

TPP2100 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS SPRING 2024

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

Section/Period: Section 8211, MWF 3:00- 3:50 pm (Period 8)

Building/Room: Constance Theatre (Check UF Campus Map), RM# G012

Instructor: Amber Coleman

Email: amber.coleman@ufl.edu

Office/Office Hours Information:

Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00 am -12:00 pm and Tues, Thurs are Zoom by appt.

My office is under the stadium next to the College of Health and Human Performance building. Walk up the ramp on the stadium's east side to gate 14. You should see a glass door titled, "School of Theatre and Dance". Please confirm an appointment with me before coming to my office hours.

Here is the pinned location to insert on your Apple/Google Maps:

Ben Hill Griffin Stadium

1950 Stadium Rd

Gainesville, FL 32611

United States

COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

The discipline and the 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; work is expected to continue specific skills outside of class and for any reading, etc.
- ❖ 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, used to strengthen performance, and understanding of methodologies and theories.
- ❖ Students will be required to complete short writing assignments to show comprehension of the subject matter, which may include performance critique papers.
- ❖ Students may be expected to prepare a warm-up for the class on a selected date.

- ❖ Students will keep a binder with the syllabus, class handouts, daily notes, performance pieces, etc., which may be examined throughout the term.

REQUIRED MATERIALS/TEXTS:

- ❖ Binder containing syllabus, class handouts, presentation pieces, notes, etc.
- ❖ Appropriate writing utensils: pencils, pens, highlighters, etc.
- ❖ Access the 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 the class includes clothing and shoes to move in easily.
- ❖ 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 fully understanding all source material from which their monologues and scenes come. All class material should come from published work and must be approved by the instructor.

CRITICAL DATES:

Jan 10: Syllabus Contract due

Jan 22: Monologue Selection

Feb 2: Character Analysis due

Feb 5: Monologue Score due

Feb 2 - 9: Monologue Workshop

Feb 19: *Everybody* Paper due

Feb 23: Monologues Off- Book

Feb 28 - Mar 6: Final Scoring & Character analysis of Monologues due/Monologue Workshops

Mar 4: *Hashtag Selfie TikTok Zoom* Paper due

Mar 8: Stanislavski Quiz

Mar 18: Monologue Rehearsal Day

Mar 20: Final Monologue Presentation

Mar 20: Scene/ Partner Assignments

Apr 1: *Pliant Girls* Paper due

Apr 12: Chekhov Quiz

Apr 15 - 22: Final Scoring & Character analysis of Monologues due/Monologue Workshops

Apr 24: Final Scene Presentation

REQUIRED VIEWING:

Students are required to see the Spring semester productions of *Everybody*, *Hashtag Selfie TikTok Zoom*, and *Pliant Girls* in the Black Box Theatre at UF. Students must complete a two-page (**no more than 2.5**), 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. Points will be deducted.

This is an acting critique, so your focus will be on the actors' work. Do not critique the script or discuss themes or symbolism. Actors can't deviate from their lines and they can't act

symbolism. Here are some elements to consider in your paper: How effective was the actor in pursuing what the character wants as opposed to simply showing emotion? How was their physicality and/or vocal work? Specifically, how did the actor use their hands, eyes, brows, pitch, breath, cadence, etc., to convey the complexities of their role effectively (or ineffectively)? What were some of their best moments and why? How did this add to your understanding of the story or the themes of the play?

All papers will begin with a short introductory paragraph ending with a THESIS STATEMENT, the position you are taking about the performances.

Example of a Solid Thesis:

While Jane Smith's deep voice added gravitas to the role of Mary, I found that Henry Winter's body language was too relaxed for the stern Captain Carl.

A Terrible Thesis:

Everybody was very good in the play.

The body of your paper will prove your thesis. You will support your opinions with evaluations of specific moments. For example, "In the opening scene where Smith's character found her childhood toy, her voice became more youthful, which showed that she strongly connected with her past."

Your concluding paragraph should summarize the major points you make in your paper.

Papers are due the Monday after the show closes. No late or emailed critiques will be accepted. Please give your full attention to the show. The Spring UF shows include *Everybody*, *Hashtag Selfie TikTok Zoom*, and *Pliant Girls*.

