

COURSE #: ENG 174 TITLE: Acting Techniques

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to, and exploration of the acting process for the stage, developing the fundamental skills students need to approach a text from a performer's standpoint and to create character. The course takes as its basic premise that the actor's instrument is the self – with all of the physical, psychological, intellectual, social, moral and spiritual implications of that term. Students will be encouraged in both the expression and the expansion of the self and of the imagination. The class will also help the student develop an overall appreciation for the role of the theatre in today's society.

Credits: 4

Semester/Year: Fall 2019

Class Day/Time/s: Tuesday 2 – 4:40 pm.

Location: Todd 107

First Class: September 3, 2019

Last Class: December 10, 2019

Lab Days/Times: Wednesday 3:25 – 4:40 pm.

Labs begin: Wednesday September 4

Last Lab: Wednesday December 11 (as needed)

Location: Todd 107

Does this course use Blackboard Learning Management? NO

Instructor: Patricia Lewis Browne

Contact Email: plewisb@hotmail.com

Contact Telephone: 585-243-4798

585-727-4372

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Location: NA

Entrance Prerequisites: No previous experience or classes required.

Course Aims & Objectives:

Begin the process of developing a strong sense of mental concentration and focus.

Acquire a heightened awareness of the actor's physical and emotional instrument.

Learn how to interpret a script from the actor's point of view including beats, objectives, tactics and obstacles and to be able to articulate this verbally and in writing.

To recognize and strive for emotional truth in one's work.

Experience how to work collaboratively with scene partners in a disciplined fashion and respond to peer work in an insightful, constructive and generous manner.

View theatre productions and relate what you see to your class experience.

General Course Requirements:

Written work will include:

Responses to assigned readings and in class work.

Text analysis and character studies.

Responses to rehearsals with your scene partner.

Response to 2 performances at the Todd Theatre (U of R International Theatre Program)

Response to 2 arts experiences (See the Arts Explorer Initiative)

HARD COPIES ONLY PLEASE.

Scene and Monologue Work: This is an acting class. You will be required to memorize texts and rehearse them outside of class. You will be assigned one scene and one monologue to be rehearsed and performed in class. You may need to acquire props and costume pieces for your scene work.

Class Participation: Please come to class prepared to participate fully with your entire heart, mind and body. More than ONE ABSENCE during the semester will significantly impact your grade in this area. In case of documented illness every attempt will be made to help you make up the missed material.

NO CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS EXCEPT FOR ACCESS TO MATERIALS
PERTINENT TO THE CLASS.

Physicality requirements: The nature of this course is such that physical contact will sometimes be required between participants in order to clarify an exercise or perform a scene. Every effort will be made to respect the individual in this process. If you are uncomfortable with this aspect of the course or if you have any physical injuries or disabilities, which might interfere with the physical nature of the course, please discuss this with your instructor at the beginning of the course or as concerns arise.

Required Texts & Readings:

The instructor will provide readings electronically or in hard copy throughout the semester. You will need to purchase two scripts for your scene and monologue work.

Other Recommended Reading:

An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavski

Respect for Acting by Uta Hagan

Sanford Meisner on Acting by Sanford Meisner and Dennis Longwell

Audition by Michael Shurtleff
The Stanislavski System by Sonia Moore

Recommended Attire : Please come to class in comfortable, unrevealing clothing that will allow for a full range of movement. Heavy boots/street shoes are not allowed in Todd 107. Please wear soft soled shoes or be prepared to work in socks. When performing your scene and monologue these restrictions can be relaxed to allow for clothing appropriate to the character.

Attendance Policy: More than ONE ABSENCE will significantly impact your grade. Three or more absences will result in a failing grade.

When working in pairs on a scene an A/F policy will be applied to a missed final performance. If a partner does not show up for an assigned performance, the partner that does attend will get an automatic A – the partner that is absent will receive an F and there will be no opportunity for another performance date. If both partners miss the performance date, they will both receive an F.

The instructor must be notified well in advance of any absence for religious observances.

Grading:

Class Participation and Preparation: 40%*

Written assignments: 20%

Scene Study: 30%

Monologue: 10 %

*Participation Grade: Please see separate rubric.

Information about the Arts Explorer Initiative:

file:///C:/Users/plewi/Downloads/Arts%20Explorer%20Initiative.pdf

Academic Support Services:

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning: www.rochester.edu/college/cetl/

Writing, Speaking and Argument Program: <http://writing.rochester.edu/>

Academic Honesty:

Please see: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/undergraduates.html

Disability Resources:

Please visit: www.rochester.edu/college/disability/

Content/Weekly Outline or Schedule: Subject to change.

Tuesday 9/3: Introductions, Trust, Relaxation, Spontaneity. Group games, discussion. Assign reading and solo scene.

Tuesday 9/10: Journal entry due: Self Observation. Discuss play and assign scene.

Tuesday 9/17: Solo scene performance and score due.

Tuesday 9/24: Action: Beats, Objectives and Tactics. Exploration of dramatic actions through text and improvisation.

Tuesday 10/1: Character and Rehearsal. Explore scenes through guided rehearsals and character improvisation.

OCTOBER 3 – 12, “The Grown Up” Department production. See it and write a response.

Tuesday 10/8: Rehearsal and Analysis. Explore scenes through results of text work and Meisner exercises. LINES MEMORIZED. Character analysis due. Rehearsal journal due.

Tuesday 10/15: NO CLASS. MIDTERM BREAK.

Tuesday 10/22: Rehearse scenes in class. “The Grown Up” response due.

Tuesday 10/29: First showing of scenes.

Tuesday 11/5: Second showing of scenes.

Tuesday 11/12: Monologues assigned. Explore creating environments and internal monologues. Self evaluation of scene work due.

Tuesday 11/ 19: Rehearse monologues.

Tuesday 11/26: LINES MEMORIZED. Monologue analysis due. Rehearse monologues in class.

December 6 – 7, Natalie Hurst ‘74 New Voice Initiative department production. See it and write a response.

Tuesday 12/3: Perform monologues. Last day to submit responses to Arts Exploration Initiative performances.

December 10: New Voice Initiative response due – may submit electronically.

Tuesday 12/10: Second performance of monologues. Final journal entry due.

Final exam date: please reserve for “over flow” work. TBD

Other Information: Please see Arts Exploration Initiative and Credit Hour Policies.