

DRAM2010: Introduction to Acting

Instructor: Kenny Kilfara
Email: kilfara@uga.edu

Office: Rm 254 Phone: 542-9801
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

As this is an introduction to acting, this course will emphasize developing an awareness of Self. By introducing the student to the fundamentals of acting, this class will work to make you a more informed observer and help you become comfortable and familiar with the instrument you and you alone have at your disposal, your body. This class will also introduce you to the fundamentals of the rehearsal process culminating in a final performed scene.

Course Objectives:

To develop your observational skills toward life, your experiences, toward artistic sensibility and toward becoming a more informed audience member. To introduce you to the basic imaginative, physical and vocal skills necessary for acting. To develop in you an elementary approach to working with and rehearsing scripted scenes. To develop in you an understanding of the cooperative nature of acting.

Course Requirements:

You are required to actively participate in class (that means be conscious, alert, and active). You must wear clothing suitable for movement and floor work. You will not be allowed to participate and will receive an absence for the day if not suitably dressed. You will be required to leave the safe and comfortable confines of the classroom as the semester progresses.

Required Texts:

Acting One, Robert Cohen
All in the Timing, David Ives

Proof, David Auburn
Crimes of the Heart, Beth Henley

Attendance:

This is a participation based studio class, ergo, attendance is **REQUIRED**. **Three absences will lower your final grade one full letter**. Each additional absence will lower your grade another full letter. Three tardies count as one absence. There are **NO excused absences**, unless I find extraordinary circumstances. **NEVER** miss class when 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 allowed only under extraordinary circumstances and through the student's initiative. Do not miss rehearsals with your partner; please be respectful of other people's time. Be available.

General Notes:

Acting is a discipline; you will only get out of it what you put in to it. 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 your body for proper alignment and to release tension. Please come see me privately as soon as possible if this presents a problem. If you have a disability or physical injury that hinders you from participating in class activities, please come see me privately so we can make accommodations for you. All written assignments must be typed (they will not be accepted otherwise).

Assignments:

Presentation of two "open, contentless scenes," one with accompanying analysis. Presentation of one monologue. Performance of two scripted scenes with accompanying analysis. Reading of text and plays as assigned. Periodic quizzes and a Final Exam. One essay over a University Theatre production.

Academic Dishonesty:

PLEASE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE UGA “CULTURE OF HONESTY”
http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm

Grading Breakdown:

Open Scene 1	5 pts
Open Scene 2 w/ analysis	10 pts
Monologue 1	5 pts
Scripted Scene 1 w/ analysis	10 pts
Scripted Scene 2 w/ analysis	15 pts
Quiz 1	5 pts
Quiz 2	5 pts
Quiz 3	5 pts
Response Paper	10 pts
Participation, Exercises, Attendance, etc.	25 pts
Final Exam	<u>5 pts</u>
	100 pts

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

Grading Criteria:

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

B-Good to Excellent: Always well prepared; notable outside preparation. Pursues improvement and is often 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 is self motivated. Shows some growth in skills and knowledge during the semester. Often contributes to class. Punctual, always present.

D-(Failing for Majors) Unacceptable to acceptable: Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation. Shows little interest in self improvement and is rarely self motivated. Very little skill and knowledge growth during the 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, growth in skill and knowledge; is not motivated. Does not contribute to class; negative attitude; several absences.

Scenes: (Open scenes and scripted scenes) will be graded on the following criteria:

Level of preparation and rehearsal. Ability to determine and play a Goal/Intention/Objective. Ability to work off, connect, and cooperate with scene partners. Use of body. Use of voice. Ability to understand and utilize the “Given Circumstances.” Written analysis. Overall individual growth and improvement.

Production Essay:

You are required to purchase a ticket and attend one of the University Theatre’s productions this semester and write a 2-3 page response paper. Specific guidelines will be given later in the semester. The season can be found online at www.drama.uga.edu.

PAPERS ARE DUE: ONE WEEK FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE PLAY

CLASS CALENDAR (subject to change...and it will)

Week 1: Introductions Trust Exercises. Bring object for next time

Week 2: Share Object. Improv exercises,
Public observations

Week 3: Cohen 21-27, 29-34 Improvisation.
Cohen 39-41 Assign open scene

Week 4: Cohen 45-64 Exercises: Doing vs. Being, Tactics.
Perform Open Scene #1

Week 5: Discussion of GOTE **Quiz #1**. Assign Open Scene #2
Read *Proof*, discuss. Work on open scenes.

Week 6: **I am out of town this week.**
Choose Monologue #1 for approval
Read *All in the Timing*, discuss

Week 7: Cohen 69-86 **Perform Open Scene #2 and turn in GOTE sheet.**
Discuss *All in the Timing*. In class scene work.

Week 8: Cohen 36-37, 243-247 Exercises.
Assign activities for next week

Week 9: **MIDTERM** Public Solitude Activity
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH (W) – is Fri, discuss. Assign Monologue #1

Week 10: Cohen 105-115 **Perform Monologues #1**
Read *Crimes of the Heart* discuss *Crimes*, assign Scene #1

Week 11: Cohen 87-103 scene work in class
FALL BREAK

Week 12: **Perform Scripted Scene #1**
Perform Scripted Scene #1

Week 13: Cohen 119-126 Improv, Assign Scene #2
Cohen 143-156, 167-173 Cohen 175-184. Emotional Memory Work Voice Exercises.

Week 14: Scene #2 Rehearsals
Scene #2 Rehearsals

Week 15: Improv
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 16: **Perform Final Scene #2**
Perform Final Scene #2

LAST DAY OF CLASSES: Dec 8th
FINAL EXAM: Dec 15th 12:00-3:00