

TPP2100: Acting for Non-Majors Spring 2025
University of Florida/College of the Arts/School of Theatre & Dance

Section/Period: Section 8212, Period 9 (4:05 PM to 4:55 PM)

Building/Room: CON G012 (Acting Studio)

Instructor: Alan Toney

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Office/Office Hours Information: Via Zoom, by appointment 😊

Course Catalog 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.
- 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 and theories.
- Students will complete short writing assignments to show comprehension 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 work and must be approved by the instructor.

- A physical notebook/journal to use for Journal Entries. This journal could also be used for notes, performance feedback, and/or other class related reasons
- 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.

Critical Dates

January 17th: Syllabus Contract Due

February 2nd: Initial Monologue Analysis

February 7th Playcard #1 Due

February 16th: Updated Monologue Analysis Due

February 18th: *Macbeth* Critique Due (TBD, subject to change)

March 2nd: Scene Analysis Due

March 7th :Playcard #2 Due

March 25th: *The Importance of Being Earnest* Critique Due (TBD, subject to change)

March 30th: Audition Monologue Analysis

April 4th : Mock “Audition” for Final

April 4th :Playcard #3 Due

April 23rd: Final Performance

Journal Entries

Included should be specific vocabulary, key phrases, concepts, exercise descriptions, personal notes and personal observations that occurred during the duration of learning, rehearsing, and performing their piece

For complete and optimal journal entries, please include Class Activities (WHAT), Lessons of the Day (WHY), and Observations (HOW). Class Activities should be lists of exercises, discussions, viewings, activities, or lectures. Lessons of the Day should state the concepts learned in class in a complete sentence, not just a technique. Observations serve as an opportunity of reflection on how effective one's process and performance were. It should also describe how you synthesized the lesson or activities outside of class and into one's performance quality. including personal reflections or quotes.

Journals will be reviewed by the instructor 1-2 within the semester to make sure they are being upheld to class standards. Notification of when journals will be collected will be given well in

advance. Journal entries will serve as a part of your Participation grade for this course. Make these journals unique to you and suitable for your benefit.

Playcards (3)

1 student choice, 1 playwright of color, 1 female playwright

12 pt. font (Times or Calibri), double-spaced

Include: 1) title, 2) author name, 3) which category requirement the Playcard satisfies, 4) date written/published,

5) plot summary—do an act and scene breakdown (approx. 375-500 words), and 6) a monologue selection – include character name.

DO NOT write what the play is about. Note the events and what occurs in each act and scene. State what HAPPENS in the beginning, what EVENTS lead to the middle, what HAPPENS at the end, and how the play ends as the curtain falls. Clarify the dramatic logic of the action by providing necessary context. Be sure to introduce or describe who the characters are as you mention them in your plot summary. An act and scene breakdown is a good way to organize the summary.

The plot summary should be approximately 375 words in length if done well, some classics may take a bit more space (500 word max). Playcard summaries that exceed the page/word limit will not be graded. This is an opportunity to practice specificity and concision.

Type out, verbatim, the monologue you think would be one you could use in an audition. If there isn't a character that is appropriate for you, SPECIFICALLY note a pal or classmate who might be able to do the selected monologue. Consider age-appropriate monologues/audition pieces.

This is an opportunity for you. Do not do a Playcard for plays you are reading aloud or have read in another class nor the play you have been cast in. No musicals. No one-acts. Do NOT do a Playcard for a production that you were in in the past. However, I do encourage that you be strategic.

Plagiarism is an act of academic misconduct.

Required Viewing

Students are required to view two productions produced at/with the University of Florida: *Macbeth* & *The Importance of Being Earnest*. 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. Please note that a critique is different from a plot summary, report, or synopsis. No late or emailed critiques will be accepted. There will also be a quiz with questions related to each production, so please give your full attention to the show. Dates for the shows are as follows:

Macbeth: February 7th – 16th Nadine Mcguire Black Box Theatre

The Importance of Being Earnest: March 7th –14th Constans 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 at 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! There are no other shows that can be substituted for seeing the required UF (University of Florida) productions. Lastly, please 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 absolutely 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 emergency (accompanied by a doctor's note on letterhead) 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 to not enter the room while another student is performing. Participation can only be evaluated if the student is in class and on time.

Late Assignments

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

Dress Code

Dress appropriately for an acting class. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes that allow you to move with ease. 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 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.

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 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.

Evaluation and Grading Breakdown

Class Participation/Attendance	500
Playcard #1	25
Playcard #2	25
Monologue Analysis	25
Updated Monologue Analysis & Presentation	25
Playcard #3	25
Theatre Critique 1 (<i>Macbeth</i>)	100
Theatre Critique 2 (<i>Earnest</i>)	100
Scene Analysis & Presentation	100
Audition Monologue Analysis & Final Presentation	25
Total Points	1000

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 and 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 a 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 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 Note

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

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

I have carefully read over the TPP2100 - Acting for Non-Majors for Spring 2025 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: _____