

TPP 2100 - Acting for Non-Majors
11:00 am – 12:15 pm (M,T,W,R,F)
ROOM: **CON G013**
Section #: **5227**
Summer B 2021

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“Where do we begin? First, you must learn who *you* are.”

-Uta Hagen, Respect For Acting

Course Description:

Acting for Non Majors is an introduction to the discipline and the creative process of acting, including formal and improvisational techniques for developing vocal, physical and analytical skills. 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 personalized creative processes through monologues, scene work, and exercises in observational 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 an understanding of the discipline of the art and to refine concentration skills necessary within that discipline.
- D) To communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline of acting.
- E) To introduce the student to the basic methods of relaxation as well as physical and vocal freedom and control.
- F) To analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using acting-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

Required Text/Materials:

- ◆ Appropriate writing utensils: pencils, pens, and paper for notes.
- ◆ Access to internet, email and Canvas for class information, updates, grades, and correspondence.
- ◆ Water bottle (recommended) to keep vocal apparatus and body hydrated.
- ◆ Appropriate apparel for class including clothes and shoes to move easily in.

Course Content:

Through the use of exercises, both structured and unstructured, the student will explore 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 and **preparation** for acting, as well as the development of self-awareness, imagination, the mechanics of staging, character-process, foundational work in script analysis and mindfulness of the ensemble.

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 live, in class, performances of monologues and 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.

- Students will present performance pieces for the class and are expected to have rehearsed and prepared each piece thoroughly outside of class; there will be in-class discovery work, one workshop of each piece, and a final performance for each piece; selected performance pieces include: two monologues, selected by the student, approved by the instructor and one scene, selected by the instructor.
- Students will prepare written analysis work accompanying each piece, used to strengthen performance and understanding of methodologies and theories.
- Students will write two production critique papers (guidelines will be provided) to demonstrate knowledge of subject material.

Expectations of Monologue Work

- ◆ Thorough written analysis/prep-work
- ◆ Clear through-line of thought
- ◆ Clarity of objective(s)
- ◆ Clarity of tactics
- ◆ Vocal exploration
- ◆ Physical awareness
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Physical awareness

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PREPARATION:

- ◆ All monologues and scenes have an OFF-BOOK DATE.
- ◆ Being off book means that you have fully memorized your lines. Failure to be off book by the off-book date will result in a reduction of your preparation grade.

All final showings of **monologues and scenes** should include full memorization of script, costuming and set blocking. In the work sessions prior to final showings, there should be an escalating level of expectation regarding memorization/preparation.

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PREPARATION:

- ◆ All final showings of monologues should include full memorization of script, costuming and set blocking.
- ◆ In the work sessions prior to final showings, there should be an escalating level of expectation regarding memorization/preparation.

*Students will maintain a **weekly journal** detailing their observations regarding class work and the development of their skills. (See handout for due dates and specific journal requirements.)

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

Attendance at UF Productions:

Students are required to see/hear both UF main stage shows, *Dorian Gray: A Wilde Musical* and *SAINT: 5 Etudes for Joan of Arc*, and be prepared to discuss them in class. Students must complete a one page, double spaced, 12-pt font, 1-in margin critique for the production, submitted online through Canvas. Students will write about the acting choices made by one of the actors in the show, what was effective, what was not, how they employed different techniques, vocal, physical, etc. Please note a critique is different from a plot summary, report, or synopsis. *Remember: This paper is not be a synopsis of the play. Discuss individual performers, for example.* The idea is to report your observations. **Draw parallels between what you observe and your work in class.** Be prepared to discuss the production in class. The course calendar will indicate the paper due dates.

