

TPP 2110 - Acting 1: Instrument & Discipline
8:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. M,W
Credits: 2

Instructor: Michelle Bellaver

Office Hours: 12:45 - 2:00pm Mondays and by appointment

Email: rbellaver@ufl.edu

Catalog Course Description: An introduction to the craft of acting. This course introduces basic physical, vocal and analytical concepts, methods, vocabulary, discipline, and explores the creative process through exercises in observation and awareness.

Course Overview:

Acting One is an introduction to the craft of acting and the foundation for all performance courses. The course consists of group exercises to develop physical awareness, concentration, imagination and trust. Basic physical, vocal and analytical concepts; methods; vocabulary; and discipline required of the beginning actor will also be explored. Students will develop their own creative process through monologues, scene work, and exercises in observation and awareness.

Course Objective:

- A) To establish a common vocabulary that serves as a foundation for the acting process.
- B) To increase observational skills and develop self-awareness through exercise and improvisation.
- C) To develop in the student an understanding of the discipline of the art and to refine concentration skills necessary within that discipline.
- D) To introduce the student to the basic methods of relaxation as well as physical and vocal freedom and control.
- E) To develop in the student a sense of the ensemble nature of the discipline through exercise in trust and communication.

Required Text:

Respect for Acting. Hagen, Uta. (Wiley, 1973, ISBN: 0-02-547390-5) Available at the bookstore.

Published plays and reference materials, both of which may be obtained from the campus libraries, will be utilized by the student in class. Handouts may be distributed as well.

Course Content:

Through the use of explorations, both structured and unstructured, the student will develop the basic skills of acting, which include: a repertoire of relaxation and warm-up exercises from which to build upon for use in the study of acting, and the development of self-awareness, imagination, the mechanics of staging, character-process, and foundational work in script analysis.

Students will memorize the general vocabulary of acting through the use of the addendum to the syllabus and in-class exercises and explorations. A comprehensive, written exam will be given at the end of the semester.

Execution of the basic acting skills will be demonstrated by the student in the form of in-class performances of monologues and in scene work with partners. Students are expected to be fully

memorized for these performances and will be expected to submit written analysis for each performance, the content of which will vary according to the student’s development of skills.

This course utilizes Uta Hagen, Stanislavski and Lessac techniques.

Expectations of Monologue Work

- Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity of objective(s)
- Clarity of tactics
- Vocal exploration
- Physicality
- Presentations are fully memorized at the time of first performance.

Expectations of Scene Work

- Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- Both characters “live” in the same world
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity in objective(s)
- Clarity in tactics
- Vocal explorations
- Physicality

Course Schedule will be given separately.

The course concludes in a final performance utilizing the skills and techniques acquired throughout the semester.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Personal Experience Assignment	20
Production Reaction Paper	25
Actors Sensory Experience	15
Basic Object Exercise	15
Three Entrances	15
Monologue Performance and Analysis	35
Scene Performance and Analysis	50
Vocabulary/Terminology Exam	50
Participation	40
Attendance (approx., see gradebook for final total point value; subject to change)	60*
TOTAL	325

Attendance at UF Theatre Productions:

All students enrolled in this course will receive coupons to see SoTD mainstage productions. The cost of the tickets are covered by course fees. You are required to see all assigned UF mainstage shows and be prepared to discuss them in the class.

For 1 of the productions, you will submit a 2-page critique on the acting in the production (double-spaced, 1 inch margin, name & section number in page header). The critique *should not be* a synopsis of the play.

Rather, attention should be paid to the use of creative imagination, physical awareness, proper vocal technique, and the overall creative development of the actors. Discuss individual performers, for example. The idea is to report your observations. Draw parallels between what you observe and your work in class.

More information on play titles, dates, and tickets will be discussed in class.

Response Paper guidelines will be provided in class.

Participation Rubric:

Total points for the below categories = up to 10pts./category, totaling 40 pts. for 4 categories.

