

ACTING I
SUMMER 2017

TPST 120-20

Sarah Marshall

M-TH 1-3pm

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Overview

Acting I introduces students to the fundamental principles of realistic acting theory and techniques based on the work of Constantin Stanislavski. Through reading, discussion, writing, class exercises, improvisation, text analysis, monologues and script/scene work students will become familiar with the vocal, physical, emotional and technical preparation required for effecting stage performance.

Course Objectives

- 1) to explore acting as a means of self-awareness and individual & collaborative expression
- 2) to develop the student actor's resources for creativity and improved communication
- 3) to solidify techniques of characterization (founded in Stanislavski, furthered in Hagen)
- 4) to expand and develop a student's rehearsal and performance potential
- 5) to acquire critical evaluation skills through written and oral critiques
- 6) to foster respect and appreciation for the art of Acting
- 7) to create an environment of trust and respect among all participants

Required Texts

Respect For Acting by Uta Hagen

Stanislavski For Beginners by David Allen (text provided)

Angels in America by Tony Kushner

Supplemental materials assigned (posted on Blackboard, on Library Reserve, and/or distributed in class)

Primary Assignments/ Requirements:

- Class Participation: substantive contribution to class discussions, exercises & performance critiques (Please be prepared to accept public evaluation of your work.)
- Reading assignments – (assigned chapters from Hagen, Allen, *Angels In America*, *Our Town*, readings posted on BlackBoard, Library reserves, & class handouts, etc)
- Written assignments – object exercises, character analyses, unit report, process observations/ reactions. All assignments turned in will be typed and stapled.
- Quiz: *Angels In America*, *Our Town*
- Outside of Class time Rehearsal.

You are required to rehearse on your own or with a scene partner outside of class in preparation for in class performances and presentations.

Notebook

You must have a dedicated notebook for Acting I notes, lectures, handouts, discussions, critiques, reports, reflections, & assignments. You will need your notebook and a pen or pencil for every class.

Class Content Overview

The course is divided into 3 Units:

Unit One

- The Object Exercises

Unit Two

- Objective/Obstacle/Tactics (monologue from *Angels in America*)

Unit Three

- Interplay and Subtext (Scene Work)

In preparation for each performance there will be readings from Respect For Acting, **with additional reading on Blackboard**, reading the scripts *Angels In America* and *Our Town*, lecture/discussions, in class theater games and exercises. You are required to rehearse in preparation for each performance. The performances will be discussed/critiqued in class. You are required to participate in all discussions/ critiques. For two of the Units there will be a Lab/Coaching session. You are expected to be thoroughly prepared for lab and on time. Take note: Acting is not for the faint of heart. Please be prepared to accept public constructive critiques of your work.

Attendance is Mandatory.

You must attend every class.

Presence and Active Participation are essential to this course. Absences and late arrivals will impact your final grade significantly.

**Two (2) late arrivals will be considered one unexcused absence.*

(Students who arrive late are disruptive and disrespectful to their peers who have made the effort to arrive on time. You are considered late if you arrive after the roll has been taken and warm up or scene preparation has begun)

**Three (3) unexcused absences mandate a consultation with the Professor regarding continued enrollment and prospects in the course. Four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.*

(Excused absences are limited to: legal/religious holiday with prior notice, a death in the family or a serious illness/medical emergency supported by a physician's documentation.)

The student is responsible for contacting the Professor and for making up any missed work.

(If you are involved in any special school functions, sporting events, etc., or have a religious event or holiday, which may require you to miss a class, please inform Professor today.)

Simplify: Be on time. Every time.

Grading

94-100 A

90-94 A-

87-90 B+

83-87 B

80-83 B-

Note: *Assignments/Class participation that is missed must be made up for the next class. Late assignments, presentations and papers that are missed due to an unexcused absence will be graded for ½ credit only and must be turned in at a time established by the Professor.

Attire and Physical Requirements

Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes for complete freedom of movement.

No bare feet, no flip flops, or high heels. Gym shoes and/or tennis shoes or similar foot wear are encouraged.

No hats, food, smoking or gum-chewing in class.

*(Exceptions: props and costumes necessary and approved for presentations/scene work)

Please bring bottled water if you like.

We will always ready the classroom for the next class after our use. Clean up the space before you leave.

If you have any special learning needs or a physical condition (e.g. asthma, epilepsy, prior injury, etc) that could be aggravated by aerobic/stretching activities or deep relaxation techniques please let your Professor know now.

Required Performance Viewings

As a student of Acting I you are encouraged to attend as much theater as possible.
Attending theater and observing acting is an excellent way to expand your understanding of the craft.

Performances to Attend: TBA (no more than 2 performances)

Department of Performing Arts Website:<http://performingarts.georgetown.edu/>

League Of Washington Theaters: <http://www.lowt.org/>

Below are the REQUIRED viewings.

You must abide by the University Honor Code in this course.

In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life I commit myself to respect and to uphold the Georgetown University honor system:

To be honest in every academic endeavor.

To conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community as we live and work together.

Link: <http://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/system/policies>