

Drama 2010

**Acting For Non-Majors  
Spring 2007**

**Scotty Gannon**

**Email:** [Sgannon2@uga.edu](mailto:Sgannon2@uga.edu)

**Office:** 359 Fine Arts

**Office Hours:** 2:15-4:15 Wed.

**Phone:** 542-28362

**Course Description:**

An introduction to acting, this course will emphasize developing the actors 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 the performances of selected scenes.

**Course Objectives:**

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

**Required Texts**

*Acting One* by Robert Cohen (4<sup>th</sup> edition)

*Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley

*Boy's Life* by Howard Korder

*Zoo Story* by Edward Albee

**Assignments:**

1. Presentation of "open contentless scenes."
2. Performance of one scripted scene.
3. Attendance and essays over two University spring semester productions. For times: [www.drama.uga.edu](http://www.drama.uga.edu). Reservations: 706-208-8696.
4. Quizzes and written exams.

### **Grading Breakdown:**

Open Scene(s)	15%
Scripted Scene	20%
Essays	10%
Participation	30 %
Quizzes	5%
Mid-term	10%
Final Exam	<u>10%</u>
	100%

A=90-100    B= 89-80    C=79-70    D=69-60    F=59-0

### **Scenes will be graded according to the following criteria:**

- Level of preparation and rehearsal (this includes memorization)
- Ability to determine and play a Goal, Intention, and Objective
- Ability to work off, connect and cooperate with scene partner
- Use of body and voice
- Overall growth and improvement

### **Attendance:**

There are no excused absences. **Three absences will lower your grade one full letter grade.** Do not miss class on the day a performance is due. You will receive a zero for that assignment and will not be allowed to make it up. Make up work is not allowed under any circumstances. Written work is due at the beginning of class and will not be accepted late!!

### **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 the semester. Active positive contributor to class. Punctual, always present.
- B-** Good to excellent. Always prepared; notable outside preparation. Pursues improvement and self motivated. Notable growth in skills and knowledge during the semester. Positive contributor to class. Punctual, always present.
- C-** Acceptable to good. Generally prepared; acceptable outside preparation. Interested in improvement and often self motivated. Often contributes to class. Punctual, always present.
- D-** Unacceptable to acceptable. Often not prepared; shows little interest in improvement and is rarely self motivated. Very little skill and knowledge growth during the semester. Sometimes late, some absences.
- F-** Largely unacceptable. Rarely prepared and lacks outside preparation. Virtually no growth in skills and knowledge. Does not contribute to class; negative attitude. Not punctual, several absences.

**General Notes:**

1. No food or drinks except a water bottle with a cap.
2. Wear comfortable clothing that is suitable for movement and floor work. This will affect your participation grade. If you are dressed inappropriately you will not be able to take part in class.
3. The nature of acting and this course requires that physical contact occur from time to time with fellow students. On occasion I may have to adjust parts of your body for proper alignment and to release tension. Please see me privately as soon as possible if this presents a problem.
4. Plays written for the theatre sometimes contain strong language that might be considered offensive to some: profanities, violence, sexual terms or references to religious deities. Please see me privately as soon as possible if this is a problem for you.
5. If you have a disability or physical injury that hinders you from participating in class activities, please see me privately so we can make arrangements to accommodate you.
6. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.
7. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.
8. All written assignments must be typed or they will not be accepted. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.
9. When attending theatre performances arrive on time. Dress appropriately and be attentive, quiet and respectful during performances.
10. You are responsible for your own personal safety and expected to have consideration for your fellow students physical well being.

**Week 1**

Syllabus, Introductions  
Warming Up  
Read pages 1-18 Cohen's *Acting One*

**Week 2**

Preparation for Acting discussion and exercises  
What is Acting? Discussion and exercises  
Read pages 19-27 Cohen's *Acting One*

- Week 3**  
Goal/Obstacle discussion and exercises  
Read pages 28-37 Cohen's *Acting One*
- Week 4**  
Acting With the Other discussion and exercises  
Assignment: content-less scenes
- Week 5**  
Perform content-less scenes.  
Scripted scene assigned.  
Read pages 45-52 Cohen's *Acting One*.
- Week 6**  
Tactics discussion/ *Crimes of the Heart* Quiz  
Read pages 53- 60 Cohen's *Acting One*.
- Week 7**  
Expectations discussion and exercises.  
Read pages 61-61 Cohen's *Acting One*. *Zoo Story* Quiz.
- Week 8**  
Discuss G.O.T.E.  
G.O.T.E. for Scripted Scene due. *Boy's Life* Quiz.  
Read pages 105-115 Cohen's *Acting One*.
- Week 9**  
Show scripted scenes. Mid term.
- Week 10**  
Show scripted scenes.
- Week 11**  
Show scripted scene.  
Read pages 95-103 AND pages 225-233 of Cohen's *Acting One*.
- Week 12**  
Choices and Scene Structure.  
Show scripted scenes.  
Read pages 235-242 of Cohen's *Acting One*.

**Week 13**

Building a Scene.

Read pages 243-247 of Cohen's Acting One.

Read 185-200 of Cohen's Acting One.

**Week 14** TBA

**Week 15** Final Showing of Scenes

**Week 16** Final Showing of Scenes

**Last Day**

Written exam

**Final** TBA

