

SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
Acting for Non-Majors
Theatre 101, Lab 803

Instructor:	Tony Horne	Class Days/Times:	T & TH, 12:30-1:45 pm
Office:	Theatre 264	Classroom:	T 7
Phone:	901-233-7387	Class #:	11409
Email:	horne@uwm.edu	Office Hours:	T, 9:30-11:30 am or by appointment

CREDITS: 3

The time expectations follow - Class: 1 hour 15 minutes/30 classes (37.5 hours). Class prep: 4 hours/15 weeks (60 hours). Scene Rehearsal (30 hours). Performance attendance and response (20 hours).

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to basic acting techniques of personalization, focus, and scene study explored through participatory and collaborative exercises and assignments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to college level acting for the stage. The study of acting may be approached by way of many different techniques and historical methodologies. You will be exposed to some of the more primary approaches through a variety of exercises that will focus on body/voice awareness; analysis of text and performance; performance, improvisation, and character development; and the basic rehearsal techniques.

A large portion of the class is experiential, group/team based, and workshop oriented. You will become an integral part of a community where meaningful learning can occur by doing and by observation.

NOTE: This is an open classroom where freethinking, expression, and exchange are encouraged. Censorship and bias are unwelcome. Please be open to share and discover new ideas. Any type of pre-judgment of the work should be left outside the door. Our goal is to create a safe environment, which encourages and supports the individual creative process.

TEACHING METHOD

This is a studio course that combines experiential laboratory work with some lecture and discussion.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) is dedicated to a safe, supportive, and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with University policies. The policies can be found at this link:

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/SyllabusLinks.pdf

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Expose students to acting as a craft and as an art form.
- 2) Increase students' awareness of and sensitivity to human motivation.
- 3) Expose students to a variety of theatrical performances.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES – After successfully completing this course, each student will:

- 1) Have (and be able to use) a basic vocabulary for the craft of acting.
- 2) Be able to use the basic skills of acting such as character analysis, observation, concentration, intention, and action/reaction.
- 3) Develop an increased awareness of self on a physical, mental, vocal, and creative level through group exercises, warm-ups, and ensemble explorations.
- 4) Be better able to critically evaluate his/her own creative work and the work of peers
- 5) Have a stronger sense of discipline in and respect for the craft of acting.

SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
Acting for Non-Majors
Theatre 101, Lab 803

UWM Shared Learning Goals:

Goal #1 – Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World. In the two-character scene project, students are asked to interpret, collaborate on, and perform a piece of dramatic literature through the actor's craft.

Goal #2 – Critical and Creative Thinking Skills. Through the daily discussion of work shown in class and the two written critiques of theatrical performances, students are engaged in critical analysis of their own work, as well as that of classmates and of other theatre artists.

Arts Divisional GER Criteria:

Criteria #2 - Apply knowledge of artistic principles, conventions, methods, and practices through the creation or production of works of Theatre. In the two-character scene project, students are asked to interpret, collaborate on, and perform a piece of dramatic literature through the actor's craft.

GER Assessment for the Two-Character Scene Project:

GER Assignment: In teams of two, students will perform a short (6-8 minute) two character scene, chosen with the instructor's approval, employing the following acting techniques: emotional connection, vocal/physical expressiveness, collaborative connection with partner, full use of the characters' given circumstances, and the pursuit of actable objectives.

	Superior: A	Remarkable: B	Accomplished: C	Substandard: D	Failing: F
#1	Emotional connection to the needs of the character is full and committed. 5 points	Emotional connection to the needs of character is mostly full and committed. 3.75 points	Somewhat emotionally connected. 2.5 points	Weakly connected. 1.25 points	No emotional connection apparent. 0 points
#2	Vocal and physical expression is free and appropriate to the demands of the character. 5 points	Vocal and physical expression is mostly free and appropriate. 3.75 points	Vocal and physical expression is somewhat free and appropriate. 2.5 points	Vocal and physical expression appears mostly constrained or inappropriate. 1.25 points	No appropriate vocal or physical expression. 0 points
#3	Collaborates with scene partner in an actively present and responsive manner and memorization is complete. 5 points	Collaboration is mostly present and responsive and memorization is mostly complete. 3.75 points	Collaboration and memorization is somewhat present and responsive. 2.5 points	Collaboration and memorization shows little presence and response. 1.25 points	Collaboration and memorization shows no presence or response. 0 points
#4	The character analysis and choice of the character's given circumstance is consistent with the text and completely explored. 4 points	The character analysis and given circumstances are mostly consistent and explored. 3 points	The character analysis and circumstances are somewhat consistent and explored. 2 points	The character analysis and circumstances are inadequately consistent and marginally explored. 1 point	The character analysis and circumstances are inconsistent and unexplored. 0 points
#5	The characters objectives and tactics are appropriate and clearly played. 4 points	The objectives and tactics are mostly appropriate and clear. 3 points	The objectives and tactics are somewhat appropriate and clear. 2 points	Objectives and tactics are marginally appropriate and clear. 1 point	Objectives and tactics are inappropriate and unclear. 0 points
#6	The identification of dramatic progressions (beats and units) is complete and appropriate for the text. 2 points	The identification of dramatic progressions is mostly complete and mostly appropriate for the text. 1.5 points	The identification of dramatic progressions is somewhat complete and somewhat appropriate for the text. 1 point	The identification of dramatic progressions is barely complete and marginally appropriate for the text. 0.5 points	The identification of dramatic progressions is incomplete and is not appropriate to the text. 0 points

SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
Acting for Non-Majors
Theatre 101, Lab 803

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Notepad or notebook
- Pencils/Pens

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES (2):

- **Cementville** UWM Labworks at Kenilworth, Feb 28, March 1, 2, 6 – 9, 2014.
- **Urinetown** UWM Mainstage, April 30 – May 4, 2014.

It is very important that all students see both of these shows so that they can write a response for each one and can fully participate in class discussions. It is recommended that students buy tickets in advance online at arts.uwm.edu/ticketing OR at the UWM Peck School Box Office in Zelazo Hall. For general show information, go to: <http://www4.uwm.edu/psoa/theatre/performances/>

REQUIRED TEXT

There is no required text for this course.

GRADING:

Participation	30%
Responses	20%
Monologue	20%
Final (2 Character) Scene	25%
Self-Evaluation	5%
TOTAL	100%

93 – 100	A	73 – 76.99	C
90 – 92.99	A-	70 – 72.22	C-
87 – 89.99	B+	67 – 69.99	D+
83 – 86.99	B	63 – 66.99	D
80 – 82.99	B-	60 – 62.99	D-
77 – 79.99	C+	59.99 and below	F

Participation **30%**

This is a studio class, therefore full participation in exercises and discussions is expected. Focus and commitment are necessary. A good attitude and a strong work ethic are essential to succeed in this course. Homework assignments are also part of the participation grade.

Responses **2 @ 10% each**

All students will write about each of the two productions they are required to attend. Each paper should be 3 to 4 pages in length (typed, double-spaced). Guidelines will be handed out in class and posted on D2L.

SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
Acting for Non-Majors
Theatre 101, Lab 803

Monologue **20%**

Working solo, each student will create, rehearse, and perform a memorized contemporary monologue that is 90 – 120 seconds minutes in length. The character should not have an accent and should be close to the student's age.

Final (2 Character) Scene **25%**

Working with a partner, each student will perform a memorized, short scene from a contemporary play. The instructor will choose the scene with input from the student. This assignment also requires character and script analysis.

Self-Evaluation **5%**

Each student will write one brief self-evaluation of his/her work on the Monologue project. At the end of the semester, each student will write a longer, comprehensive self-evaluation that will look back at his/her body of work and growth over the course of the semester.

COURSE POLICIES:

General Policies

- 1) **PARTICIPATION:** This course requires the participation of everyone involved, because like theatre itself, it is designed as a collaborative process. Similar to an actor in a production who is late to rehearsal or does not show up, the student who misses a class session or who is late seriously weakens the collaborative process to the point that it is disruptive to the other students/artists who attend the course. It is especially imperative that all students show up on performance days whether they are scheduled to perform or not. See Attendance/Late Policy below.
- 2) **CLASS ATTIRE:** Students must wear comfortable clothing that allows for maximum freedom of movement. Clothing to avoid: short shorts, skirts, tight pants, low rider/hip hugger pants, cropped T's (or other revealing clothing), heavy jackets, clunky jewelry, or baseball hats. All of these restrict your movement and artistic choices. Sweats, or like clothing, are recommended.

Outside shoes are not allowed in the studio. Bring comfortable indoor shoes with you. Students are welcome to go barefoot. NO flip-flops, clogs, sandals, platforms, high heels, or cumbersome sneakers are allowed.

It is recommended that students bring a towel to class since we will be lying down and rolling on the floor from time to time.

