



ACTING I

Instructor: Mr. Geoffrey Arndt, M.F.A

Actors who have uncovered their own humor, sadness, and foibles can mirror the humor, sadness, and foibles of the society within which their particular theatre functions. To create a theater that inspires the audience to recognize that all life is precious takes inspired actors.

-Lee Worley

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Acting is an exploratory course that is designed to help the students create their own acting processes. Through performances, character studies, and activities, the students will engage in an active journey from the first day to discover the how to create and sustain theatrical truth both in themselves and onstage.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- ❖ *Apply methods articulated by Konstantin Stanislavski and his contemporaries to text and character creation*
 - ❖ *Analyze the text of a play in terms of its structure, form, style and historical background*
 - ❖ *Play strong objectives as well as maintain active subtext when acting*
 - ❖ *Create and sustain an active inner life of a character based upon the actor's imagination and the playwright's given circumstances*
 - ❖ *Relate and utilize specific exercise work to help solve challenges faced within assigned scene work*
 - ❖ *Speak with proper diaphragmatic breathing and correct vowel, diphthong and consonant pronunciation*
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REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS:

- ❖ *Bruder, Melissa, etc. (1986). The Practical Handbook for the Actor. Vintage: New York.*
 - ❖ *Pencils/ Pens*
 - ❖ *One single subject notebook that serves as a journal*
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WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Students are expected to attend and eagerly participate in all regularly scheduled classes and examinations. Students who are not prepared to present their work when called on in class or who have unexcused absences on presentation days will receive a zero for that particular lesson/activity. Due to the presentation and activity-based structure to the course, scheduled presentations cannot be made up. You will be expected to be responsible, respectful, and resourceful!

*You will be graded on your responsible, disciplined commitment to daily work. **Students are expected to keep up with the daily syllabus.** This is a highly subjective subject, so the instructor will be as specific as possible in critique and grading matters. As this is a craft that is improved throughout a lifetime, it is improvement that I will be focusing my attention upon.*

REMEMBER: it is attitude and not aptitude that will defines your altitude.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation & class assignments - *In this class, **silence is not golden!** This class is based solely upon student participation. In the spirit of this, participation will weigh heavily on the student's grade; this grade will also fluctuate over the course of the semester.*



Autodrama- Like an autobiography, this will be a performance in which the student will find a metaphor for their life and create a three minute performance piece that elaborates upon that metaphor employing whatever theatrical/media their little heart desires.

Scenework – This assignment will consist of the students presenting scene work with a partner.

Monologues – The students will work on solo performance pieces.

Review- Each student will be required to see the production at Saint Patrick High School this semester. The review will be based in the three questions: What is the artist doing? How well did they do it? Was it worth doing?

Final Assignment- The final for this course is the performance of a monologue and scene written by the students and performed possibly for an audience.

Exam- A midterm exam will be a take home assignment. The due date is indicated on the class schedule. **NO MAKEUP EXAMS** will be given except under extenuating circumstances. The final assignment will serve as the final exam grade.

Quizzes- Quizzes will generally consist of between 5-10 multiple-choice, true/false, and/or essay questions. They may be announced a class period ahead or of the “pop” variety. The questions for quizzes may be on material assigned for reading but not yet discussed in lectures.

EXTRA CREDIT POSSIBILITIES:

Listed below are possible options for extra credit. **PLEASE NOTE THAT EXTRA CREDIT POINTS CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED IF ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE UP TO DATE!**

Additional Theatre Review- You can receive up to **20 points** for attending and reviewing a an additional theatrical production. Details will be given by the instructor.

Ushering for a Saint Patrick Performing Arts Centre Event- You can receive **10 points** for each evening you usher for an event in the Saint Patrick Performing Arts Centre. This entails handing out programs, helping people to their seats, and a few other safety related issues that will be explained to you.

Acting in a Production- If a student acts in a production, they can receive **20 points** for each production.



