BEGINNING ACTING
Fall 2017

THR 221 .002
Instructor: David Raine (Office 218)
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Monday 1 – 1:50pm  GFA Rm. 303
Wed/Fri 12 – 1:50pm  GFA Rm. 303

Course Description: Three semester hours, one hour lecture, four hours lab per week. Emphasis on the understanding and exploration of the actor’s tools and the application of the actor’s basic skills through the creative process.

Objective: This course will familiarize the student with the basic vocabulary, methods, techniques and process of an actor.

Required Text and Readings: No text. Additional readings of materials TBA.

Grading Components:
1. Involvement 20%
2. Quizzes 15%
3. Presentations (monologues/scenes) 20%
4. Actor’s Journal 15%
5. Analysis (for all monologues/scenes) 10%
6. Final Scenes 20%

Final Grading: (0-59) F (60-69) D (69.5-79) C (79.5-89) B (89.5-100) A

Involvement: The expectation in this class is not that you merely come to class. You need to be involved. Being involved means that you show up on time and that you are ready and willing to work. You are physically and mentally present, and you are focused on the moment. You are a prepared and willing participant, collaborator and creator. You meet or exceed the expectations of the course, the School of Theatre, and the university. If there are repeated issues with your involvement, I will request a private conference with you. Your involvement will be noted and evaluated on a daily basis.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given covering course content such as acting concepts, vocabulary and assigned reading. No makeup quizzes are given for unexcused absences.

Presentations (monologues and scenes): Monologues and scenes will be assigned in class.

Actor’s Journal: Your learning in this class requires that you respond and reflect on the work we do. You are to record written impressions and thoughts of each week’s work in a journal. Occasionally specific topics will be assigned, and may count as that week’s journal entry. In essence, quantity of words is not as important as the quality of the response. Creativity is encouraged as long as the response is relevant, authentic and clear. You may create and submit an electronic journal, or, if you prefer, you may keep a physical journal to be turned in. If you go with a physical journal, it must be no smaller than 5”x7”.
Analyses: Written analysis of each monologue and scene will be required. Requirements will be outlined in class.

Final Scenes: At the end of the semester, you will audition and be cast in an acting/directing jury scene. These scenes will involve students from directing classes and acting classes. They will be presented to faculty member. Details will be forthcoming.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) supported in this course:

1. The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre practitioner or scholar/critic.
2. The student will demonstrate collaborative and/or leadership competencies appropriate to participate or take a leadership role in an effective theatrical production.
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance and study, and their interrelationships.
4. The student will demonstrate intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatre specializations.
5. The student will be able to complete and document a major project as a stage manager, as a designer or technician, or as an actor or director, demonstrating advanced competence in the student’s specialty.
6. The student will be able to present an effective presentation appropriate to the student’s specialization.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for this course:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Understand vocabulary of the theatre.
2. Create a performance and analyze a text.
3. Utilize and comprehend modern acting theory.
4. Effectively collaborate on a performance project with scene partner(s) and a director.
5. Describe the principles of an actor’s process.
POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Class Expectations:

Students are required to wear clothing and shoes in which they can move freely. It should be clothing in which the student won’t mind sitting or lying on the floor. If the clothing is restrictive or inappropriate for class exercises or scenes, the student will be dismissed from class (unexcused absence).

Hair should be pulled back from the face. No hats are to be worn (unless we are working with them in the class).

Assist in keeping the space clean, organized and ready for the next class.

Participation/Absences/Being Late: Per school policy, SEVEN absences in a Tues/Thurs class or TEN absences in a MWF for any reason will result in an automatic failure of the course. Only religious holidays, sponsored school events, and documented medical or personal issues may qualify as excused absences upon the instructor’s discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes from a dependable classmate. Being late to class three times will count as an absence. Don’t be late. Really.

Course Work: All course work must be completed and turned in as specified by the instructor. This includes quizzes, monologues and scenes, analyses, journals, and other assignments. Students who arrive in class after quizzes have been completed may not take the quiz (don’t be late). Once distributed, quizzes must be completed prior to students leaving the classroom. All work is due on the assigned date.

General Expectations

Please respect others as well as yourself, including other students, the instructor, guest speakers, and performers. Most of the following guidelines reflect this very basic principle.

1. Recording class in any form is not allowed.
2. I should never see your cell phone or electronic device during class. Set your cell to silent or turn it off before you come in, and PUT IT AWAY. Absolutely no use of cell phones is allowed in class unless there is an emergency.
3. No food in permitted in class. Please have your drinks in reseal-able containers.
4. Disorderly conduct or talking inappropriately in class is not permitted.
5. Failure to follow any of these expectations will result in being dismissed from class and counted absent (unexcused).

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized
materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Any cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment or test will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and may, at the instructor’s discretion, result in failure of the course.

Withheld Grades: Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.