



DRAM 1351 Acting I

Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities."

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Office Hours & By Appointment	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	8:00-10:30 am	8:00-9:30 am 12:30-1:30 pm	8:00-10:30 am	8:00-10:30 am 12:30 1:30 pm		

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description: 3 credit hours.

Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours lecture and three hours of lab each week and participation in all theatre productions.

This introduction to the art of acting includes techniques of speech, movement, pantomime, characterization, and participation in laboratory scenes and departmental productions. It is required of all theatre majors.

Note: Additional course fee(s) required.

Class Description: Welcome to Acting I. This course is required for all theatre majors. The course may be taken by non-majors. The class is designed to acquaint the student with basic theatre terminology, styles and techniques of acting and practical experience in creating a role. I will strive to create a lively, positive and non-threatening environment. It is my hope that you will enjoy coming to class each day bringing with you enthusiasm and a quest for personal improvement. It is important that you understand that I want you to succeed!

Required Textbook(s):

Acting Without Agony **Robinson, Don**

Publisher: Pearson

ISBN Number: 0-205-15165-5

Recommended Reading(s):

Actors on Acting Cole, Toby & Chinoy, Helen
The Artists Way Cameron, Julia

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will comprehend and evaluate theatre production elements and values.

Students will understand the basic production processes through practical application of creating a role from a monologue extracted from a play.

Students will understand the basic production processes through practical application of creating a role from a duet scene extracted from a play.

Course Objectives:

It is expected that through your active participation in this class that you will:

1. become more proficient in the assessment, development, and application of your creative abilities;
2. be able to identify basic theatre terminology;
3. be more competent in developing yourself as an individual as well as establishing and maintaining satisfying relationships with others;
4. have a basic knowledge of a variety of acting techniques.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

There will be one monologue and one duet-acting exercise during the semester. You will receive three rehearsal grades and one final grade for each exercise. The rehearsal grades are worth 50 points each for a total of 300 points; the performance grades will be worth 100 points each for a total of 200 points. You will maintain an acting journal during the course of the semester. The journal will include exercises given as homework throughout the semester. You will turn it in twice during the semester for grading. Each grading will be worth 100 points each for a total of 200 points. You will receive an attendance and class participation grade which will be worth 100 total points. You will attend a performance of all Theatre Northeast productions and write a reaction paper. Each paper is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points. The following grading scale will be used to determine your grade:

Points	Grade
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 599	F

GRADING SCALE:

A	90%-100%	(Exceptional Quality Work)
B	80%-89%	(Above Average Quality Work)
C	70%-79%	(Average Quality Work)
D	60%-69%	(Below Average Quality Work)
F	0%-59%	(Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

Tests/Exams:

There will be two Theatre Northeast reaction papers totaling 200 points. There will be six rehearsal grades totaling 300 points and two performance grades totaling 200 points during the semester. There will be two journal grades worth a total of 200 points. There will be a class participation and attendance grade totaling 100 points.

Assignments:

Journal assignment responses include:

1. why are you taking this class?
2. define "acting";
3. identify someone who you believe to be a "great actor" and articulate your reasons for selecting them;
4. write a reaction to each scene that you perform in during the semester;
5. write a reaction paper of two Theatre Northeast productions during the semester;
6. make a list of adjectives that describe each character that you create during the semester;
7. apply Stanislavski's "Inner Monologue" technique to each character you create during the term;
8. apply Chekhov's "Imaginary Body" technique to each character created during the class;
9. utilize and respond to Chekhov's "Imaginary Center" technique to each character created;
10. apply Schechner's "Articulation of Space" technique to each character created;
11. utilize and discuss McGraw's "Externalizing the Character" technique as it applied to each role;
12. respond to "show and tell" assignment;
13. respond to exercises on creative imagination and improv;
14. what did you learn about acting from the class;
15. what areas of creating a character do you still need to work on?

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

It is expected that you will attend this class on a regular basis. Because the majority of the lecture information in this class is derived from a variety of sources it is very important that you attend class in order to get notes. I realize that emergencies may arise, or you may have conflicts for some of the scheduled classes. In those cases, it is strongly suggested that you contact me as soon as possible in order to "catch up" on your class work. **If you miss an announced rehearsal or performance grade session, you MUST contact me immediately. If you fail to contact me, you will lose one letter grade on the assignment for each day you are late. No exceptions!** Under normal circumstances, the formal attendance policy for this class is as follows: You are allowed two emergency absences during the semester without overall grading penalty. Upon the third absence, 3 points will be deducted from the student's final grade in the course; upon each additional absence the student's final grade will be deducted 3 more points. Due to the daily interactive nature of the course, upon the sixth absence the student may be automatically: 1) dropped from the course or 2) fail the course (depending on the point of the semester). Please keep up with your absences in this course. This is your responsibility. Anyone who wishes to withdraw from the class must take the responsibility to formally drop by the designated date with the Office of Admissions.

LATE ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES:

Students must be one time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes

of others. If you are late for class, your participation grade will reflect this. This class will begin promptly at 11:00 am! If you arrive after 11:15 am you will be marked absent. Two documented "tardies" will result in one absence.

LATE WORK:

Late written work/projects will be deducted a full letter grade for each class period after the assignment is due. All written assignments are posted on the class calendar and in Blackboard.

EXTRA CREDIT:

There are opportunities for "extra" credit during the semester. During the final review for an exam, we will have a "Review Game" which will allow you to garner extra credit. All extra credit will be initiated by me. Please do not ask. In the circumstance that an opportunity for extra credit arises, this will be announced to the entire class.

ADAPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Due to the fluid nature of this class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties with this class, let me know. Please don't be intimidated. Let's communicate with each other. The easiest and most reliable way to communicate with me is via email. I check it each morning when I arrive, during office hours and each end of the day.

Other Important Information:

1. When you are in the theatre, you must follow all safety precautions. The safety of our students in a learning environment such as our theatre is of the greatest importance;
2. The Whatley Theatre is our home. I encourage you to feel at home and think of Theatre Northeast as a safe harbor--or perhaps an oasis in the desert. However, in our home, it is expected that you clean up after yourselves. Anything that you bring into the theatre must be disposed of properly after class or rehearsal. I might add that if you take pride in our home, it might even be a good thing to pick up after others who do not share the respect that you have for our home;
3. Theatre, by its' nature, is a very diverse and eclectic merging of personalities, cultures and life styles. I encourage you to embrace the wonderful diversity that is inherent within the study and stagecraft of theatre. I have the expectation that you will treat each individual with respect and professionalism. Strive to "honor the art within yourselves." Although the class is about "drama," I strongly suggest that you leave your personal "drama" outside of the classroom. You may have the expectation that I will always treat you with respect and professionalism.
4. If you miss an examination, you must make arrangements to take the make-up exam before you attend the next scheduled class time. All missed exams will be administered in the College Testing Center located in B.T. 101.
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NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

Academic Ethics:

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

- ❑ **Maintain focus in the classroom by turning off all cell phones and pagers, and do not bring food into the classroom.**
- ❑ **Please- No Texting.**
- ❑ **The workspace is a "safe zone" – there are no poor answers or poor questions.**
- ❑ **Everyone participates, no one dominates**
- ❑ **Help the instructor and each other stay on task**
- ❑ **Keep decorum by arriving on time, and staying through the class time**
- ❑ **Speak one at a time, and don't interrupt**
- ❑ **Be an active listener, and an objective listener**
- ❑ **Give freely of your own experience**
- ❑ **Keep an open mind and agree or disagree only if it makes sense**
- ❑ **Ask lots of questions**
- ❑ **Have FUN!**