

Course Syllabus
Acting I-Fall 2017
THEA 1364.01 – T/TH 11:00-12:20
PAC 184
3.0 Hours Credit

Instructor: Penelope Hasekoester
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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2-5 PM
Morning hours by appointment only.

Required Text: None

The following texts may prove helpful or interesting to the student: An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavsky, Challenges to the Actor by Uta Hagen, and The Actor at Work 8th Edition by Robert Benedetti.

Objective: To teach basic acting skills through the use of character analysis, research, improvisations, and physical and vocal techniques.

Attendance Policy: Class participation is an important part of any acting class, so it is imperative that you attend all classes. If you are absent more than **three (3)** classes, your final grade will be reduced by **five (5)** points for **each** absence. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy **three times**, that equals **one absence**. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

Classroom Attire: Please wear clothing that is comfortable and loose fitting.

Classroom Demeanor: Come to class focused and ready to work. Please turn off all cell phones.

Catalogue Course Description: A study of basic techniques in body and voice as they are applied to the performance of stage tasks by the actor.

Course Requirements: All students are required to see the following Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre 2016 productions and to write a three-page critique on **one actor** from each of the following shows: (*Oklahoma!*, *Government Inspector*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Credeaux Canvas* and *Silent Sky*). (These critiques **must** be typed. Font must be no larger than 12 pt.) **One** complimentary ticket will be provided for each show. These papers will focus on the use of body and voice in the creation of a character. **All critiques must be turned in at the beginning of the first class period after a show closes.** The critique may be e-mailed to my SHSU address (see above). It **must** reach me by the **beginning** of the class period. If the critique is not turned in by the beginning of class, you will be given a **ZERO** for the critique. Critiques **will not** be accepted at a later date.

Scene Work: Much of your grade will be based on partner work. You must be available to work with a partner in the rehearsal process. If you are unavailable to work with your partner, your grade will be lowered.

If you do not show up on the day when your scene is due to go up, you will be given an automatic ZERO for your scene. Your partner will not be penalized. If you are ill, you must have a doctor's excuse for that time and day in order to receive a grade other than zero if you are absent on the day the scenes go up. Scenes are presented to the class and then reworked. Your grade is based on both the initial and the reworked performance.

Also due on the **first day** of each scene (see dates outline) is a character analysis, a character journal or a collage: Scene 1 (Character Analysis); Scene 2 (Journal and Research); Scene 3 (Collage). Each is worth a specific point value. (See below) **If the analysis, journal, or collage is not turned in on the first day of scene work, the assigned values will be deducted from your grade. Character analyses, character journals, and collages will not be accepted late for a grade.**

Monologue – 1.5 minutes – Total worth 15 (No Analysis)	15
Scene 1 (Comedy) – 4 minutes – Total worth 35 – Scene 20/Analysis 15	35
Scene 2 (Serious) – 4 minutes – Total worth 40 – Scene 20/Journal-Research 20	40
Scene 3 (Open Genre) - Total worth 60 – Scene 45/Collage 15	60
Critiques –10 points each – Total worth 50	50
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Total	200

The following is an explanation of the grade scale:

200 – 180 = A
 179 – 159 = B
 158 – 138 = C
 137 – 117 = D
 Below 117 = F

If the student is unable to complete course requirements, the student's grade will reflect this inability.

The drop date for all Fall 2017 classes is Friday, September 8, 2017.

Last Day to Drop with a "Q" grade for Fall Courses is Friday, October 12, 2017

Academic Honesty: The nature of a performance class encourages co-operation and collaboration between acting partners. The sharing of information and ideas is very appropriate. What violates the area of academic honesty is asking someone else to write show critiques for you or not attending one of the required productions, and renting the movie, writing a critique on the movie, then presenting it as a critique of the SHSU production. The area of academic honesty is also violated when one turns in another individual's research, character journals or character analysis and claim it as one's own.

Anyone who engages in this type of academic dishonesty runs the risk of receiving a zero on the assignment or failing the class.

Religious Holidays: University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of religious holy day they must notify their instructor by the 12th calendar day after the first day of the semester (Friday, September 8, 2017).

Classroom Visitors: Please talk to me prior to class if you would like to bring a visitor to class.