

TPP2100: Acting for Non-Majors Fall 2023

University of Florida/College of the Arts/School of Theatre & Dance

Instructor: Alina Sunoo (she/her/hers)
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: asunoo@ufl.edu
Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:35-10:25am
Room Number: CONG012 (Acting Studio)

SOTD Mission

The mission of the School of Theatre and Dance shall be to educate and train artists, scholars, and teachers, and to provide for its students a foundation of professionalism and dedication to their art within a climate of diversity, discovery, and risk. It strives to develop in its students and audiences an enduring passion for theatre and dance.

Land Acknowledgement

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. In particular, the University of Florida resides on land of the Timucua people and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol. For more information, visit <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland>

COVID-19

- **You are allowed, but not required, to wear face coverings during class.** Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
- For additional information about UF's COVID-19 guidelines, visit <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu>

Course Catalog Description

The discipline and creative process of acting: formal and improvisational techniques for developing vocal, physical, and analytical skills.

Course Objectives

- Students will demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline of acting
- Students will communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning, clearly and effectively, in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline of acting
- Students will analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using acting-specific methods and develop thoroughly reasoned solutions to problems

Course Content

- Students will participate in exercises and activities during class designed to develop the skills and vocabulary required for acting performance
- Students will present performance pieces for the class and are expected to have rehearsed and prepared each piece (monologues and/or scenes) thoroughly outside of class. There will be in-class discovery work, (at least) one workshop of each piece, and a final performance for each piece.
- Students will prepare written analysis work accompanying each piece. Analyses will strengthen their work in class and their understanding of methodologies of the subject matter, which may include performance critique papers
- Students may be asked to lead a warm-up for the class on a selected date

Required Materials/Texts

- There is no required text for this course. There may be assigned readings and handouts for which students will be responsible. In addition, students will be responsible for reading and having a full understanding of all source material from which their monologues and scenes come. All class material should come from published worked and must be approved by the instructor.
- Appropriate writing utensils: pencils, pens, highlighters, etc.
- Access to internet, email, and Canvas/UF e-Learning for class information, updates, grades, and correspondence
- Water bottle (recommended) to keep vocal apparatus and body hydrated
- Appropriate apparel for class includes clothing and shoes that allow for unrestricted movement.
- On final performance days, appropriate professional attire or costume are required.

Class Conduct

This classroom will be a safe space.

- It is difficult to succeed at acting if you are anxious about your physical safety or worried about being verbally harassed or teased.

This classroom will be a brave space.

- This class is of an exploratory and experimental nature. Exercises require full participation and often with a sense of humor and a sense of “play.”

This classroom will a respectful space.

- To foster a trusting and creative environment, respect for the instructor and fellow students is essential. It is conceivable that some material chosen for class work could be objectionable to some members of the class. Though no material should be blatantly perverse or offensive, it would be foolish to presume that all students feel the same on all issues. Be considerate when choosing material and when providing feedback. If there are any questions or reservations, please contact the instructor immediately.

For more information, reference the Student Code of Conduct

- https://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/4-040_2021-12-06.pdf

Attendance, Class Participation & Performance (30% of Grade)

Attendance will be taken daily. Due to the nature of this course, both on-time attendance and full participation are essential. Students must provide any missed assignments the following class period for an excused absence. Missed workshops or performances with an excused absence will be made up the following class period. No late or make-up assignments will be accepted without an excused absence.

Tardiness & Absence: Tardiness will deduct points from your participation grade. If you are tardy, please be respectful not to enter the room while another student is performing. You can miss two unexcused classes without penalty. If a third unexcused absence occurs, 5% will be deducted from your final grade. All additional unexcused absences will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade. *

Excused absences include: Illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, participation in official university activities, and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Failure to provide the appropriate documentation at least one week before an excused absence may result in an unexcused absence.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME. Religious observances do not require documentation, but you should inform me by the end of the second week of classes of any religious observances that will conflict with class attendance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Class Participation & Performance: As this is an acting class, full participation is required. Full participation means saying yes to invitations to join in and trying your best. You are not required to be experienced at acting whatsoever. The point of Acting for Non-Majors is to get outside of our comfort zones, learn new skills, and support each other onstage and off, encouraging our classmates along the way.

