

ACTING I
TPST-120-20
Sarah Marshall
1:00-3:00 M-T DPAC 035
Office: DPAC 042; Office Hours: M/:12-1 pm (and by arrangement)
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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 in Library)

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

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

Required Performance Viewings

All Acting Class students are required to see Campus Productions. Submit a ticket stub as proof of attendance. We will have in class discussion of the plays TBD.
PLAYS TBD.

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.

Department of Performing Arts Website: <http://performingarts.georgetown.edu/>
League Of Washington Theaters: <http://www.lwt.org/>

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.)

Written assignments – Performance Reports, character analyses, unit reflections, character research bio, process observations/reactions. All assignments turned in will be typed and stapled.

Rehearsals- 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 1 notes. You will need your notebook and pen for every class. No tablets or computers for note taking. Turn cell phones off prior to class time.

Class Content Overview

The course is divided into 2 Units:

Unit One

The Object Exercise (Concentration, Staging, 4th wall, Objective, Obstacle, Transitions)

Unit Two

Scenes from *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (Subtext, Interplay)

For every unit there will be at least 3 presentations. In preparation for performances there will be readings from *Respect For Acting*, with additional reading on Blackboard, 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

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 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 (w/ prior notice), a death in the family or a serious illness/medical emergency supported by a physician's documentation.)

Note: The Student is responsible for contacting the Instructor when they miss a class. 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 immediately.)

Be on time. Every time.

Evaluation/Grading

3 Object Presentations : 5 points each = 15
Performance Reports: total 5 points each Unit = 10
Our Town Quiz: 10
Scores for Our Town: 5
Lab Our Town: 10 points
Our Town Scene Presentation 1 and 2: 10 points each = 20
Unit Reflection: 2 @ 10 points = 20 points
Our Town Character Paper: 10 points

Total: 100 pts
94-100 A
90-94 A-
87-90 B+
83-87 B
80-83 B-
77-80 C+
73-87 C
70-73 C-
65-70 D
0-65 F

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

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 a

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 professors know.

CALENDAR

July 9: Intro

July 10: Discuss Respect For Acting/ In Class Exercises

July 11: Present Objects 1

July 12: Present Objects 1

(Homework: Read *Our Town* This Weekend)

July 16: Present Objects 2

July 17: Present Objects 2

July 18: Present Objects 2

July 19: Discuss

(Homework: Read *Our Town* AGAIN this weekend.)

(Homework: Read *Stanislavski For Beginners* over this weekend. Text available in Library.)

July 23: Present Objects 3

July 24: Present Objects 3

July 25: Performance Report Due/Discuss

July 26: Our Town Quiz

July 30: Lab Our Town

JUL 31: Lab Our Town

Aug 1: Lab: Our Town

Aug 2: Character Research Bio due/Perform Our Town

Aug 6: Perform Our Town

Aug 7: Perform Our Town

Aug 8: Perform Our Town

Aug 9: Performance Report Due/ Discuss

Do not use it as an absolute reference.

THIS CALENDAR WILL CHANGE. Do not use it as an absolute reference. Email marshals@georgetown.edu with questions regarding assignments due.

All assignments will be available on Blackboard and discussed in class prior to performances.

When in doubt email me! marshals@georgetown.edu

By agreeing to the terms of this syllabus and this course you also agree to abide by the Georgetown University Honor System which states:

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, and

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>