Ticket vouchers will be provided for the shows, but the student is responsible for paying handling fees. 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. Hashtag Selfie TikTok Zoom tickets will be available through Eventbrite (Details TBA). Please arrive at the show at least 10 minutes early. DO NOT BE LATE – it is highly disrespectful to the actors and the audience. NO other shows can be substituted for seeing the required UF productions. Lastly, turn phones off during the show! NEVER take a call or text during a show...EVER!

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of each class. Due to the participatory nature of this course, attendance is MANDATORY. Students are expected to be in class on time and ready to work. Two unexcused absences are allowed. Upon the third unexcused absence, a deduction of 30 points will be reduced from the final attendance grade, and 30 points will be deducted for each additional absence thereafter. Please use these absences wisely, since NO exceptions will be made for unexcused absences. There are NO make-up assignments for any unexcused absences.

The ONLY excused absences allowed are religious holidays (student must write a letter stating such and provide it to the instructor at least one week prior to the absence), medical

emergencies (accompanied by a doctor's note on letterhead with date), and mandatory school requirements (which must be approved by the instructor and a letter from the appropriate authority must be provided at least one week ahead of time). Failure to provide the appropriate documentation at least one week before an excused absence will result in an unexcused absence. 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.

In addition, two tardies will be allowed. Upon the third tardy, 30 points will be deducted from the final attendance grade and 30 points for each additional tardy thereafter. Please note, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor after class of any late arrival, otherwise the student will receive an absence for the day.

Please be respectful not to enter the room while another student is performing. Participation can only be evaluated if the student is in class, on time.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

No late or make-up assignments will be accepted without an excused absence. Points will be deducted.

DRESS CODE:

Dress appropriately for an acting class. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes that allow you to move with ease. Flip flops are not acceptable. On final performance days, appropriate professional attire or costume are required.

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 electronically for the instructor
2. Any assigned written work including but not limited to analyses (monologue/scene/character) and scoring for the instructor.
3. Display of thorough preparation and rehearsal; complete memorization is HIGHLY suggested 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. Submit this electronically.
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. Piece MUST be fully memorized.
3. Appropriate attire: thoughtfully costumed.

EXTRA CREDIT:

In addition to the required productions, each student may attend ONE additional performance and write an extra credit critique worth a possible 25 points. 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 you may be interested in. The same guidelines for the required critiques apply to the extra credit critique. Students who do not attend *Everybody*, *Hashtag Selfie TikTok Zoom*, and *Pliant Girls* may NOT complete an extra credit critique.

EVALUATION & GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Class Participation	250
Attendance	150
Reflection Paper #1	50
Reflection Paper #2	50
Reflection Paper #3	50
Stanislavsky Quiz	25
Chekhov Quiz	25
Monologue Character Analysis	50
Monologue Scored Script	50
Monologue Final Performance	100
Scene Character Analysis	50
Scene Scored Script	50
Scene Final Performance	100

Total 1000 points

Grading Scale:

A	=	1000-940
A-	=	939-900
B+	=	899-870
B	=	869-840
B-	=	839-800
C+	=	799-770
C	=	769-740
C-	=	739-700
D+	=	699-670
D	=	669-640
D-	=	639-600
E	=	599-0

CLASS DECORUM & CONDUCT:

When students are not working, they must give full attention to those who are working. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced before class begins. All notes will be handwritten. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for cell phone use, laptop use, electronic devices, sleeping, eating, drinking

anything but water, reading, working on other homework, disruptive talking etc. The instructor will exercise the right to remove any student from class who violates these policies, and they will receive a deduction of 20 points from their participation grade and an absence for the day.

All student views must be respected. 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. Listen with an open mind. This has nothing to do with freedom of speech – it is about common courtesy, and each student must respect the cultures, lifestyles, and individual choices for their fellow classmates.

This class is of an exploratory and experimental nature. Exercises require full participation and often a sense of humor and a sense of “play”. To foster a trusting and creative environment, respect for the instructor and fellow students is essential. If there are any questions or reservations, please contact the instructor immediately.

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 intent of the above statement 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 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 NOTE:

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to make note of any changes always discussed and be familiar with the current syllabus.

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

I have carefully read the TPP2100 - Acting for non-Majors for Spring 2024 Syllabus. I AGREE to all the rules and regulations of the class as outlined in this syllabus.

Please return this form to your instructor. This form serves as a contract between student and instructor.

PRINT NAME: _____

UF ID# _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____