

TPP 3103 – Acting 2 Analysis + Application
2 Credit Hours – 10:40AM–12:35PM M/W
Spring 2025 – Constans G15

Instructor: Ryan Hope Travis

Office: McGuire Pavilion Room 226 + Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/9943846349>

Office Hours: 8:30AM-10:30AM Wednesday + By Appointment

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Course Description:

“Experimentation with scripted material: scene study, analysis, audition and performance.” (UF Undergraduate Course Catalog)

Learning Objectives:

This course continues to actively and thoughtfully build upon your core understanding of the craft of acting. Acting Technique II: Contemporary American Realism provides a deeper examination of how to approach scene study and script analysis. The intent is to craft nuanced performances with clarity of thought and intentional action. The ROOT of this course is experimentation with scripted material. The course consists of partner exercises to develop physical awareness, concentration, imagination, and trust. Drawing upon the methods and approaches explored in class, students will further develop their own creative process.

At the completion of Acting 2, students will be able to:

- A) *Thoughtfully* and *intentionally* experiment with scripted material
- B) Examine a piece of text to uncover the myriad possibilities as a performer

This course will also:

- C) Introduce the student to the broad strokes and (alternately) the meticulous approaches with which an actor can scrutinize scripted material
- D) Help the student develop an individualized script examination regiment that honors their own creative process.

Required Course Materials:

- Published plays and reference materials, both of which may be obtained from the campus libraries, will be utilized in class. Handouts will be distributed as well.
- Come prepared to work, i.e. wearing movement clothes or costumes (appropriate to character).
- Simple props for scene work.

Course Content and Student Expectations:

Students will build upon their intuitive knowledge of the craft of acting and develop a reusable, repeatable method of script analysis. A strong emphasis is placed on assuring that the script analysis serves the work of the actor. Students are expected to have (and/or develop) a strong sense of self-awareness, imagination, the mechanics of staging, and character development.

Students will analyze their characters thoughtfully and intentionally. A variety of methods and approaches will be explored; however, the student is expected to craft a process that resonates most with their instrument. Said process will be represented in all assignments. Expectations of performance work include:

- Thorough analysis/prep work
- Both characters “live” in the same world
- Clear through-line of thought
- Clarity of objective(s)
- Clear and specific tactics
- Vocal *choices*
- Physical *choices*

All performances are to be fully memorized. The course will conclude with a final performance utilizing the skills and techniques acquired throughout the semester.

Assignments:

- Scenes and Performances will be presented **twice**.
- Analyses/scored scripts will be submitted at the first performance. This work should reflect the student's current process. *Note: Analyses provide important feedback for the instructor, as they are used to help re-direct the student in performance.
- Due dates will be set with respect to student needs and outside performance activities -- where appropriate.
- To lighten our impact on the planet, all documents will be submitted via Canvas.

Partner-Building (Brainstorm Session)	ungraded
Scene #1	10pts
Scene #1 Analysis/Score	10pts
AI – Scene #2	10pts
AI – Scene #2 Analysis/Score	10pts
Devised Work – Scene #3	10pts.
Devised Work – Scene #3 Analysis/Score	10pts
Ensemble Work/Performance	10pts
Participation	30pts
Total	100pts

Grading:

This course embraces the philosophy of *un-grading*. Simply, complete assignments receive complete points. Because this is an artform, students may have varying degrees of experience and “talent” in acting. Therefore, doing good scene or performance work is not enough. *Time, effort, and commitment* are the crux of your grade.

Full participation is crucial in grading – i.e., full commitment to exercises, willingness to participate in class discussions, full prep work outside of class, etc.

1. *Full commitment to exercises:* This means consistently completing all assigned exercises, whether they are scene work, in-class exercises, or working on set with your peers. It is about putting in the effort to understand and apply the material.
2. *Willingness to participate in class discussions:* Active participation in class discussions shows that you are engaged and interested in the subject. It involves asking questions, sharing your thoughts, and contributing to group conversations.
3. *Full prep work outside of class:* This includes all the preparation you do outside of class, such as reading assigned materials, reviewing notes, and meeting with scene and writing partners. It is about being prepared for each class session and staying on top of the coursework.

Overall, full participation means being proactive and dedicated to all aspects of the learning process, which is crucial for both understanding the material and achieving a good grade. Each assignment will be awarded a specific point value. Points will be tallied at the end of the semester to determine.

Grading Scheme:

Points are used to demonstrate the weight of each assignment. In general, we will utilize a "complete" or "incomplete" grading scheme. Feel free to reach out if this is unclear.

The following grading standard will be used to determine your final grade in this class:

Grade	Range
A	100pts to 93pts
A-	< 93pts to 90pts
B+	< 90pts to 87pts
B	< 87pts to 83pts
B-	< 83pts to 80pts
C+	< 80pts to 77pts
C	< 77pts to 73pts
C-	< 73pts to 70pts
D+	< 70pts to 67pts
D	< 67pts to 63pts
D-	< 63pts to 60pts
F	< 60pts to 0pts

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Course Policies:

Late Assignment Policy

- Written assignments submitted 48hrs beyond the due date will receive a half letter grade deduction every day it is late. Keep track of due dates. Keep the lines of communication open. If you are having a challenge, let me know. Extensions will be permitted if you email me 24hrs *before* the deadline.
- There are no make-ups for workshops, exercises, or performances. Professional actors who show up late get fired (eventually). For graded in-class work, the make-up assignment will be developed in collaboration with the instructor.