CRITERIA	EXEMPLARY 10-9	PROFICIENT 8.9-8.0	DEVELOPING 7.9-7.0	UNSATISFACTORY 6.9-0	SCORE
Frequency of Participation	Proactively and regularly contributes to class discussion; initiates discussion on issues related to class topic.	Sometimes contributes proactively to class discussion; asks questions and responds to direct questions.	Rarely contributes to class discussion; seldom volunteers but responds to direct questions.	Never contributes to class discussion; fails to offer relevant responses to direct questions.	
Preparation	Consistently well-prepared with all assignments completed; demonstrated preparation with notes, observations, & questions.	Arrives fully prepared with some frequency; partially prepared at other times; inconsistent demonstration of preparation through notes, observations & questions.	Demonstrates infrequent completion of assignments and readings; often has not completed assignments or prepared notes or observations.	Exhibits little evidence of having read or thought about assigned material.	
Listening Skills	Listens attentively and actively as indicated by comments that often built on others' remarks; contributing to class dialogue	Some evidence of active, attentive listening in remarks	Listens very infrequently and without attention to concept or detail, as indicated by polls & comments that are often loosely related to others' remarks.	Rarely or does not listen to others; did not pay attention while others speak; comments did not contribute to class dialogue, engages in activity unrelated to class.	
Quality and Relevance of Contribution	Comments always insightful & constructive, balanced between general impressions, opinions, & thoughtful analysis; uses appropriate terminology.	Comments mostly insightful & constructive, occasionally too general or not relevant; mostly uses appropriate terminology.	Comments are sometimes insightful & constructive, with occasional signs of insight; comments often general and rarely use appropriate vocabulary.	Comments are uninformed and counter-productive; almost never uses appropriate vocabulary; heavy reliance on uninformed opinion & personal taste.	
				TOTAL	

UF Grading Scale:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00	87.0 - 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33	81.0 - 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67	75.0 - 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 - 74.9	C	2.00	69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33	63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67	0 - 59.9	F	0.00

For information on current UF grading policies, please visit the [link to the university grades and grading policies](#).

Grading:

Students may have varying degrees of “talent” and experience in acting. Therefore, students will not be graded solely on the basis of the skills and talents they bring to the class. Consideration will be given to the student’s improvement and effort that are demonstrated in how they incorporate feedback and notes from “rounds” to “performances”. Performance Rubrics vary for monologues and scene work and will be provided when the work is assigned in class. Obviously, assignments must be *complete* in order to receive *complete* points. Each assignment will be awarded a specific point value. Points will be tallied at the end of the semester to determine the student’s final grade.

Late Assignment Policy:

1. Late assignments will receive 50% off of the grade before grading the assignment and you cannot perform until your character analysis has been turned in. Keep track of due dates. Keep the lines of communication open if you are having a challenge.

Attendance Policy And Class Expectations:

This is an experiential class. You are expected to attend class daily and be on time. “The University recognizes the right of the individual professor has to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and then assign a failing grade for excessive absences.”

Here is my policy:

I take attendance every class meeting and record it under “Attendance” in “Gradebook”. Each class meeting is worth 2 points. I count a tardy after the first 5 minutes of class, and all tardies (regardless of how late you are to class) will result in 1 point removed for the class meeting in which the tardy took place. At the end of the semester, Gradebook totals all the class meeting points and you are given a total based on that number.

You are allowed ONE unexcused absence.

You are allowed ONE freebie tardy.

You are allowed ONE “excused” absence.

These are non-negotiable and the “allowed” mentioned above are reconciled in Gradebook at the end of the semester.

To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation and include the following reasons:

- Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

Religious observances do not require documentation. But, to help organize accommodations, students must inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course’s instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student’s continued participation in the course. For Majors: Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

Additional Course Fees:

\$50.00 *included in your course payment. A portion of the course fees covers tickets to SoTD mainstage productions.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Privacy Statement Related to the Online Component of this Course:

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live due to Covid. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

Campus Resources:

Health & Wellness

1. *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
2. *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
3. *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.
4. *University Police Department*: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
5. *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

1. *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
2. *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
3. *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
4. *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
5. *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
6. *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
7. *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

Final Business:

Acting is *ACTION*. Acting is not about attitude, or being clever. It’s not about your ability to conjure up or manufacture a feeling or emotion. Acting is about the *TASK*. To get forgiveness, to get them to love you, etc., etc., etc. Be deliberate. Be direct. Be fearless. Learning how to do the aforementioned is the function of this class