. To develop in the student an understanding of the cooperative nature of acting.
6. To prepare the student for an audition.

Required Texts:

Acting One by Robert Cohen
The Shape of Things by Neil LaBute
Proof by David Auburn
Various handouts provided by instructor

Attendance: Attendance in class is mandatory. Your absence will negatively impact the learning process of the ensemble as a whole. Therefore, any absence will negatively impact your grade. You are allowed **THREE** absences, excused or unexcused. Each additional absence will lower your final grade by **ONE FULL LETTER**. Tardiness is also unacceptable. Three tardies will count as an absence. Never miss class when a performance or rehearsal period is due; you will receive a **ZERO** for that assignment and will not be allowed to make it up. Absences for religious holidays are excused, but must be cleared in advance.

Attire: Please come to class in clothes that you are comfortable in, suitable for movement and floor work. You will not be allowed to participate and will receive an absence if not dressed suitably for work. Examples of inappropriate clothing: flip flops, high heels, skirts, dresses, formal/semi-formal attire, etc.

Notes:

1. Students are expected to turn their cell phones off or to silent before class begins.
2. You may bring a water bottle to class. All other food and drinks are prohibited.
3. Inappropriate physical contact, comments or conduct will not be tolerated.
4. Assignments are due on the date listed. No late work will be accepted.
5. Plays written for the theatre sometimes contain strong language that might be considered offensive to some: profanities, violence, sexual terms or religious references may be included. Please see me privately as soon as possible if this is a problem for you.
6. All written work assigned must be typed.
7. Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the University of Georgia's Academic Honesty Policy. The policy can be found at www.uga.edu/~vpaa/polproc/ahpol/main.html

Major Assignments:

1. Presentation of one scripted scene with accompanying character analysis.
2. Presentation of one "open" scene with accompanying character analysis.
3. Presentation of one monologue with accompanying character analysis.
4. Attendance at two University productions with accompanying class discussions.
5. Participation in class exercises, discussions, and group work.
6. Readings of texts and plays as assigned.
7. Periodic quizzes.
8. Periodic short response essays.

Grading Breakdown:

Open Scene and Analysis	10%
Monologue and Analysis	15%
University Productions Attendance	15%
Scripted Scene and Analysis	20%
Quizzes	10%
Participation	25%
Other Assignments	5%

Scenes and Monologues: Will be graded on an A-F scale, plus or minus according to the following criteria:

- Level of preparation and rehearsal
- Ability to determine and play an objective
- Ability to develop a clean and specific physical score
- Use of body and voice
- Ability to understand and utilize given circumstances
- Written analysis
- Overall growth and development

University Productions: You are required to see two University Productions of your choice. Keep your program and ticket (stapled together) to turn in to me and be prepared to answer quiz questions in class to prove your attendance. We will have class discussions regarding the performances which will count towards your Production Attendance grade.

The Underpants

by Steve Martin

Cellar Theatre

Jan 22-24, 27-31 @ 8pm

Feb 1 @ 2:30pm

The Changeling

by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley

Cellar Theatre

Feb 19-21, 24-28 @ 8pm

Mar 1 @ 2:30pm

House of Bernarda Alba

by Federico Garcia Lorca

The Chapel on North Campus

Mar 25-28 @ 8pm

Mar 29 @ 2:30pm

Dangerous Liaisons

by Christopher Hampton

Cellar Theatre

Apr 8-11, 13-18 @ 8pm

Apr 18-19 @ 2:30pm

Grading Criteria:

A: Excellent. Always well-prepared; extensive outside preparation. Actively pursues improvement and highly self-motivated. Student makes significant growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Active, positive contributor to class. Punctual, present.

B: Good to Excellent. Always prepared; notable outside preparations. Pursues improvement and is self-motivated. Notable growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Positive contributor to class. Punctual, present.

C: Acceptable to Good. Generally prepared; acceptable outside preparation. Interested in improvement and often self-motivated. Shows some growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Often contributes to class. Punctual, present.

D: Unacceptable to Acceptable. Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation. Shows little interest in improvement and is rarely self-motivated. Very little skill and knowledge during semester. Seldom contributes to class and has negative attitude. Sometimes late, some absences.

F: Largely unacceptable. Rarely prepared and lacks adequate outside preparation. Virtually no interest in self-improvement and not motivated. Virtually no growth in skills and knowledge. Does not contribute to class and has negative attitude. Not punctual, several absences.

Please Note:

A= 95-100%

B+=87-89%

C+=77-79%

D= 60-69%

A-= 90-94%

B= 84-86%

C= 74-76%

F= 59 and lower

B-= 80-83%

C-= 70-73%