

Drama 2010

Acting For Non-Majors Spring 2005

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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

Handouts

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 grade. 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. Wear clean and presentable clothing to the theater.
10. Arrive 15 minutes prior to curtain time.

11. Do not talk or take notes in the theater during the performance.
12. ***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.

Journal/ Process 10%

The Journal will include notes on experiences and observations from the real world. You should write in your journal everyday and include thoughts on the reading, observations you notice about yourself, family, friends and strangers that relate to the concepts we discover in this class. If you see any additional plays, movies, concerts, you should write responses to these performances. Respond to your rehearsal process! I want to know what you are learning and how you are experiencing the in class activities.

Productions: You are required to purchase a ticket and attend the University Theatre's production of ***two*** 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

Importance of Being Earnest: Feb 16-26

Seney-Stovall Chapel

Cures For Everything: March 23-27

Cellar Theater

Pippin: April 20-24

Fine Arts Theater

Grade Break Down

20% Attendance/Participation

10% Journal/Process

5% Production Paper 1

15% Production Paper 2

10% First Showing Monologue

10% First Showing of Scene

15% Final Showing of Monologue + Text Work

15% Final Showing of Scene + Text Work

Week 1: T 1/11 Introduction
Th 1/13 The Actor's Instrument; *Cohen, Part I, p. 1-18*

Week 2: T 1/18, Th 1/20. The Actor's Instrument. **Assign Basic Object Exercise. Hand out**

Week 3: T1/25 *Perform Basic Object Exercise Group #1*
Th 1/27 *Perform Basic Object Exercise Group #2*

Week 4: T 2/1 Goal/Obstacle/Other. Cohen, Lesson 3, p. 19-27.
Th 2/3 Tactics; Cohen, Lesson 6 p. 45-52, **Assign Open Scenes**

Week 5: T 2/8 GOTE; Cohen, Lesson 7 and 8, p.53-65
Th 2/10 Partner Work. Cohen, Lesson 4, 29-35. **Bring in Monologue**

Importance of Being Earnest: Feb 16-26

Week 6: T 2/15 Open Scenes #1 **Assign Final Scenes**
Th 2/17 Open Scenes #2

Week 7: T 2/22 Building a Character #1; Cohen, Lesson 9, p. 67-86
Th 2/24 Voice/Movement #1 Cohen, Lesson 11, p. 87-94.

Week 8: T 3/1 Text Work #1 **EARNEST PAPER DUE**
Th 3/3 Monologues #1

Week 9: T 3/8 Monologues #2. **COLLECT JOURNALS**
Th 3/10 Monologues #3 Cohen, Lesson 26, p. 225-242

Week 10: T 3/15-Th 3/17 SPRING BREAK

Cures For Everything March 23-27

Week 11: T 3/22 Building Character #2; Cohen, Lesson 12, p. 95-104.
Th 3/24 Text #2 Cohen, p. 36-37

Week 12: T 3/29 Voice/Movement #2. Cohen, Lesson 21, p. 175-186. **CURES PAPER DUE**
Th 3/31 First Showing of Scenes #1 **All Groups Hand in Text Work**

Week 13: T 4/5 First Showing of Scenes #2
Th 4/7 First Showing of Scenes #3

Week 14: T 4/12 Fun Day. Cohen, L'Envoi, p. 249-251.
Th 4/14 Final Monologues #1 **All Groups Hand in Text Work**

Pippin April 20- 24

Week 15: T 4/19 Final Monologues #2
Th 4/21 Final Monologues #3

Week 16: T 4/26 TBA **PIPPIN PAPER DUE**
Th 4/28 TBA **Journals Due**

Final Exam: Final Scenes #1,2,3

