

CRN # 81324 TTh 9:30am-10:50am
CRN # 81328 TTh 12:30am-1:50pm
THEA 1364.04/.05
Class Location: PAC – Studio #180
Fall 2016

Pamela Vogel, Instructor
Office Hours: **By Appointment:**
TTH 2:15pm – 3:30pm
Office Location: UTC Theater Office #
Email: pmv002@shsu.edu

Beginning Acting

Course Syllabus

COURSE SYLLABUS, CALENDAR, ANNOUNCEMENTS ON UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES, AND YOUR GRADES, CAN BE FOUND ON COURSE HOMEPAGE AT BLACKBOARD (Bb). CHECK IT FREQUENTLY!

www.shsu.edu/ Campus Tools/Blackboard

Our acting studio is a cell-phone free zone.

THEA 1364

Course Objectives: To learn basic techniques in body, voice, characterization, and play analysis as they are applied to the performance of stage tasks by the actor. We will be delving into warm-ups, improv exercises, breaking scenes into “Beats”, intentions/motivations of character, talking and listening on-stage and making strong and creative choices. NOTE: There is no required text. Please see list below for recommended reading.

Attendance: Each student’s point score for Attendance/Participation starts at 30 and is deducted as absences occur. To keep track, click on your My Grades page at the course homepage at Bb. A maximum of three (3) absences is the guideline to keep in mind. Please arrive on time and ready to work. Two tardies (2) =1 absence. Excessive absences and tardiness will continue to reduce of your final grade. More than 3 absences results in a lowered letter grade. 10 or more than 10 absences, that is 1/3rd of the scheduled classes missed, results in an F.

You are recorded as absent unless there is written intervention from the Office of the Dean of Students (located in the LSC). Likewise, you may make up written work late only if you have a legitimate and documented reason approved by the Dean of Students Office, e.g., university obligation, hospitalization, court appearance, jury duty, funeral. No written work will be accepted after the last day of class, Thursday Dec 1st 2016.

- The Office of the Dean of Students is located in the Lohman Student Center; just take your document(s) to that office, which, in turn, will notify all of your professors by e-mail.
- Scene Finals and Cold Reading Assignments are scheduled on the term’s final 4 days of class. An absence on these days, results in no point scores for these assignments. Your grade is affected.

There is no final exam or required attendance for this class during student exam week.

Final Course Grade (Your Banner or Letter Grade) = Total Point Score

A = 200-180 points

B = 179-159 points

C = 158-138 points

D = 137-117 points

F = 116-0

All Performance Assignments will be scheduled in a particular order on the Class Calendar. It is each student’s responsibility to keep his or her attention on Notifications Page/Announcements/Blackboard. If you are ABSENT on your scheduled rehearsal or performance day, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE UP THIS PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENT and will receive 0 points for the Assignment. Your partner will NOT be penalized. One (1) MAKE-UP assignment may be requested. MAKE-UP assignment is a written Assignment.

Assignments and Point Score Breakdown:

Attendance/Participation (maximum 30 points)

Students are expected to participate in all activities, exercises and discussions. This score impacts your grade. Participation (active participation) is **vital** in this class.

“Doing” Exercise (10 points)

Each student will begin a scene by being involved in an activity of their own choosing as if, “alone-in-a room”. 1 other student will be called to enter. Students then execute a short IMPROV together.

Monologue Notation (5 points)

Your selected contemporary monologue scored” in 3 “Beats” is turned in. How to complete this required written work is reviewed in class. Your Monologue may be called to present at any time.

Monologue Presentation (10 points) (student choice)

Presentation of a memorized 1 minute Monologue plus turn in a TYPED print out of your monologue. Monologue Presentation Guidelines and Monologue Notation example at Bb

Short Scene Notation (5 points)

A hard copy/print out of your short scene script “scored” and named in “Beats” is turned in.

Short Scene Rehearsal Journals (#1 RJ 5 points + #2 RJ 5 points = 10 points)

Completion of this required written work, after discussion and examples in class, is turned in.

Short Scene Presentation (10 points)

Present your Memorized Short Scene with your assigned partner, in class.

Play Critique Paper of 1 SHSU Dept Production (20 points) (see below for further details)

100 points = 20 *points score* – Complete 1 formal paper (600-800 words). Play Critique Paper Guidelines at Bb.

Comedy Scene Rehearsal (10 points)

Present Comedy Scene in-class rehearsal.

Comedy Scene Presentation (15 points)

Present Comedy Scene in-class.

Drama Scene Rehearsal (15 points)

Present your Memorized Drama Scene, with your assigned partner, in class.

