

THEA 1364

Beginning Acting

Syllabus - Fall 2017

THEA 1364.02 PAC 188 THEA 1364.03 PAC
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Office Hours: MWF by appointment

Note: Syllabus is subject to change at the
discretion of Kevin Crouch.

Course Description: A study of basic techniques in body and voice as they are applied to the performance of an actor. We will explore the craft of acting through vocal and physical warm-ups, ensemble improvisation, character analysis, and imagination work. We will explore generosity on stage, learning to listen to a scene partner, as well as finding the joy in performance.

Course Objective: Learn how to create a character using both your body and voice. Learn to identify character objectives. Learn how to live privately in public.

Classroom Attire: Please wear comfortable and non-restrictive clothing. I encourage you to dress character appropriately when presenting your scenes.

Classroom Demeanor: This is NOT a lecture class. We learn by doing. Come to class focused and ready to move, interact, discuss and perform. You will be asked to work alone as well as with others. **NO CELL PHONES, TABLETS, OR COMPUTERS IN CLASS. If you are caught texting or the like in class, your grade will be reduced. Please don't. No Classroom Visitors.**

If a cellphone rings, dings, etc. during class, EVERYONE does 20 push-ups. SILENCE YOUR PHONES! If my phone goes off, I do 20 push-ups.

The classroom is a space in which many ideas and opinions are expressed and discussed. I ask that all students show respect, sensitivity, and discretion with each other and the topics that may be discussed in the classroom.

Required Reading: No Textbook required, but you will have plays and other readings posted as PDFs to Blackboard.

The following texts may prove helpful or interesting to the student:

Respect for Acting & Challenges to the Actor by Uta Hagen, Backwards & Forwards by David Ball, and Acting: the First Six Lessons by Richard Boleslavsky

Attendance Policy: The only way to learn is to be present and active in class. I do take roll. Everyone gets one free absence. Use it wisely. Three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by an entire letter (i.e., A will become B, etc.) Six or more absences will be an automatic F. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy three times, that equals one absence. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

Grade Breakdown	Points
Class Participation	50
Monologue	75
2 Mintues of Life	50
Performance Response	150 (50 each)
Scene 1	175
Scene 2	200
Scene 3	300
1000 TOTAL	

GRADING SCALE	
900-1000 pts	— A
800-899 pts	— B
700-799 pts	— C
600-699 pts	— D
599 & below	— F

Participation (50 pts): The only way to learn is to be present and active in class. I do take roll and attendance/class participation are parts of your final grade. However showing up won't cut it. You will need to take an active role in the class excecises, dicussions, and be a generous classmate. (2 pts per class)

Monologue (75pts): You will select a monologue, which will be performed, fully memorized, and physicalized for the class. Details of the assignment will be given.

2 Mintues of Life (50 pts): Using Uta Hagen's Object Exercises you will re-create 2 minutes of your life and bring it to life as if for the first time. Details of the assignment will be given.

Performance Response (150pts total, 50 pts each) All students are required to attend the following Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre 2016 productions: Silent Sky, The Government Inspector, and Oklahoma!. Each student must write a minnum 500 word response per show. (These must be typed and printed. NO EMAILS) These papers will focus on how the show impacted you. You may write about how an actor used his/her body, voice, and movement to tell the story. You will have a chance to learn by watching and assess how the actors have applied what we study in class. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ME A SUMMARY OF THE PLAY. All responses must be turned in at the beginning of the first class period after a show closes. If the response is not turned in by the beginning of class, you will be given a ZERO for the assignment. **Respones will not be accepted at a later date.**

Scene 1 (175pts Total, 100pts Scene & 75pts Character Analysis): You will partner up with a classmate of your choice and together you will select a scene from a comic or seriocomic play. After your scene is approved, you will work with your classmate on the scene both

inside and outside of the classroom. You will present the scene memorized, rehearsed, and staged for the class. You will also create a written character analysis for the character you are portraying. Details of the assignment will be given.

Scene 2 (200pts Total, 125pts Scene & 75pts Journal/Research): You will be assigned a scene from a play. You will be assigned to work with a different classmate on the scene both inside and outside of the classroom. You will present the scene memorized, rehearsed, and staged for the class. As you work on your scene, you will create journal entries as the character you are portraying. You will also present research from the world of your play. Details of the assignment will be given.

Scene 3 (300pts Total, 225pts Scene & 75pts Character Collage): You will be assigned a scene partner and together you will select a scene from a play and genre of your choice. After your scene is approved, you will work with your classmate on the scene both inside and outside of the classroom. You will present the scene memorized, rehearsed, and staged for the class. You will also create a character collage representing the life of your character. Details of the assignment will be given.

***** A Note about 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, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. If you are unavailable to work with your partner, your grade will be lowered. Please make an effort to meet and rehearse your scene. You will be thankful you did. 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. Scenes are presented to the class and then reworked. Your grade is based on both the initial and the reworked performance.

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

Semester Calendar Overview:

Reminder: Syllabus and Calendar is subject change at the discretion of Kevin Crouch.

Weeks 1 & 2: Warm-ups: Body and Voice & Group Ensemble Exercises

Weeks 3-6: Monologues & 2 Minutes of Life Exercise

Weeks 7-9: Scene 1

Weeks 10-13: Scene 2

Weeks 13-15: Scene 3

Finals Period: 1364.02: Dec 7th 12pm-2pm
1364.03: Dec 7th 9:30am-11:30am

Important Dates:

**SHSU Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre Productions Schedule
(Reserve Your Tickets at GPAC Box Office or Online)**

Silent Sky

September 27th – September 30, 2017 (Response due Oct. 3rd)

The Government Inspector

October 11th – October 14th, 2017 (Response due Oct. 17th)

Oklahoma!

November 15th – November 18th, 2017 (Response due Nov. 21st)

NO CLASS : September 7th

Last day to drop full-semester fall course without a grade of "Q" is Friday, September 8th.

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 response for you or not attending one of the required productions, renting the movie and writing responses off the movie. The area of academic honesty is also violated when one turns in another individuals research, character journals or character analysis and claim it as one's own. Any student found guilty of plagiarism or dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Anyone who engages in this type of behavior runs the risk of receiving a zero on the assignment.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted,

plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/index.html>

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

Religious Holidays Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>