

Drama 2010

Acting For Non-Majors Fall 2004

Maggie Surovell
Office: Fine Arts Building 355
Email: Magzg1@aol.com
Office Hours: Tues., 12:30-1:30; or by appointment

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 experiences, towards artistic sensibility and towards becoming a more informed audience member.

Course Objective

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

Required Texts

Acting One, Fourth Edition. Robert Cohen
Plus the Plays for the Scenes you will be assigned

General Notes:

1. It is your responsibility to keep yourself safe and to respect and support your fellow classmates.
2. Wear loose clothing that you can move in! Failure to do so will affect your participation grade!
3. Four absences will lower your final grade one full letter; each additional absence will lower your grade another full letter. If you are late three times that counts as one absence. There are **NO** excused absences unless the instructor finds extraordinary circumstances. This is a participatory, studio class.
4. NEVER miss class when a performance assignment is due; you will receive a "zero" for that assignment and will not be allowed to make it up.
5. Do not miss rehearsal with your partner; be respectful of other people's time. Be available to rehearse and work outside of class time.
6. The nature of Acting is physical and requires physical contact with fellow students. In addition, in order to keep the class exercises safe, I may need to adjust parts of your body for better alignment and relaxation. If this presents a problem please see me as soon as possible.
7. If you have a physical injury that hinders you from participating in class activities please see me privately so we can make arrangement to accommodate you.
8. The University of Georgia has a strongly worded policy concerning academic dishonesty. It is found in the student handbook. The Department of Drama insists that all work assigned to an individual project be done entirely by the individual to which the assignment is given. Joint projects must be accomplished entirely by the group to whom the project is assigned. If in the judgment of the course teacher, the student violates the above policy, he or she will be reported immediately to the Student Judiciary. The outcome of such action may result in the reported student's failing the course and /or being disciplined in other ways.
9. I will not accept any written work that is not typed.
10. Wear clean and presentable clothing to the theater.
11. Arrive 15 minutes prior to curtain time.

12. Do not talk or take notes in the theater during the performance.
13. ***The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.***

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, always present.
- B- Good to Excellent. Always prepared; notable outside preparations. Pursues improvement and self motivated. Notable growth in skills and knowledge during semester. Positive contributor to class. Punctual, always 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, always present.
- D- (Failing for Majors) 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 growth during semester. Seldom contribute 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; negative attitude. Not punctual; several absences.

Productions: You are required to purchase a ticket and attend the University Theatre’s production of one of the following plays and write a 2–3 page response paper. The performance dates, times and locations are listed below.

Times: Night Shows are at 8PM and Matinees are at 2:30PM

Antigone by Jean Anouilh
Seney-Stovall Chapel
September 22-25, matinee on 26, September 28- October 1

The Homecoming by Harold Pinter
Cellar Theatre
October 13-16, matinee on 17 and 24, October 19-23

The Christmas Carol by Joelle Arp-Dunham
Fine Arts Theatre
November 17-20, matinee on 21
December 1-4

Grade Break Down

20% Attendance/Participation
5% Basic Object Exercise
5% Contentless Scene
15% Marked Script + Script and Character Analysis
15% Production Paper
5% First Monologue
5% First Showing of Scene
15% Final Showing of Monologue
15% Final Showing of Scene

Note: As part of your participation grade I may assign real life assignments in which you bring in experiences you notice about yourself, family, friends and strangers that relate to the terms and concepts we discover in this class.

Week 1: Aug 19. Introduction.

Week 2: T 8/24, Th 8/26 The Actor's Instrument. *Assign Basic Object Exercise. Hand out*
Cohen, Part I, p. 1-18

Week 3: T 8/31 The Actor's Instrument.
Th 9/2 *Basic Object Exercise Group #1*

Week 4: T 9/7 *Basic Object Exercise Group #2*
Th 9/9 Goal and Obstacle; Cohen, Lesson 3, p. 19-27

Week 5: T 9/14 Partner Work; Cohen, Lesson 4, 29-35. *Assign Open Scenes*
Th 9/16 Tactics; Cohen, Lesson 6, p. 45-52

Week 6: T 9/21 GOTE; Cohen, Lesson 7 and 8, p.53-65
Th 9/23 *Perform Open Scenes: Group #1*

Antigone September 22-25, matinee on 26, September 28- October 1

Week 7: T 9/28 *Perform Open Scenes: Group #2*
Th 9/30 Building a Character #1; Cohen, Lesson 9, p. 67-86 + Hand Out.

Week 8: T 10/5 Text Work/Improv. *Antigone Paper Due. Decide on Scenes and Partners.*
Th 10/7 Blocking/Improv; Cohen, Lesson 11, p. 87-94.

Week 9: T 10/12 Voice and Movement. Cohen, Lesson 26, p. 225-242. *Choose Monologue*
Th 10/14 Building Character #2. *Hand in Copy of Marked Scripts.*

The Homecoming October 13-16, matinee on 17 and 24, October 19-23

Week 10: T 10/19 Rehearsing; Cohen, Lesson 12, p. 95-104.
Th 10/21 Dealing w/ Monologues; Cohen, p. 36-37 *Hand in Copy of Character Biography*

Week 11: T 10/26 Work with Partner. Cohen, Lesson 21, p. 175-186. *The Homecoming Paper Due*
Th 10/28 FALL BREAK

Week 12: T 11/2 Show Monologues #1 *All Groups Hand in Research/Analysis of Character and Play*
Th 11/4 Show Monologues #2

Week 13: T 11/9 Show Monologues #3
Th 11/11 First Showing of Scenes #1

Week 14: T 11/16 First Showing of Scenes #2
Th 11/18 First Showing of Scenes #3

The Christmas Carol November 17-20, matinee on 21 December 1-4

Week 15: T 11/23 Catch up/Fun Day; Cohen, L'Envoi, p. 249-251.
Th 11/25 THANKSGIVING

Week 16: T 11/30 Final Monologues #1
Th 12/2 Final Monologues #2

Week 17: 12/9 Final Monologues #3. *The Christmas Carol Paper Due.*

Final Exam: Final Scenes #1, 2, 3

