

THEA 1050

Acting Fundamentals: Fall 2022

Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:50pm

Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:50pm

RTFP 130

Instructor: Sarah Rutan

Office Hours: T/TH 12:00-1:00pm

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Description:

Acting fundamentals are the primary focus of this class, which includes developing rehearsal techniques for the actor, cultivating a sense of curiosity, exploring all aspects of imagination, script breakdown (given circumstances) and building techniques of character and scene building. Acting is behaving truthfully under imaginary circumstances.

Objective:

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to: *Apply the fundamentals of acting to discover the given circumstances of each scene/character *Apply the beginning processes of beat breakdown and scene work *Enhance their observation, curiosity and self-reflection/analysis of their acting instrument

Attendance:

Students are allowed THREE absences only in this Course. If you accrue a FOURTH absence, the highest grade you will be able to receive in this course is a D.

Three tardies will equal ONE ABSENCE.

Please be present, on time and ready to work. This is the professional standard that we will be striving to attain this semester.

Dress Code:

Students are required to wear clothing that allows for unrestricted movement to each in-class session (Wednesdays). The main focus of our work on these days will take place on our feet so students must feel comfortable and able to move without restrictions. Try to avoid: skirts, dresses, high heels, platform soled shoes, and tight fitting clothing. Examples of appropriate clothing include, but are not limited to: workout clothing, dance attire, sweatpants, loose fitting jeans, t-shirts, and sneakers. The exception to this rule is when the costume needs of the character are to be considered. If your monologue requires a particular costume, the student will find an appropriate “rehearsal version” of the script’s suggested costume.

Disability Accommodations:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodation anytime, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323 or

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>

Assignments:

In Class Participation: One can only learn acting by DOING. Therefore, it is imperative to your success in the class that you are present, on time, and ready to work. You will be graded on your willingness to participate, both in discussion and in exercises, on your working

relationship with your partners in the open scene work and on your preparation and implementation of the concepts discussed in class lectures and coaching work.

Open Scene/Monologue Work:

Your work in class on monologues and scenes will be based on:

- level of preparation (appropriate set, costume, props)
- level of memorization
- clarity of given circumstances
- ability to engage in and explore techniques discussed in class

Final Project:

The final project will consist of a research/observation paper on a "Great Performance."

The particulars of the final will be given to each student on Week 12 of the Acting Fundamentals semester.

Grading:

Participation: 150pts

Open Scene: 100pts

Monologue #1:

Performance- 100pts

Given Circumstances/Actor Sheet- 25pts

Beats Identified- 25pts

Monologue #2:

Performance- 100pts

Given Circumstances/Actor Sheet- 25pts

Beats identified- 25pts

Terminology Quiz: 50pts

Midterm: 100pts

Final Paper: 300pts

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE: 1000

Weekly Schedule*:

Wk 1:	Syllabus Given Circumstances Lecture
Wk 2:	Warm-Up/ Improvisation Games Open Scenes Assigned
Wk 3:	Labor Day (no class) Open Scene Work
Wk 4:	The Actor Sheet Lecture Open scene Presentations
Wk 5:	Stage Terminology Lecture Monologue #1 Assigned
Wk 6:	Terminology Quiz Monologue #1 work
Wk 7:	Monologue #1 Tablework Week
Wk 8:	Midterm
Wk 9:	Beat Breakdown Lecture Monologue #1 Coaching sessions
Wk 10:	The Fully Embodied Actor Lecture Monologue #1 Presentations
Week 11:	Monologue #2 Assigned Monologue #2 work
Wk 12:	Final Project Assigned Monologue #2 Coaching

Wk 13: Monologue#2 Coaching Sessions

Wk 14: Monologue #2 Check in

Monologue #2 Presentations

Wk 15: Final Project Work Week

Wk 16: Final Project Due

***Schedule subject to change and all changes will be communicated in a timely manner**

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY POLICY

(2 Meetings a Week)

Punctual attendance is critical for your success in the course. Thus, students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes.

The following policy is consistent with all acting courses in the department:

- Students are allowed no more than a total of THREE (3) absences during the semester.
- Students are considered tardy if they arrive for class no more than 30 minutes late.

Arriving more than 30 minutes late for class is considered an absence.

- Students are expected to attend class for the duration of the period. Leaving before the class concludes is considered an absence.

- An occurrence of tardiness for the class FOUR (4) times is the equivalent or ONE (1) absence.

- A total of (4) absences means that the highest grade the student can earn in the class is an F.

Any student with an issue in the area of attendance and/or punctuality will be referred to the Acting Faculty for guidance.

If a student's absences have resulted in a grade with which they are not pleased, they may choose to withdraw from the class.

The professor's roll is the official record of absences and tardiness. At any point, students are welcome to check the grade roster on Canvas to be sure that their attendance/punctuality record is accurate.

STUDENT OBLIGATION TO ACADEMIC/PRODUCTION WORK

Dance & Theater students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments satisfactorily and on time. The faculty and staff recognize that the academic and production assignments within the department, as well as outside employment and other obligations, sometimes impose conflicting pressures on DT students. One of the main responsibilities of each student is to identify carefully and monitor the commitments that comprise his/her departmental assignments and outside obligations. It is also important to keep in mind that production work and outside obligations do not constitute an excused absence from DT classes or from the completion of any required class assignments.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

The Department of Dance and Theatre also offers face-to-face SPOT evaluations, if the student wishes. Ask your professor for details if you wish to pursue that option.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom, and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.