- 3) **OUTSIDE REHEARSAL:** Although some in-class rehearsal will be employed, students will be expected to spend a fair amount of time outside of class rehearsing their projects. Students will find that the more they put into the work, the more rewarding their final performances will be. Rehearsals are where many discoveries are made.
- 4) **CLASS D2L WEBSITE:** D2L will be used extensively as a communication and resource tool for this course. Some written materials for this course will not be handed out, instead these materials will be posted on D2L in an effort to "go green." Please get in the habit of checking the D2L course site daily.
- 5) **FOOD/WATER:** Eating, drinking, smoking and chewing gum are NOT permitted in the studios. Water in plastic containers is permitted.

SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
Acting for Non-Majors
Theatre 101, Lab 803

- 6) CELLPHONES/LAPTOPS/TABLETS:** All electronic communication devices must be turned off for the entire class period. Ringing/vibrating devices are no more appropriate in the classroom than they are in the theatre! Please, turn them off before class. From time to time, students MAY be asked to use their laptops/tablets in class. However, unsanctioned use of electronic communication devices in class will result in a loss of all participation points for the day.

Attendance/Lateness Policies:

- 1) Since this is a studio class, attendance and punctuality is expected of all students. As this is a highly participatory class, your attendance is essential for your success.
- 2) There are no excused absences. However, each student is allowed 2 absences without penalty. Each subsequent absence will lower one's final grade by one step (for example, a B+ will become B.
- 3) Two lates amount to one absence. Late students are responsible for making sure they get marked on the roll sheet.
- 4) In case of an emergency, unforeseen illness, or other extenuating circumstances that result in an accumulation of absences, always see the instructor.

Homework Policies:

- 1) Turning in late work is strongly discouraged. An assignment is considered late if it is turned in any time after the class period has ended. All work should be turned on the assigned due date. The grade for late work will be reduced by 20% for each class period that it is late.
- 2) Some work will be turned in digitally and other work will be handed in as hard copies in class. The method for turning in work will be clearly spelled out for each assignment.
- 3) Students who miss class for any reason must take the initiative to find out what material they have missed. Being absent is not an excuse for turning in late work. Each student is still responsible for turning in all assignments on time. If a student has to miss class due to required college business, please alert the instructor and turn in all work early.

SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
Acting for Non-Majors
Theatre 101, Lab 803

SCHEDULE: Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

WEEK	DATE	DAY	TOPIC	ACTIVITY
1	01/21	T	Introduction to course	Assign Joke/Story
1	01/23	TH	Present Joke/Story	Assign Who Am I?
2	01/28	T	Trust exercises	
2	01/30	TH	Present Who am I? exercise	Assign Alter Ego Monologue Assign Stolen Walk
3	02/04	T	Viewpoints and stage directions	
3	02/06	TH	Present stolen walks	
4	02/11	T		Assign final scene
4	02/13	TH	Review Alter Ego Drafts	Alter Ego Script Draft due
5	02/18	T	Rehearse Alter Ego - Gr #1	
5	02/20	TH	Rehearse Alter Ego - Gr #2	
6	02/25	T	Present Alter Ego Monologues – Gr #1	
6	02/27	TH	Present Alter Ego Monologues – Gr #2	
7	03/04	T	Library visit	Final Scene partners assigned
7	03/06	TH	Given Circumstances	Assign Given Circumstances/Character Analysis
8	03/11	T	Make final choices for scenes	
8	03/13	TH	Discuss <i>Cementville</i>	<i>Cementville</i> Response Due 03/12 on D2L
SPRING BREAK!!!				

SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
Acting for Non-Majors
Theatre 101, Lab 803

9	03/25	T	Discuss and work Beats	Given Circumstances/Character Analysis due
9	03/27	TH	Discuss and work Beats	
10	04/01	T	Discuss and work Objective/Tactics	Beats due
10	04/03	TH	Discuss and work Objective/Tactics	
11	04/08	T	Rehearse Scenes – (Gr #1)	Objective/Tactics due
11	04/10	TH	Rehearse Scenes – (Gr #2)	Objective/Tactics due
12	04/15	T	Workshop Scenes – (Gr #1)	Collage due
12	04/17	TH	Workshop Scenes – (Gr #2)	Collage due
13	04/22	T	Rehearse Scenes	
13	04/24	TH	Rehearse Scenes	
14	04/29	T	Present Final Scenes (Gr #1)	Fully Scored Script due
14	05/01	TH	Present Final Scenes (Gr #2)	Fully Scored Script due
15	05/06	T	TBA	
15	05/08	TH	Discuss Urinetown.	Urinetown Response Due 05/07 on D2L
	05/14	W	FINAL EXAM	12:30 – 2:30 pm