Date	Activity	Due in Class	To Be Read Today
Wed, January 8	Syllabus and Intro		
Thurs, January 9	Uta Hagen Video		
Fri, January 10	Uta Hagen Video	Uta Worksheet	
Mon, January 13	Quiz: Chap 1: What is an Action		Chap 1 Practical Handbook
Tues, January 14	Observation Homework		
Wed, January 15	Observations	Observations	
Thurs, January 16	Observations	Observations	
Fri, January 17	Autodrama Work		Connecting to the Self
Mon, January 20	MLK DAY- No Classes		
Tues, January 21	Autodrama 1-5	Autodrama	
Wed, January 22	Autodrama 6-9 Late Start	Autodrama	
Thurs, January 23	Autodrama 10-15	Autodrama	
Fri, January 24	Autodrama 16-20	Autodrama	
Mon, January 27	Quiz Methods/ Group Theatre		The Group Theatre
Tues, January 28	Quiz Uta Hagen Basic Object Exercise Liturgy		Basic Object
Wed, January 29	Basic Object Rehearsal		
Thurs, January 30	Basic Object Preview	Basic Object Preview	
Fri, January 31	Basic Object Preview	Basic Object Preview	
Mon, February 3	Quiz Discuss Chap 2/ Analyzing a Scene		Chap 2 Practical Handbook
Tues, February 4	Basic Object Performance	Basic Object	
Wed, February 5	Basic Object Performance	Basic Object	
Thurs, February 6	Basic Object Performance	Basic Object	
Fri, February 7	Quiz Discuss Chap 3 Truth of the Moment		Chap 3 Practical Handbook
Mon, February 10	Quiz Open Scene Work/ Connecting to the Other		Connecting to the Other
Tues, February 11	Open Scene Work		
Wed, February 12	Open Scene Work		
Thur, February 13	Open Scene Preview	Open Scene Preview	
Fri, February 14	Open Scene Preview	Open Scene Preview	
Mon, February 17	President's Day No Classes		
Tues, February 18	Quiz Discuss Chap 4 Externals Meeting Sched		Chap 4 Practical Handbook
Wed, February 19	Working Physically and Vocally Half Day		
Thur, February 20	Approaching the Scene Physically	Physical Script	
Fri, February 21	Approaching the Scene in your own words	Subtextual Script	
Mon, February 24	Shakespeare Workshop with Ms. Kern		
Tues, February 25	Shakespeare Workshop with Ms. Kern		
Wed, February 26	Shakespeare Workshop with Ms. Kern Late Start		
Thur, February 27	Shakespeare Workshop with Ms. Kern		
Fri, February 28	Shakespeare Workshop with Ms. Kern		
Mon, March 3	Open Scene Work		
Tues, March 4	Open Scene	Open Scene	
Wed, March 5	Open Scene Late Start	Open Scene	
Thurs, March 6	Working on Solo Performance Assign Midterm		
Fri, March 7	Monologues Open Mic		Monologues
Mon, March 10	Midterm Conversation		Finding Your System
Tues, March 11	Quiz Michael Chekhov		Michael Chekhov
Wed, March 12	Michael Chekhov		
Thurs, March 13	Monologues		
Fri, March 14	Monologues		



Mon, March 17	St. Patrick's Day No Classes		
Tues, March 18	Monologue	Monologue	
Wed, March 19	Monologue	Monologue	
Thurs, March 20	Elementary School Performance (Superstar)		
Fri, March 21	Endowments		
	(Superstar March 21-30)		
Mon, March 24	Of Mice and Men Act I		Of Mice and Men Act I
Tues, March 25	Quiz Of Mice and Men Act I Late Start		
Wed, March 26	Of Mice and Men Act II		Of Mice and Men Act II
Thurs, March 27	Quiz Of Mice and Men Act II		
Fri, March 28	Scene Assignments		Connecting to the Text
Mon, March 31	Rehearsal		
Tues, April 1	Rehearsal		
Wed, April 2	Preview	Preview	
Thurs, April 3	Preview	Preview	
Thurs, April 4	TBA (Mr. Arndt absent)		
Mon, April 7	Mice Scene	Mice Scene	
Tues, April 8	Mice Scene	Mice Scene	
Wed, April 9	Mice Scene	Mice Scene	
Mon, April 14	Writing a Scene		Writing a Scene
Tues, April 15	Writing a Monologue		Writing a Monologue
Wed, April 16	Writing Day		
Mon, April 21	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	
Tues, April 22	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	
Wed, April 23	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	
Thurs, April 24	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	
Fri, April 25	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	
Mon, April 28	Final Exam Playwriting Day		Playwriting Packet
Tues, April 29	Perform Monologues	Monologues	
Wed, April 30	Perform Monologues	Monologues	
Thurs, May 1	Perform Scenes	Scenes	
Fri, May 2	Perform Scenes	Scenes	
Mon, May 5	Rehearse Final		
Tues, May 6	Rehearse Final		
Wed, May 7	Rehearse Final		
Thurs, May 8	Rehearse Final		
Fri, May 9	Senior Final	Senior Final	
Mon, May 12	Rehearse Final		
Tues, May 13	Rehearse Final		
Wed, May 14	Rehearse Final		
Thurs, May 15	Special Half Day/ Founders Day		
Fri, May 16	No School		
Mon, May 19	Perform Final		
Tues, May 20	Perform Final	Final	
Wed, May 21	Perform Final	Final	
Thurs, May 22	H Period Final		