

Course Syllabus
DRAM 1351.501

Acting 1

Instructor Information

Professor: Shelby-Allison Hibbs, MFA
Term: Fall 2015

Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 5:30-6:45pm
Place: JO 1.216

Email: sah140730@utdallas.edu

Office: JO 5.608A

Office Hours: 2:00pm – 5:00pm Tuesday, Thursday

9:00AM- 12:00PM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Please send an email or set up an appointment to meet.

Course Description

This course is designed for anyone interested in developing their imagination, social skills, sensory awareness, and confidence, regardless of any previous acting ability.

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the fundamental tools of the acting craft. During the class we will explore elements of Physical Movement, Intellectual Exploration of Scripts, Vocal Proficiency and Collaboration.

This course can be very active at times, it is important to wear comfortable clothes to most class meetings.

Student Learning Outcomes

Critical Thinking Skills – Students will engage in creative and innovative thinking through inquiry of the acting craft, evaluation of professional and student performers and organization of concepts by theatre artists (assessed via performance reviews and acting journal).

Communication Skills – Students will apply a diverse set of communication skills including verbal, written and physical through various course projects (assessed via monologue and scene performances and performance reviews).

Teamwork – Students will investigate how to collaborate with other artists, support each other with a shared goal and produce a group acting project (assessed via Improvisational work and Scene Performance)

Social Responsibility – Students will engage intercultural competency and civic knowledge by examining various perspectives through the works of playwrights and plays (assessed via monologue projects and scene performance)

Required Materials

All text materials will be handouts from various sources, provided by the instructor. Students will need a notebook for their acting journal.

Schedule

Week 1 – Aug 25, 27

Introduction to the Course and Collaborators

This week will focus on trust-building and improvisational exercises.

Introduction to Acting Journal.

Week 2 – Sept 1, 3

The Body

How can we tell a story simply through movement? What are we communicating with our own way of movement?

Week 3 – Sept 8, 10

Viewpoints and Tableau exploration. Performance of group movement piece.

Week 4 – Sept 15, 17

The Voice

Introduction to basic vocal techniques. Choose a monologue by today.

Week 5 – Sept 22, 24

Performance of first Monologue with feedback

Week 6 – Sept 29, Oct 1

Text Analysis

Introduction to techniques to break apart a script.

Week 7 – Oct 6, 8

Beat breakdown for monologues due.

Performance of Second Monologue

Week 8 – Oct 13, 15

Choosing and Analyzing scenes, what makes a strong partner scene?
Performance Review #1 due on 15th

Week 9 – Oct 20, 22

Introduction to “Dropping In” and “Standing Up”

Week 10 – Oct 27, 29

Exploration of “Standing Up” and “Feeding In” Rehearsal techniques

Week 11 – Nov 3, 5

Exploring Playable actions and specificity with text.

Week 12 – Nov 10, 12

Presentation of rehearsals with text

Week 13 – Nov 17, 19

Choose scenes for final performance, select collaborative groups.
Rehearsals for Scene

Week 14 – Nov 24, 26

Fall Break

Week 15 – Dec. 1, 3

Presentation of progress of scenes

Week 16 – Dec 8

Rehearsal of scenes
Performance Review #2 Due on the 8th

Final Exam: TBD

The final exam consists of a performance of scenes and offering critical feedback to your peers.

Final Journal due

Grading Criteria

All assignments are graded on a 100 point scale and will be weighted according to the following percentages.

Active Participation and Attendance: 30%

Monologues: 15%

Acting Journal: 10%

Performance Reviews: 25%

Final Performance of Scene and Critical Feedback: 20%

Grade Scale:

The following grade scale will be applied:

97+ A+

93 – 96.9 A

90 – 92.9 A-

87 – 89.9 B+

83 – 86.9 B

80 – 82.9 B-

77 – 79.9 C+

73 – 76.9 C

70 – 72.9 C-

67 – 69.9 D+

63 – 66.9 D

60 – 62.9 D-

59.9 – below F

Class Attendance:

Each student has two excused absences, no questions asked. Beyond that, absences will be unexcused unless official documentation explaining the reason for the absence is presented. For excused absences students must make arrangements with the professor for work missed. Each unexcused absence will lower the student's overall participation grade by one letter.

Make-up Work/Late Work:

Since many of the projects in an acting class require active collaboration or an audience present, make-up work or late work cannot be accepted unless a student has official documentation (university, doctor, family emergency).

Extra Credit:

Extra credit projects may be available at the professor's discretion. They could include watching and reviewing a play or performing a monologue.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the professor