Performance Attendance & Response (30% of Grade)

Students are required to see two of the following three shows: the production of *POTUS* at the Hippodrome Theatre in Gainesville, and two productions produced at the University of Florida: *Dust* and *The Prom*. Students must complete a two page, double spaced, 12-pt font, 1-in margin critique for each production, stapled together with the ticket stub. The paper will not be accepted without the ticket stub stapled. Students will write about the acting choices made by two of the actors in the show, what was effective, what was not, how they employed different techniques, vocal, physical, etc. Make sure to use vocabulary we have learned in class! Please note that a critique is different from a plot summary, report, or synopsis. No late critiques will be accepted. MLA format. An in-class discussion, for participation points, will follow the closing each show.

Dates for the shows are as follows:

Sept. 8th through October 1st *POTUS* at the Hippodrome Theatre

Sept. 14th through September 24th *Dust* at UF's Black Box Theatre

Oct. 20th through October 29th *The Prom* at UF's Black Box Theatre

Ticket vouchers will be provided for the shows, but the student is responsible for paying handling fees (this amounts to \$2.00). If the voucher is lost or stolen, it cannot be replaced. Tickets will be available through the O'Connell Center Box Office/University Box Office. Please arrive to the show at least 10 minutes early. DO NOT BE LATE – you will not be let into the theatre once the show begins, and it is highly disrespectful to the actors and the audience. Lastly, please turn phones off during the show!

Monologues & Scenes with Analyses (30% of grade)

Each monologue/scene will be graded on preparation, memorization, written analysis, and participation in workshops. Additionally, for each monologue or scene workshop day, students will submit a written analysis which they will update for the final presentation day.

Workshop Days

Students will be assigned (at least) one day to workshop their pieces in front of the class before their final performance days. Upon arrival, the student must have the following:

1. Two copies of the script (monologue or scene): one for the student and one for the instructor.
2. Any assigned written work including analyses (monologue/scene/character) and scoring for the instructor.
3. Display of thorough preparation and rehearsal; complete memorization is highly recommended since it creates more focused work.
4. Appropriate attire

Performance Days

Students will again be assigned a (final) day to perform their piece for the class. Upon arrival, the student must have the following prepared items:

1. A final, updated draft of all written work related to the project.
2. Display of thorough preparation and rehearsal. Workshop discussion, exploration discoveries, and other suggestions from the instructor and class should be fully integrated into the piece. The piece MUST be fully memorized.
3. Appropriate attire: thoughtfully costumed.

Final Performance (10% of grade)

The culmination of your work will be a final performance of a scene or monologue. This will be an open class (friends are welcome to come and watch!) Dates and details to be announced as the semester progresses.

Extra Credit

In addition to the required productions, each student may attend ONE additional performance and write an extra credit critique. The show must be approved of by the instructor first. These performances can include, but are not limited to, productions at the Hippodrome Theatre, Florida Players, Across Town Rep, Gainesville Community Playhouse, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, or any other acting performances that you may be interested in. The same guidelines for the required critiques apply to the extra credit critique.

Canvas

Grades, additional readings, and paper/project guidelines will be posted on the class website Canvas. Log on to <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (no “www”), click the button that reads “LOG IN TO

ELEARNING,” and then enter your Gatorlink username and password. This course should appear if you are officially registered. If you require assistance, start with the UF Computing Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

The instructor of this course fully supports the above statement's intent and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. The members of the University of Florida Community pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. If a student cheats on a test or quiz or plagiarizes material (i.e., using someone else's words or ideas without attribution), they will automatically receive a failing grade in this class. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty. Student guidelines for ethical behavior can be found at:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Special Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office at 352-392-1261. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If a student has a disability documented with the Disability Resource Center and wishes to discuss accommodation, please inform the instructor. If a student has a learning disability that has not been documented, contact the DRC (Disability Resource Center) at 352.392.8565 or accessuf@dso.ufl.edu. Counseling services are available at UF at 352-392-1575 or www.counsel.ufl.edu.

Syllabus

University Counseling Services

3190 Radio Rd.

P.O. Box 112662

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

352-392-1575

www.counsel.ufl.edu

Grading Scale

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 63-66
D- 60-63
E 59-

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by participating in the evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Your ongoing enrollment is confirmation that you understand and will comply with the requirements of this course. I reserve the right to alter this syllabus if necessary.