Beginning Acting – THR 221.004 & THR 221L.02
Fall 2017

Instructor: Mr. Mark E. Hawkins
E-mail: hawkinsme2@sfasu.edu Phone: (936) 468-1227
Office: GFNA 221B Office Hours: M-W 1:00-4:00p Others by appointment.

Class Time and Place: Tuesday - Thursday 2 p.m. – 4:15 p.m., Downstage Theater (GFNA 100)

Course Description: THR 221 Beginning Acting (DRAM1351) 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.

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

Required Text and Readings:
• The Actor’s Scenebook—Volume 2, by Michael Schulman.
• The Stanislavski System: The Professional Training of an Actor, by Sonia Moore, 2nd Revised Edition.
• Improvisation for the Theater, by Viola Spolin, 3rd Edition.

Grading components:

Involvement 20%
Quizzes (2) 15%
Reflection Journal/Blog 15%
Presentations (monologues and scenes) 20%
Written Analyses (for all scenes/monologues) 10%
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 participate. 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 (see pages 3 and 4). 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: Two quizzes will be given covering course content such as acting concepts, vocabulary and assigned reading. No makeup quizzes are given for unexcused absences.

Reflection Journal/Blog: Your learning in this class requires that you respond and reflect on the work we do. You are to record written reflections of each week’s work in a journal or blog. These journal entries will be outlined in class. In essence, however, quantity of words is not as important as the quality of the response. While words are important, there are others ways to record your thoughts in your journal—words, drawings, pictures, poems, etc. Creativity is encouraged as long as the response is relevant, authentic and clear. More information will be discussed in class.

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

Analyses: Written analysis of each character will be required. Requirements of the analysis will be outlined in class and shared on D2L.

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 the directing classes and all acting classes. The directors will select and cast their own scenes. Scenes will be presented to faculty members in a special group performance presented during “dead week.”

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s) 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.
3. The student will demonstrate collaborative and/or leadership competencies appropriate to participate or take a leadership role in an effective theatrical production.
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships.
6. The student will demonstrate intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatre specialization(s).
8. 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.
9. The student will be able to present an effective presentation appropriate to the student’s specialization.
Student Learning Outcomes (SLO’s) for this course (and supported PLO’s):
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Understand vocabulary of the theatre. (PLO’s 4, 6, & 8)
- Create a performance and analyze a text. (PLO 1)
- Utilize and comprehend modern acting theory. (PLO’s 3, 4, 6, & 8)
- Effectively collaborate on a performance project with scene partner(s) and a director. (PLO’s 3, 4, 6, & 8)
- Describe the principles of an actor’s process. (PLO’s 4, 6, 8, & 9)

POLICIES and EXPECTATIONS

Class Expectations:
All Acting, Movement, and Theatre Speech classes at SFA require the wearing of BLACK movement clothing. This is a common practice in many Theatre training programs. It is intended to create a sense of neutrality across the performers, make it easier to step in and out of character, and help the performance classroom feel like a space where art is made. Your clothing should be solid black and not include designs, images or words. Small brand logos are acceptable. Your clothing should not be restrictive and should effectively cover your body through a range of movement possibilities. Further, Hair should be pulled out of face and no hats may be worn. If you must cover your hair, skullcaps are acceptable. If you are not wearing class appropriate clothing, you will be asked to leave, and receive an absence for the day, as well as, a zero for the day.

Participation/Attendance Policy:
Two (2) absences are forgiven, after which a final grade reduction will be applied for each additional absence. To have an absence excused, documentation of illness or family emergency MUST be provided. It is the student’s responsibility to provide this documentation and the instructor may verify it. Sponsored school events may qualify as excused absences at the instructor’s discretion. It is the responsibility of the student to check in with the instructor after class if s/he is tardy or arrives after attendance is taken. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes or assignments from the instructor or a dependable classmate. As stated by School policy: Seven (7) absences in a TR class will result in an automatic failure of the course.

Course Work: All course work must be completed and turned in as indicated by the course calendar, as discussed in class or communicated on D2L. This includes quizzes, workshops, journals and other assignments. Students who arrive in class after quizzes have been completed may not take the quiz. Additionally, once the quizzes are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in the quiz. All work is due on the assigned date.

Students with documented disabilities must meet with the instructor in advance of accommodation to arrange accommodations for that disability.
**General Expectations**

*Please respect others as well as yourself; this includes other students, the instructor, guest speakers, and performers. The majority of the following guidelines for behavior reflect this principle.*

1. Recording class in any form is not allowed.
2. With rare exception, I should never see your cell phone or electronic device in this studio. Cell phones should be set to silent or turned off and stowed before you enter the room. Absolutely NO use of cell phones is allowed in class unless there is an emergency, or it is approved/requested by the instructor. Violation will result in your phone being collected by the instructor and you will be able to retrieve it after class.
3. Use of a cell phone (or other electronic device) or your friend’s brain during a quiz will result in a grade of zero on that quiz.
4. No food in class (this includes gum and candy).
5. Each of us must assist in keeping the theatre and rehearsal spaces clean, organized and ready for the next class.
6. Disorderly conduct or inappropriate language or actions in class will not be permitted.
7. Failure to follow any of these expectations will result in being dismissed from class and counted absent (unexcused).

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)