

ACTING I
TPST-120-20
Sarah Marshall
1:10-3:15 M-Th 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 effective stage performances.

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 Canvas, on Library Reserve, and/or distributed in class)

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.

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

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

Primary Assignments/ Requirements

Class Participation - substantive contribution to class discussions, exercises & performance critiques Please be prepared to accept public evaluation of your work and to evaluate the work of others.

Reading assignments – (assigned chapters from Hagen, Allen, Our Town, readings posted on Canvas, & Library Reserves.)

Written assignments – Performance Reports, character analyses, unit reflections, character research bio, process observations/reactions. All performance reports will be typed and stapled. All other written assignments, Character Diary and Unit Reflections, will be emailed.

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, Choices, Decisions)

Unit Two

Scenes from *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (Object, Obstacles, Transitions, Tactics, 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 Canvas, 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. In Unit 2, to prepare for your in class performance, there will be a Lab/Coaching session. You are expected to be thoroughly prepared for lab and on time.

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 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.)

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

Be on time. Every time.

Evaluation/Grading

3 Object Presentations : 5 points each = 15
Performance Reports: 5 points each Unit = 10
Our Town Quiz: 10
Lab Our Town: 10 points
Our Town Scene Presentation 1 and 2: 10 points each = 20
Unit Reflection: 10 points each = 20 points
Our Town Character Paper: 15 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 the professor know immediately.

Technical Support

All students have 24/7 access to Canvas technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including live chat and a support hotline at 855-338-2770. Use the 'Help' icon in the lower left of your Canvas window to view all available support and feedback options. If you're looking for help on a specific feature, check out the Canvas Student Guide.

Learning Resources

Georgetown offers a host of [learning resources](#) to its students. Two that you might find particularly helpful in this course are the [Writing Center](#) and [Refworks](#).

- [The Writing Center](#) offers peer tutoring by trained graduate and undergraduate students who can assist you at any point in the writing process. They help at any stage of your writing process, from brainstorming to revision. Tutors can offer advice on thesis development, use of evidence, organization, flow, sentence structure, grammar, and more. The Writing Center will not proofread or edit papers; rather, they will help to improve your proofreading and editing skills to become a better writer. Appointments can be booked online through their website.
- [Refworks](#) is an online research management tool that aids in organizing, storing, and presenting citation sources for papers and projects.

Georgetown Library

If you have a question for a librarian you can go to their [“Ask Us”](#) page where you will have the option to chat online, send an email, or schedule a Zoom appointment to discuss a research topic, develop a search strategy, or examine resources for projects and papers. Librarians offer an overview of and in-depth assistance with important resources for senior or master's theses, dissertations, papers and other types of research. This service is available to currently enrolled students who need assistance with Georgetown-assigned projects and papers. Please review the [Services & Resources Guide for Online Students](#) for additional information.

eResources

Students enrolled in courses have access to the University Library System's eResources, including 500+ research databases, 1.5+ million ebooks, and thousands of periodicals and other multimedia files (films, webinars, music, and images). You can access these resources through the [Library's Homepage](#) by using your NetID and password.

Honor Code

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>