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Attendance Policy

- Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. Contact the Dean of Students Office for an excusal letter when appropriate.
- This is a performance class; therefore, attendance is mandatory. You must be present to perform. If you miss a class, an alternative assignment will be created for the missed work, given documentation is provided. We learn from each other. Your presence, whether or not a “performance” is involved that day, is important to the collective learning process.

Policy on Responding to Students

- 24 to 48 hours to reply to emails is typical.
- Submitted documents are typically returned within 2 weeks after due date.

Physical Contact Policy

Unlike most classes, acting spaces can require a certain amount of physical contact between students or between instructor and student. This contact may be used to aid in releasing tension, promote deeper breathing, or to fuel a deeper emotional connection. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with any physical contact suggested in class, you have the right to refuse it with no repercussion towards any sort of grade.

Attendance at UF SoTD Productions:

You are required to see the SoTD mainstage shows to which you receive a complimentary ticket. You are encouraged to attend other SoTD, Florida Players and theatre-related productions, when possible. Be prepared to discuss SoTD productions in class.

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner while pursuing their studies. They are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy, which defines an academic honesty offense as “the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage.” In the context of this course, this includes conducting original research and properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in the writing reaction papers, journals, and self-analysis paper. Submitting work that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade. For more information on the UF Academic Honor Code visit: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Our Honor Code on AI Usage:

As students committed to academic integrity and personal growth, we recognize the importance of producing original work that reflects our own understanding and effort. The use of AI tools can be beneficial for learning and research, but it must be balanced with ethical considerations to maintain the integrity of our academic work.

1. Originality and Authenticity – Students must ensure that all submitted essays are their own work. AI tools should not be used to generate entire essays or significant portions of text.
2. Permissible Uses of AI / AI tools may be used for:

- Grammar and spell-checking
 - Generating ideas or outlines
 - Conducting preliminary research
 - Providing feedback on drafts
3. Prohibited Uses of AI / AI tools may not be used to:
 - Write entire essays or large sections of text
 - Paraphrase or rephrase existing content to pass it off as original work
 - Generate citations or references without proper verification
 4. Transparency:
 - Students must disclose any use of AI tools in their work. This includes specifying which tools were used and how they contributed to the final essay.
 5. Accountability:
 - Students are responsible for the content of their essays, including any errors or inaccuracies introduced by AI tools. Proper verification and critical evaluation of AI-generated content are required.
 6. Respect for Intellectual Property:
 - Students must respect copyright laws and avoid using AI tools to generate content that infringes on the intellectual property rights of others.
 7. Commitment to Learning:
 - The primary goal of essay assignments is to enhance learning and critical thinking skills. Students should use AI tools as aids, not substitutes, for their own intellectual efforts.

By adhering to this honor code, we commit to upholding the values of academic integrity, personal responsibility, and ethical use of technology in our academic pursuits.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. A meeting with the student, instructor and DRC representative will be scheduled to discuss students' needs. Absences related to accommodation are not retroactive.

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. *University Police Department*: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
4. *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](#).

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. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. 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 at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

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 so is the function of this class.

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

This timetable is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

WEEK 1:

Orientation, syllabus

Exploration of script analysis methodologies

*DUE Wednesday, January 15th: Partner Building (Brainstorm Session)

Discuss potential scenes. What are the character's motivations? How do (or don't) they align with your personality? What do you want to explore in this scene? Upload a picture of your working session on Canvas. Be prepared to share your top two selections next class.

WEEK 2:

NO CLASS – Monday, January 20th: MLK Day

Monologue workshop and critique

Individual Inventory: Body Awareness and Vocal Awareness

WEEK 3:

Goals/Obstacles/Discoveries/Tactics

Exercises in exploring character/text and “finding the answers”

WEEK 4:

Scene #1 performances

*DUE: SCENE ANALYSIS/SCORE #1

WEEK 5:

Continuing explorations in “finding the answers”

Finding the Action—working with Scene #1

WEEK 6:

Crafting a character using an imagined backstory and actual historical facts

WEEK 7:

Exploration of Scene #2

*DUE: SCENE ANALYSIS/SCORE #2

WEEK 8:

Scene #2 performances

The Acting Space—in class workshops and exercises in exploring the actor's instrument

WEEK 9:

NO CLASS – March 3rd – March 7th – SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10:

Explorations of Scene #3

Unpacking the physicality

WEEK 11:

*DUE: SCENE ANALYSIS/SCORE #3

Cont'd explorations of Scene #3

Raising the stakes: continuing the development of your skills

WEEK 11:

Scene #3 performances

Feedback and further explorations of Scene #3

Review of skills and vocabulary up to this point—in class explorations using scenes and/or monologues

WEEK 12:

Scene #3 performances and feedback

WEEK 13:

Ensemble Work introduced and Scene study

WEEK 14:

Ensemble Work and Scene study: continuing exploration and exercises

WEEK 15:

Final Scene Presentations

*DUE - FINAL SCENE ANALYSIS/SCORE + PERFORMANCE

This syllabus is a good approximation of what this course will be like this semester. The instructor reserves the right to make reasonable additions or subtractions to the syllabus or to allow more or less time for certain sections based on how the work progresses this semester.
