

Course Objectives

Introduction to Acting is an introductory exploration class in acting for the non-acting major. This course is intended to give a foundational overview of the techniques, methods and history of acting, as well as, begin to develop individual creative voice and process. The most significant experience and gateway to your growth and enjoyment of acting will be your personal active involvement and initiative. We will explore basic acting techniques, scene study, character development, monologues, improvisation, and warm-up/centering methods. Reading and writing exercises will also guide you on your journey of becoming a confident and capable actor.

- *This class will engage in the creative process through a myriad of in-class exercises and explorations.
- *We will seek to open our awareness of the dynamic exchange between the theatre and its audience, an essential transaction without the theatre would not exist.
- *We will explore how the theatre provides a vehicle for personal and social reflection and transformation.

Required text/scripts/materiel

- *Readings will be provided
- *Please have a 3 ring binder and folders. This binder will also serve as your journal

Required Performances/Events:

- *Students will engage with online recordings of plays, musicals, performance art, and individual scenes
- *Students will be required to write critical analysis of viewed performances and/or participate in group discussions

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend class and be on time. Studio based learning is only successful if you are physically in the studio. Students are allowed ONE unexcused absence. Any student missing more than three absences will not pass the course and absence numbers 2 and 3 will lower grade level significantly (A+ will become A, etc with each absence) . If you are truly sick or have a personal emergency (not someone else's emergency), please provide me with a doctor's note and we will discuss the possibility of making up no more than two absences

Grades will be determined by the following breakdown:

- *Attendance/In-class Participation/Preparedness for class...50%
- *Critical review of live performances...10%
- *Assignments/Projects/Exams...20%
- *Final Project/Exam...20%

Tools for Success:

- ~Complete assignments on time. Late assignments will be accepted but not for full credit.
- ~Electronic devices must be silenced and kept out of working area
- ~Honesty is appreciated and expected
- ~Pay attention and participate in class exercises and discussions
- ~Be supportive and respectful of class environment, process, each other, and your instructor
- ~Attend class and be punctual
- ~No food or gum in this class. You may have a water bottle
- ~Relax, engage, leave worries/stress at the door, allow yourself to laugh and LET GO!
- ~Remember that the tools you will learn in this class go far beyond the stage! Take the confidence, discipline, intention, and motivation developed while engaging with this subject into your life and working environment

General Overview of Work and Work Expectations

~Each class will consist of technical explorations in acting/theatre and in-class projects/explorations/collaborations.

~Students will be expected to keep a binder....this will become your portfolio of work and thoughts for this semester. All handouts, notes, exams should be kept in this binder. After every class you will be expected to write a journal entry highlighting your experience that day. Include new concepts learned, developments of your own process, questions for the future, thoughts to remember, etc. We will periodically share journal entries for discussion

~It is not only important to learn acting skills and techniques, but also to be able to speak intelligently about theatrical work. Please take care when writing responses to articles, films, etc. Please include information about what you are responding to....authors, titles, quotes, etc. Be informed in your articulations!

~We will do much communicating via email, check your email frequently

~ We will utilize blackboard or google classroom; TBD

~A week by week schedule of assignments/class plan will be handed out at the second class meeting....be sure you receive!!

Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Accessibility Services at (860) 465-0189. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon your disability until I have received an accommodation letter for the Office of Accessibility Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Add/Drop Schedules

You must be aware of college add/drop schedules. Failure to secure a valid withdrawal from classes will affect vital grade point averages and therefore pose registration problems in the future

Academic Services Center

Students are encouraged to use the support offered by the Academic Services Center (ASC) located on the ground floor of the Library. Advising Services and tutoring in math, writing, and other subjects are available. The ASC also offers assistance in study techniques, time management and understanding learning styles. Spring 2017 hours: (Tutoring) Sun. 2-9; M.-Th. 9-9, Fri. 9-5., Sat. Closed; (Writing Center) Sun 5-9; M & T 9-9; W 9-7 and TH and F 9-4; (Advising) M.-Th. 9-7, Fri. 9-5. Sat.-Sun. Closed. For further information call 465-4310 or check the ASC website at <http://www.easternct.edu/asc/>.