Dates TBA *Dorian Gray: A Wilde Musical*

Dates TBA *SAINT: 5 Etudes for Joan of Arc*

Reaction Paper Required

Class Attendance:

The following attendance policy begins the first day you are enrolled in the course: Due to the participatory nature of this course, attendance is mandatory. You are expected to be in class on time and ready to work. You can miss **TWO** unexcused classes without penalty. Your **third unexcused absence** will automatically assure that the highest grade you can receive in the class is a B, and **four unexcused absences will earn you a failing grade for the entire course.**

3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence

This is a performance class; therefore, attendance is MANDATORY. **You must be present to perform.** We learn from each other, **as an ensemble**— your presence, whether or not a “performance” is involved that day, is important to the collective learning process and overall experience.

For an excused absence, students must provide any missed assignments the following class period. Missed workshops or performances with an excused absence will be made up the following class period. Late work or assignments for excused absences will not be penalized. Late work or assignments for unexcused absences will result in a ten percent deduction of the grade per late day.

****Religious observances do not require documentation****

- To help organize accommodations, students should 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 absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- ◆ 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)

COVID-19

Students are expected to stay home and seek medical help for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill). The culture of hiding illness or the “show must go on” mentality must be avoided. Students who are medically required to quarantine will have documentation from a medical provider. Students who self-quarantine must

communicate with the instructor and “attend” courses remotely synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor.

→ Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance and to be on time.

- ◆ Opportunities to make up missed material for unexcused absences is up to the instructor’s discretion and will be made available through virtual classes or online assignments.

Late Assignment Policy:

1. If your written assignments are late they can be turned in with a 15 point deduction. Keep track of due dates that are outlined on the timetable, which accompanies this syllabus.
2. **** THERE ARE NO MAKE UP DAYS FOR WORKSHOPS OR PERFORMANCE DAYS**** If you know you will be using an unexcused absence on a specific day during workshop or performance weeks (see class outline)- you must let the instructor know **TWO WEEKS** ahead of time.
3. If you miss your *assigned* workshop or performance day, you forfeit the points for that day. Only in extreme cases will scenes be rescheduled.

*NOTE: 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/

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions:

- ◆ Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- ◆ Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- ◆ If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please use the UF Health screening system (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>) and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Grading:

“Talent” comes in varying ways and the range of experience in acting may differ. Therefore, students will not be graded solely on the basis of the skills they bring to the class. Consideration will be given to the student’s quality of effort, application, and growth demonstrated in class.

Participation is a key factor in grading. Criteria for this grade include attentiveness, participation in and/or leadership of exercises, willingness to participate in class discussions, etc... in general, the TIME, EFFORT, and COMMITMENT the student displays toward this 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.

Grading Scale:

300-270	A	225-239	C+	180-194	D
255-269	B+	210-224	C	193 and below	E
240-254	B	195-209	D+		

Evaluation and Grading Breakdown:

“Acting/Self Analysis” Paper	10pts
Monologue	25 pts
Scene	25 pts
Animal Within	15 pts
Impersonation	15 pts
Final Scene	50 pts
Journals	12 pts ea. (60 pts total)
Reaction Paper	15 pts (30 pts total)
Participation	70 pts
TOTAL POINTS = 300	

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

CLASS DECORUM & CONDUCT:

When students are not working, they must give their full attention to those who are working. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced before class begins. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for cell phone 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 10% deduction from their participation grade for each occurrence.

All students’ views must be respected. It is conceivable that some material chosen for class work *could be objectionable* to some class members. 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 of their 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”. In order to foster a trusting and creative environment, respect of the instructor and of the other students is essential. If there are any questions or reservations, please contact the instructor immediately.

Physical Contact Policy:

Unlike most classes, acting 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.

Academic Honesty Policy:**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.”

If you cheat on a test or quiz, or plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you 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:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

The Student Conduct Code is available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/>

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.

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.

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/.

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. ***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.

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 to do this is the function of this class.

Final Note:

The syllabus and the course calendar are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to make note of any changes discussed and to be familiar with the current syllabus at all times.

SYLLABUS CONTRACT: Section 5227

I have carefully read over the TPP 2100 – Acting for Non-Majors Syllabus for Summer B 2021.
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_____