

ACTING I: FOUNDATIONS OF ACTING

This course is designed to explore the basics of realistic acting using the techniques of Konstantin Stanislavsky and Robert Cohen. We will focus on freeing and exploring the three parts of the acting instrument - mind, body, and the natural voice. Classwork will utilize improvisations, theater games, solo pieces and two-person scenes.

Syllabus & Worksheets – The syllabus on the T&FS website does not contain the timeline. The full syllabus and all worksheets will always be posted at <http://crisworks.com/3500>. You will receive the password at the first class.

Contacting Me — My e-mail address is mcriste@uga.edu. My cellphone number is (646) 246-4415. My office is in Fine Arts 365, and the number there is (706) 542-3623. If you see me anytime during the day and I don't seem busy, please feel free to approach me for any reason.

Office Hours — TR 1:15-2:15 pm & W 1:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment.

Dress — It is *mandatory* that you dress to work in movement-friendly clothing that shows the line of your body. Layers are highly recommended, as the room's temperature varies widely. My preference is that the class work in bare feet, but you may wear dance or gymnastics shoes or socks.

Safety — Your well-being is my PRIMARY concern in this class. If at any time you feel unsafe, you must let me know immediately, so we can pause the work. In addition, your fellow actors' well-being should also be your primary concern. Exercise awareness, control and proper hygiene in your work.

Protocols — Food, including chewing gum, and beverages are not permitted in the studio, except water, which you should bring to class every day. Turn off cellphones when entering the studio.

GRADING

Grades will be determined by a combination of objective and subjective criteria, including attendance, classwork, and written assignments. Final grades are assigned according to the following rubric:

<i>Exceptional</i> performance in classwork, written assignments, attitude, effort, participation, focus, and progress. A (93-100) A- (90-92)	<i>Above-average</i> performance in aforementioned areas B+ (87-89) B (84-86) B- (80-83)	<i>Average</i> performance in aforementioned areas (all work completed on time, adherence to attendance policies, no extra effort) C+ (77-79) C (74-76) C- (70-73)	<i>Below-average</i> performance in aforementioned areas (failing for majors) D+ (67-69) D (64-66) D- (60-63)	<i>Poor to unacceptable</i> performance in aforementioned areas F (0-59)
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Breakdown of graded items is as follows:

Attendance (30%) - Please call my office (x2-3623) ahead of time if you know you will be late or absent on any given day. Calling ahead, however, does not excuse your tardiness or absence.

Tardies - 5 minutes late marks you as tardy. Each incidence of tardiness drops your attendance grade one point. In addition, the door will be locked 15 minutes after class begins, and you will be marked with an absence.

Absences – Each absence for any reason drops your attendance grade 3 points (for example, two absences result in an attendance grade of 94). In addition, you are responsible for making up any assignments that you miss on a day that you are absent. It is recommended that you make up an assignment ahead of time if you can.

Classwork (40%) - I grade you on your hard work, focus, participation, attitude, and individual progress, not on how naturally talented an actor you already are. Your sole requirement regarding the classwork is that you honor the lessons & techniques and complete the assignments to the best of your ability. Give your best effort, with an open mind. Bad attitudes and resistance will result in a request that you drop the class immediately.

Text Assignments - You'll prepare two solo speeches and one 2-person neutral scene. Your scene partners will be assigned. You'll learn to score your scripts, and map the progress of your characters' evolutions, using Character Worksheets and Goals/Beats/Tactics Sheets. These forms can always be found at <http://cristeworks.com/3500>. You will receive the password at the first class.

Written Assignments (30%) - *Written work will not be accepted late.*

Journal - The journal will be collected at the whim of the instructor—please have it with you every day. Do not use your journal notebook in other classes—keep it separate. Please regard the journal as carrying the same significance as any essay or term paper. The depth and content of your journal is what will count, however, not its structure. Take generous notes on our work during class, and discuss the work using your own personal, informal voice. Please avoid theorizing or generalizing (don't define technique), summarizing (don't list what happened), or critiquing (don't make positive or negative value judgements). Do not narrowly and specifically discuss, in terms of our acting technique (Goals, Beats, Tactics, etc.), what you discover during your own work *as well as what you observe in others' work*.

Quizzes - We will read 8 plays by American playwrights (except one), on which we will have very short quizzes on the following dates:

Thursday, 1/11 – *You Can't Take It With You*, George S. Kaufman/Moss Hart

Thursday, 2/1 - *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams

Tuesday, 2/13 – *Hamletmachine*, Heiner Müller

Thursday, 2/15 – *Death of A Salesman*, Arthur Miller

Thursday, 3/1 – *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry

Tuesday 3/20 – *Fences*, August Wilson

Tuesday 4/10 – *How I Learned To Drive*, Paula Vogel

Tuesday 4/17 – *Topdog/Underdog*, Suzan-Lori Parks

Stage Productions - You will be expected to attend all of the season productions this semester and write a 1-page paper on each of them, along the same guidelines as your journal entries, with depth and content. Do not critique or summarize the performances. Speak about the ideas and goals of the productions and performances, relating them when possible to our classwork. I recommend you read the scripts, if they are available, before seeing the productions.

Reading Assignments - You are assigned a 1-page paper on each of 2 additional readings, using the same guidelines as the other written assignments. Do not critique or summarize what you have read. Discuss the ideas contained in them and relate them to class. Avoid a last minute rush, by not waiting until the last minute to read these assignments. The books and plays are also on reserve in the Main Library:

Cohen, Robert. *Acting One, 4th edition*. Lesson 8, "GOTE" (pp. 61-65). (Also on Ereserve)

McGraw Charles. *Acting Is Believing*. Chapters 1-3, 9.

EXTRA CREDIT

Acting work outside of class for projects *directly related to the department's acting curriculum* (directing-class projects, M.F.A. student or faculty projects, and as partners for festival award nominees) can count toward extra credit, if approved by the instructor.

Additional production papers on department-sponsored productions, including the M.F.A. graduate projects earn an additional 50% of full credit.

NOTABLE DATES

Tuesday, 1/25 - Sunday, 2/4 – *Tartuffe* in Steney-Stoval Chapel

Saturday, 2/3 - Wednesday, 2/7 – University & Resident Theatre Association (U/RTA) auditions in Chicago, IL

Thursday, 2/6 - Sunday, 2/11 – American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in Americus, GA

Friday, 2/9 - Monday, 2/12 – Unified Professional Theatre Association (UPTA) auditions in Memphis, TN (audition slots are now full)

Tuesday, 2/22 - Sunday, 3/4 – *Hamletmachine* in the Cellar Theatre

Wednesday, 3/7 - Sunday, 3/11 – Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in Atlanta

Wednesday, 3/21 - Sunday, 3/25 – *The Trojan Women* in Steney-Stoval Chapel

Monday, 3/26 - Thursday, 3/27 – Unified Auditions in Atlanta

Tuesday, 4/12 - Sunday, 4/22 – *Joe Turner's Come And Gone* in the Fine Arts Theatre

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Any student found to have violated the University of Georgia Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy will be immediately reported to the appropriate university administrative office, and will receive a failing grade, without exception.

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."

UGA Academic Honesty Policy can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi>.