Character Analysis Paper (20 points)

Complete Character Analysis short answer paper. Character Analysis Paper Guidelines at Bb.

Drama Scene Finals Presentation (20 points)

Final Presentation of Drama Scene.

Cold Reading Scenes (Day #1 10 points + Day #2 10 points = 20 points)

“Cold” Reading of a scene with assigned partner; and observation and feedback. No written work is due.

Formal Paper – Play Critique Paper - Breakdown:

Play Critique Paper of 1 SHSU Theatre Dept Production: Students will be required to attend and then review one (1) Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre production. Students write a Critique and then upload it, NO HARD COPY is required or will be accepted. The **Play Critique Paper is journalism:** it should be a reporting of the acting: what worked, and what didn't, and it must support your opinions with those examples from the play that you see and hear. The **Play Critique Guidelines** are structured to help you construct answers like a theatre critic. Play Critique Paper is a formal paper and has a required format.

Play Critique Papers are uploaded to TurnItIn link. FIND the Guidelines and the TurnItIn link under IMPORTANT LINKS, always online for student access from Course Announcements page at Blackboard. Your Show Program and Ticket is turned in to Instructor.

Play Critique Paper uploads to TurnItIn are DUE by your regularly scheduled class start time on the day they are due: in each case, it is the Tuesday after the show opens and plays. Play Critique Papers uploaded late will be accepted with points deduction.

No Play Critique Papers will be accepted after the last day of class, Thursday December 1st, 2016.

Play #1	<i>Noises Off</i>	Oct 5-Oct 8	Play Critique Paper is DUE: Tues Oct 11 th
Play #2	<i>The Love of the Nightingale</i>	Oct 26-Oct 29	Play Critique Paper is DUE: Tues Nov 1 st
Play #3	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Nov 9-Nov 12	Play Critique Paper is DUE: Tues Nov 15 th
Play #4	<i>The Baltimore Waltz and Belleville</i>	Nov 15-Nov 19	Play Critique paper is DUE: Tues Nov 22 nd

Each SHSU Student taking a theatre course is on a checklist HELD at Theatre Box Office, for 1 FREE ticket to every show

Understanding 100 **points** = 20 **points score** - Formula is: # **points earned** x .2

Examples: 100 points = (100 x .2) = 20 point score

96% = (96 x .2) = 19.2 point score at My Grades

89% = (89 x .2) = 17.8 point score at My Grades

76% = (75 x .2) = 15.2 point score at My Grades

Classroom Etiquette and Attire: Please wear clothes that you feel comfortable moving in. SHSU Dept of Theatre believes that exciting, breathing, vibrant theatre is not possible without everyone contributing. Evaluations will be made on all exercises and scene work. This evaluation also expands to the DAY TO DAY INVOLVEMENT, in other words... This is not a lecture class. We will be 'discussing' different viewpoints of the craft of acting. These discussions, requiring active participation of each student, are not constructed towards a written analysis or test, but towards student implementation.

Performance Training Disclosure: SHSU/Pamela Vogel endorses the concept that the body is the performer's true instrument of creativity and craft. It is through the body (including voice production) that a performer communicates to an audience. Consequently, the nature of performance (acting, movement) training will at times require physical touch between instructor and student and/or between student and student in order to clarify or demonstrate the body's processes as related to the training.

- If you have any special needs or concerns, are uncomfortable with the nature of this work, or have physical conditions or injuries which may restrict or prevent your taking part in the work, please make an appointment with the instructor for further discussion. If you are uncomfortable discussing this with your instructor, please see our Department Associate Chair, Thomas Prior.
- Talk to me! If you need to contact me, you can email me. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding questions on class activities, monologues/scene work etc., throughout the term.

University Policies:

Please review these university policies regarding student participation in class: www.shsu.edu/syllabus/
Students also see this link as a separate item in **Syllabus & Schedule**.

Academic Dishonesty

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy

Students with Disabilities Policy

Visitors in the Classroom

It is important to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term of this course if you need accommodations for learning disabilities. See Students with Disabilities Policy below.

Academic Honesty: The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete 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. Please consult the following link for a full description of the university's academic honesty policy, see http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

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. 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. disability@shsu.edu telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786

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: [Services for Students with Disabilities](#)

How can I find out more/read more about the craft of Acting?

RECOMMENDED READING:

Respect for Acting.....	Uta Hagen
Acting One.....	Robert Cohen
Audition.....	Michael Shurtleff
Backwards and Forwards.....	David Ball
True and False.....	David Mamet