

Course Syllabus Fall 2010
Dram 3356.501
Advanced Acting/Scene Workshop
The University of Texas at Dallas

Course: Dram 3356.501
Instructor: Kathy Lingo
Semester: Fall 2010
Course Start/End Date: Aug. 19-Dec. 6
Course Dates: T/R 5:30 – 6: 45 p.m.

Course Information:

Course Description and Rationale:

Acting is a mental and physical skill that employs the understanding of almost all social and humanistic behaviors. The more characters the actor can execute the more successful the actor, which requires the actor to embody all types of characters. These characters vary depending upon the play or literary demands of the role. Since human beings are complex creatures, the actor must learn to think and analyze information, situations and life in general, as others. This is not an easy task, to understand, think and physically capture a character. The best way to learn these complex skills is through the act of doing the job using the methods, concepts and exercises designed for this course. The students will discuss different methods and concepts with the instructor and then will be given multiple opportunities to use them in order to layer and enhance their acting skills and performances.

Learning Objectives:

In the course Dram 3356/Advanced Acting/Performance or “Scene to Scene” as it is referred to, the student will have the opportunity to take specific scenes and repeat performances, in order to create different characters. This will allow the student

- to focus on character development and script analysis, rather than memorization.
- to explore the text in depth,
- to understand the semantics of language
- to explore how time, place and motive affect the actor and the literature
- to experience how dynamics and timing of action affect each character and script,
- to explore the importance of experimentation to develop skills
- to truly understand the actor’s process.

Instructor Information:
Office: 972.883-4152

Location of Office: JO 5.4068

Email Address: klingo@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: 6:45-7:45 (after class as needed and always by appointment)

Course Materials

This ***does not*** mean that the students will not have to read, research and memorize. Students will be responsible for finding their monologues, duets or scenes. A good actor is well read and works hard. It is the love of what we do that makes it sometimes appear to be play, rather than discipline and dedication. As stated by Ed Hooks, "Acting is doing!".

Required Skills for students to succeed:

Students need to have basic acting skills, some knowledge of script break down/analysis, research skills and college level writing skills.

Secondary References that may be discussed and used in class: These books are not required, but will enhance students understanding during discussion and for further research of topics discussed. I encourage students to begin to develop their own personal library for study and future references. Here are a few I use to begin.

Acting One/Acting Two, fifth edition, Robert Cohen, McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, 2008.

Acting Is Believing, tenth edition, Charles McGaw, Kenneth L. Stilson, Larry D. Clark, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, Boston, Ma., 2009.

Styles for Actors A handbook for Moving Beyond Realism, second edition, Robert Barton, Routledge, New York, NY, 2010.

Respect for Acting, Uta Hagen with Haskel Frankel, the original copyright of this book was 1978 and has multiple editions. All will work and the basic material is covered in all the editions I have read.

Works of Constantine Stansislavski

Other resources or tools:

Students must bring scripts, note pads and writing instruments to all classes.

If your performance is filmed in class, you must bring the instructor a blank CD to procure a copy of your performance. Several may be required throughout the semester and will be announced in class prior to assignment due date.

Students must wear comfortable, flexible, and protective clothing to class or rehearsals. We will be working with our minds and bodies, therefore the body must be unconstrained and free to form without worry of inappropriate exposure of body parts. We will be moving from ceiling to floor.

Shoes must be comfortable, flexible, and protective. No flip-flops or sandals are allowed on the main stage and due to the special flooring in the rehearsal hall, where this class will meet, please bring socks to wear. Street shoes of any kind are not allowed. Dance pads and special types of footing are allowed, but must be approved by instructor.

Course Policy:

1. Make up exams: Exams will be in the form of performed and/or written assignments and will only be allowed to be rescheduled if official documentation can be provided to instructor by student.
2. Extra Credit: Extra credit will not be given. Just do your best on each assignment and that will be enough work.
3. Participation: This is a must. You cannot participate if you are not there. Others will depend upon you to perform with them, critique performances and perform exercises to enhance acting. This course is a workshop and therefore requires the actor to “do” work in class.

Technical Requirements:

In addition to a confident level of computer and internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful research learning experience.

Student Assessments:

Assignment	Percentage
2 Duets	30%
1 Monologue	10%
1 Scene (Final Project)	20%
Participation	10%
Notebooks/Research/Bios/Assignments should be included in this project	20%
Performances Attended and Critiqued	10%
	100%

List grade criteria for course:

Scaled Score	Letter Equivalent
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D

Your instructor keeps an old-fashioned grade book. Due to past technological misfortunes, some operator error and some systems error with webct, blackboard, orion, galaxy and whatever is the current method, your instructor chooses to use elements of both, maintaining the entire organization of the class in written format. You may always set an appointment with me to discuss your grades, if an assignment is not posted on the web. Instruction can vary by student and literature.

Participation

How can one take an acting course and not participate, mentally and physically, at all times? Theatre is a collaborative art. Absences are taken seriously and only one “free get out of jail” card is given per semester. In other words, 10 points will be deducted from your participation grade with each absence after the first one. Only absences where emergency/medical documentation is provided will be excused. Theatre requires discipline.