Academic Integrity and Principles of Community

Students should read and understand Eastern's Academic Misconduct Policy, which can be found in the Eastern Student Handbook at <http://ecsu-svkb2.easternct.edu/index.php?View=entry&EntryID=307>

Students are expected to take personal responsibility for their intellectual work and to respect and acknowledge the ideas of others. Academic honesty means doing one's own work and giving proper credit to others whose work and thought are drawn upon. It is the responsibility of each student to become familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty and plagiarism, and to avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism. Students may not engage in any form of academic misconduct, and are responsible for learning how to present the ideas of others in their own work, and avoid all other forms of academic misconduct. For current documentation practices, consult the instructor or a style manual (e.g., APA, MLA). All violations will be handled under the procedures established in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Syllabus Statement on Mask Wearing During COVID-19 Pandemic: Maintaining a safe and healthy campus is only possible if every member of the campus community follows the rules. Therefore, Eastern is requiring that all students and faculty wear a face mask that fully covers the nose and mouth but should not have a valve or vent to expel respiration, whenever they are on campus. This includes whenever an individual is in a classroom or classroom building. Face shields can only be worn with an appropriate face mask. Students who refuse to wear a mask in class can be referred to the

Office of Student Conduct. This protocol complies the safety standards established by the CDC and the Connecticut Department of Public Health and is included in the Student Code of Conduct.

Week by Week:

Week 1:

8/27 HW:

1. 300-400 word narrative. Tell me about your experiences with live theatre: What have you seen, been in, worked on, wish you could see but never have, etc..., Set your goals for this semester: What do you hope for yourself in Intro to Acting, how will you go about meeting those expectations, what fears do you have and what measures will you take to work to overcome them? Discuss theatrical/performance based/public speaking/etc inspirations of the past that have led you to this place today. Explain.
2. Choose one actor that you admire. When you see them perform, you comment more on their acting skills than the body of work itself. Someone you admire. Be ready to share this information, and why you are so drawn to this person, with the class

Week 2 – 9/1 and 9/3

-What is Acting?

-HW: Unpack “The Four Muscles of Acting” Video due 9/3

-Create a Character

-Character Conversations

-HW: Design the environment that most defines your character due 9/8 in class

-HW: 10 Questions Unpacked:

- Who am I? – Write a 300-500-word essay that answers this question. Due online 9/7

Week 3 – 9/8 and 9/10

-What is Theatre?

-Character Conversations – Script Development

-Stages and Stage Directions

-Character Conversations – Script Share

-HW: Design a Stage

-Vocal Warm-ups

-HW: 10 Questions Unpacked:

- Where am I? - Write a 300-500-word essay that answers this question, due 9/14 online

Week 4 – 9/15 and 9/17

-Warm-ups

-Acting with the Body

-Understanding Space

-Silent Scenes

-HW: 10 Questions Unpacked:

- When is it? Where have I just come from? – Write a 300-500-word essay that answers this question, due online 9/21

HW: Write a Silent Scene with a partner due in class 9/22

Week 5 – 9/22 and 9/24

-Warm-ups

-Silent Scene Work

-Mini monologues / cold readings

-HW: Find two monologues (both from a play), one that speaks to you as a yourself, and one that speaks to the character you created. Due in class 9/29

Week 6 – 9/29 and 10/1

-Warm-ups

-The Art of Improvisation

-Monologue Readings

-Dissecting the Monologue

-Given Circumstances/Playing the Action

-HW: 10 Questions Unpacked:

- “What do I want? Why do I want it? Why do I want it now?” - Write a 300-500-word essay that answers this question, due online 10/5

Week 7 – 10/6 and 10/8

-Warm-ups / Improvisations

-Dissecting the Monologue

-Acting with Conflict/Advancing the Story

-HW: Memorize Monologue Due 10/20 in class

-HW: 10 Questions Unpacked:

- “How will I get what I want by doing _____?, What must I overcome?” - Write a 300-500-word essay that answers this question, due online 10/12

Week 8 – 10/13 and 10/15

-Warm-ups / improvisations

~Interpreting and Using Dialogue

~Monologues

~Shakespearean Insults

~HW: Read “Fences” by August Wilson

~Week 9...10/20 and 10/22

~Warm-ups, Improvisations, Exercises

~Quiz and Discussion of “Fences”

~Working with People, Places, and Things

~Good Storytelling: Using Objectives and Circumstances Effectively

Week 10...11/27 and 10/29

~Warm-ups, Improvisations, Exercises

~Film, “Fences”

~HW: Paper: Analyze August Wilson’s Fences in script and film forms. More information to come

Week 11...11/3 and 11/5

~Warm-ups, Improvisations, Exercises

~Method Acting Procedures

~Scene work

~Discussion of Final Project

~HW: Write a two-person scene

Week 12...11/10 and 11/12

~Warm-ups, Improvisations, Exercises

~Method Acting Procedures

~Develop Written Scenes

~HW: Memorize Assigned Scenes

Week 13...11/18 and 11/19
~Scene work

Week 14...11/24
TBA

Week 15...12/1 and 4
Presentation of Final Projects