Intermediate Acting
(THR 321 and THR 321L)
Instructor: Stephanie Murphy
Fall 2017
Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-11:45
Griffith Fine Arts 300
Email: murphysa3@sfasu.edu
Office: FA 223
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:30pm, Wednesdays 12-4pm

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description: Three semester hours, one hour lecture, four hours lab per week. Designed to give the student actor the opportunity to explore the acting process through modern realistic dramatic literature

Required Materials:
The Complete Stanislavsky Toolkit by Bella Merlin
Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov, translated by Paul Schmidt
Additional readings as assigned

Program Learning Outcomes Supported in this Course
This course applies to the following School of Theatre Program Learning Outcomes at an introductory level.
- The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre practitioner or scholar/critic. (All degree plans)
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships. (All degree plans)
  - The student will demonstrate competence in one or more areas of theatre specializations. (BA)
- The student will demonstrate collaborative and/or leadership competencies appropriate to participate or take a leadership role in an effective theatrical production. (All degree plans)
- 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. (BFA)
- The student will be able to present an effective presentation appropriate to the student’s specialization. (BFA)

Student Learning Outcomes for this Course:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Analyze a dramatic text and interpret a character.
2. Explain fundamental concepts of modern acting theory.
3. Employ standard acting vocabulary
4. Articulate basic personal artistic process
5. Translate critical analysis into specific vocal and physical choices
6. Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively on a creative/interpretive project.

School of Theatre Attendance Policy:
A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. To this end, regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered or assigned.
I. It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health, family emergencies, student working the University Series, and other situations of similar importance.

Excused absences from theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation from the teacher, sponsor, or physician involved upon the first day of the student’s return. In the case of absences caused by university-sponsored events, inclusion in the university’s public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence.

II. A total of seven excused and/or unexcused absences in Tuesday-Thursday classes or 10 excused and/or unexcused absences in Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes will result in the student receiving a failing grade. Excessive unexcused absences will affect a student’s grade.

III. The student will be allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences in Tuesday-Thursday classes or three unexcused absences in Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes.

IV. In the case of missed classes, the student will be held responsible for the successful completion of assigned work and/or projects.

University Attendance Policy (excerpt):
“...students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences...Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for a maximum of three weeks’ worth of absences during a semester...depending on the nature of the missed work. Make up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence in accordance with the course syllabus.”

MY Attendance Policy:
Each absence in addition to the two allotted by the School of Theatre will result in a loss of 50% or a letter grade (50 points) from your final grade. Emergencies or serious illness will be handled on a case by case basis at the discretion of the instructor. It is strongly recommended that you save your three absences for illness or emergencies.

Tardiness
Three tardies are the equivalent of one unexcused absence. Please be on time and ready to work at the top of class.

Classroom Policies:
1. No texting, or cell phones allowed during class.
2. The theatre is a collaborative art form, and maintaining a safe environment for experimentation is essential. There may be choices made, or exercises performed by your classmates that seem strange or silly. You as an ensemble have a responsibility to be respectful of one another’s process. I reserve the right to remove you from class for the day if you create a physically or emotionally unsafe environment for your classmates.
3. While Texas state law allows for the concealed carry of a firearm with a Concealed Handgun License (CHL), open display of a firearm in class will result in a call to campus police, immediate dismissal, and failure of the course. Referring to a concealed firearm (real or fabricated) in an attempt to create a threatening or hostile environment will result in a call to campus police, immediate dismissal and failure of the course. There will be no exceptions to this policy. If you have strong opinions about whether or not firearms belong in your classroom, feel free to contact your state representative: http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/find-your-representative/
4. 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 clothes
should effectively cover your body through a range of movement possibilities. Further, 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 engagement score for the day.