Please do not come to class ill. Remember, it’s a collaborative event and we don’t want to create a tragedy or comedy of errors with others health. Make sure to provide medical documents. The university clinic is sufficient, if needed.

Participation includes contributions and reactions to classroom and studio work, verbal expression of ideas to others, enthusiasm for topic in those expressions and overall involvement/behavior in class activities. Students must speak up, but do so appropriately.

Assignments

This is a performance-based course. The student will edit literary works, to perform monologues and scenes for assignments, which will have time and objective requirements. Editing is a skill that requires analytical and organizational understanding. Each piece will require different forms of editing and many times require manipulation of the written word to form a complete scene or different perspective. Each piece and performance must be examined and graded on an individual basis.

Performances will be graded in written and oral forms at the discretion of the instructor. Performances will be discussed openly in class for learning purposes. A copy of the edited work or monologue must be submitted to the instructor prior to performance, as well as submitted to the elearning site. Students are to take detailed notes of criticisms and comments made by the instructor and others during critique sessions. These sessions will be used to evaluate and grade the development of the character and the actor.

The Bio (written or performed) will be given from the character's perspective. They are based upon personal research of author, character, period and the intention of the entire piece of literature. In this performance we should be able to see the characters objectives and the audience should be able to employ/view/comprehend the "mind's eye" of the character. We should be able to see into the characters' rationale for every action and should define the motivating features, actions, and thoughts that support those objectives.

Assignment submission instructions: Most assignments will be handed in during class time and all assignments must be typed. No handwritten assignments will be accepted. Please make a copy of all work you turn in. Copies of all your assignments must be submitted in your notebook.

Online Tests/Quizzes

Quizzes maybe given at any time the instructor feels necessary.

Final Examination

Your final in this course will be a monologue or a scene, or combination of both, with specific requirements to be fulfilled. It will be a piece of work that should demonstrate all the skills you have acquired throughout the semester. It may be a continuation of a previous work explored in class or a specific project developed between the student and the instructor. Detailed requirements will be given in class based upon individual and class needs.

[Top](#)

Scholastic Dishonesty

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [Scholastic Dishonesty](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Course Evaluation

As required by UTD academic regulations, every student must complete an evaluation for each enrolled course at the end of the semester. An online instructional assessment form will be made available for your confidential use. Please look for the course evaluation link on the course Homepage towards the end of the course.

[Top](#)

Course Outline/Schedule

Tuesday/Thursday Schedule Class Dates	Class Instruction/Discussion and workshops	Class Assignments
Thurs. Aug. 19	Syllabus Explain Design and Work	Find monologue
Tues. Aug. 24	Theatre Games and readings Discussion of characterization and analysis	Bring 3 (2 min. max) monologues to class
Thurs. Aug. 26	Workshop Monologue	Have specific piece chosen to work on in class.
Tues. Aug. 31	Workshop	
Thurs. Sept. 2		Performance for Character and grade.
Tues. Sept. 7	Workshop	Begin 2 nd character development for same piece.
Thurs. Sept. 9	Instructor and class will have open critiques for discussions of course topics. This will be consistent with each performance date.	Performance 2 nd character for grade.
Tues. Sept. 14	Workshop	Begin 3 rd character development for same piece.
Thurs. Sept. 16		Performance for grade. Last time for that piece.
Tues. Sept. 21	Workshop	Bring three duet pieces you would like to work on in class.
Thurs. Sept. 23	Work with partner in class.	
Tues. Sept. 28	Work with partner in class.	
Thurs. Sept. 30		Performance of duet for grade
Tues. Oct. 5	Workshop	Development of 2 nd characters for same duet.
Thurs. Oct. 7		Development of duet with new characters.
Tues. Oct. 12		Performance of same duet 2 nd character development.
Thurs. Oct. 14		Begin working on 2 nd duet piece. (New piece)
Tues. Oct. 19		Development of 1 st character of 2 nd duet.
Thurs. Oct. 21		Run through of 2 nd duet in class for grade.
Tues. Oct. 26		Performance of 2 nd duets

Thurs. Oct. 28	Selecting the appropriate scene and casting in class.	Bring 3 scenes not over 15 minutes to be performed for your final project. More than two people maybe in the scene.
Tues. Nov. 2		1 st character development of scene work
Thurs. Nov. 4	Workshop	
Tues. Nov. 9		Performance of 1 st character development of scene
Thurs. Nov.11		2 nd character development of same scene
Tues. Nov. 16		Work on 2 nd character development
Thurs. Nov. 18		Run thru of 2 nd character development
Tues. Nov. 23	Workshop	Run thru of 2 nd character development
Thurs. Nov. 25		Thanksgiving Holiday
Tues. Nov. 30		Work on Final Project Performance
Thurs. Dec. 2		Performance of Final Projects
Tues. Dec. 7		Performance of Final Project
Thurs. Dec. 9	Final Exam Week Begins	

Schedule and assignments may change with instructor's discretion.