

## THEA 1050-002

### Acting Fundamentals: Fall 2020

**Monday/Wednesday 8:00am – 10:20am**

**Zoom (Mondays) RTFP 132 (Wednesdays)\***

**Instructor:** Sarah Rutan

**Office Hours:** By appointment via Zoom

**E-mail:** [Sarah.Rutan@unt.edu](mailto:Sarah.Rutan@unt.edu)

### **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:**

There are 300 attendance points possible for this course. 10 points per class attended. Each unexcused absence will result in 10 being removed from the Attendance points allotted. For each tardy, 5 points will be deducted from the overall attendance score. **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.

### **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*

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

**Grading:**

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

Midterm: 100pts

Final Paper: 200pts

Attendance: 300pts

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE: 1000

### **Weekly Schedule\*:**

Wk 1:	Syllabus
	Warm-Up/ Improvisation Games
Wk 2:	Given Circumstances Lecture
	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:	The Parts of the Stage and Blocking Notation lecture
	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**