Technology:
1. No texting or cell phones allowed during class.
2. No texting or cell phones allowed during class.
3. NO TEXTING OR CELL PHONES ALLOWED DURING CLASS. Bring a notebook to class so you can take notes. If you forgot a notebook, borrow a piece of paper from somebody. If your monologue is on your phone you must print it out or transcribe it on to a piece of paper. Being vulnerable onstage is hard enough without looking up to a sea of classmates who are more into writing a facebook status about eating a grilled cheese for lunch than observing and giving feedback. Put them away. If I see you texting in class I will make a note and you will lose participation points for the day. This is non-negotiable.
4. Do not, under any circumstances, even with your classmates' permission, take a video in class. If I see this, I will dismiss you and you will be marked absent for the day.
5. A missing or late assignment due to a technology failure is unacceptable. Please back up your written work and take advantage of the library’s computer and printing services.

General Notes:
1. There may be rehearsal and performance dates outside of the scheduled class time. Please look at the schedule now. If this poses a problem you MUST inform the instructor by the second week of class.
2. Assignments are due on the date listed. If absent and emailing a written assignment, it must be sent by the start time of class in order to receive credit.
3. Theatrical scripts may contain strong language that might be considered offensive to some: profanities, violence, sexual terms or references to religious deities. Please see me privately by the end of the first week of class if this is a problem for you.
4. Physical contact may occur from time to time with fellow students in class. I may also have to adjust parts of your body for proper alignment and to release tension while working. Please see me privately as soon as possible if this presents a problem or if you feel uncomfortable.
5. If you have a disability or physical injury that hinders you from participating in class activities please see me privately as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to accommodate you.
6. If you have preferred pronouns that you think I should be aware of, please inform me as soon as possible.
7. 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. Actively pursues improvement and highly self motivated. Active, positive contributor to class.
- B—Good. Always prepared. Pursues improvement and self motivated. Contributor to class.
- C---Fair. Generally prepared. Interested in improvement and often self motivated. Often contributes to class.
- D---Poor. Often not prepared. Shows little interest in improvement and is rarely self motivated. Seldom contributes to class and has negative attitude.
- F---Unacceptable. Lacks adequate outside preparation. Virtually no interest in self improvement and not motivated. Does not contribute to class; negative attitude.

Grading Breakdown:
Your final grade will be computed as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation, Attendance, Exercises</th>
<th>400</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autodrama</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Physical Score  
Character/Scene Analysis  
Final Scene  

TOTAL  

Grade Distribution:  
900-1000 = A  
800-899 = B  
700-799 = C  
600-699 = D  
599 or below = F  

Schedule:  

Thurs 8/31  Introduction/Course Overview/Goals/Introduce Autodrama project  
Order Books  
Prepare Autodrama  

Tues 9/5  Perform Autodramas  
Thurs 9/7  Perform Autodramas/Discussion  
Prepare sunshine/fatigue  

Tues 9/12  Sense memory exercises/discussion  
Read Intro/Tray 1  
Prep monologue  

Thurs 9/14  Discuss reading/Psychological gesture  
Read Tray 2  

Tues 9/19  TBA  
Thurs 9/21  Discuss reading  
Prepare activity/solitude  
Read Tray 3  

Tues 9/26  Present activity/solitude, discuss  
Read Tray 4  

Thurs 9/28  BRING BOOK TO CLASS- Three Sisters Read Through  
Answer questions  

Tues 10/3  Discuss questions/background/scenes  
Read Tray 5  
Answer fundamental questions  
Choose scenes  

Thurs 10/5  Read individual scenes, Beat/punctuation exercise  

Tues 10/10  Entrance exercises/rehearsals  
Read Tray 6 and 7  

Thurs 10/12  Discuss reading, magic if, object exercises  
Read Tray 8  

Tues 10/17  Rhythm exercise w/objects  
Read Tray 9  

Thurs 10/19  Exercises/application  
Read Trays 10 & 11  

Tues 10/24  Present scenes, discuss
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Read Tray 12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical score</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prep physical score</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Present physical score w/ writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Moment of Orientation exercise/discuss</td>
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<td>11/7</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Communication/Meisner/Application</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Communication/Meisner/Application</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read Trays 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Discuss reading, more Meisner, play</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Work scenes/troubleshoot</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Final Exam:** Tuesday, December 12th 8-10am/ ANALYSIS DUE