

THR 106: ACTING I
Syllabus
Spring 2016

Course Information:

Instructor: Amanda Boyle
Time: T/R 11:00-12:50
Place: 354 Murphy Hall

Contact Information:

a777b898@ku.edu
Office: 503 Murphy
Office Hours: T/R @ 1:00-2:00pm
or by appointment
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Faculty Supervisor:

Leslie Bennett
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Course Description:

A study in the fundamentals of acting with a focus on truthful portrayal of a role through skill and ease of the body, voice, and mind. This will be accomplished through a series of exercises, theatre games, scene work, and individual creativity in order to achieve KU Core: Goal 3-- *demonstrating basic competence in the principles, theories, and analytic methods* of acting.

Objectives:

- To explore the fundamentals of truthful and engaging stage acting.
- To introduce each actor to vocal, physical, and mental warm-ups and exercises.
- To foster an appreciation of the ensemble and respect for the acting technique of others.
- To interpret a text and build character development.
- To reflect upon experiences in class and demonstrate knowledge acquired through thoughtful writing and discussion.
- To develop imagination, concentration, discipline, and creativity as reliable assets for the actor and/or student.

Required Texts:

At the Bookstore: *Free to Act: An Integrated Approach*, Mira Felner (New York: Pearson, 2004).
Any supplementary texts will be provided in class or on Blackboard.

Performances: You are required to attend (and be a thoughtful audience member) 3 performances. Tickets: \$10 with KU Student ID in advance; \$15 with KU Student ID at the door; FREE with ushering—contact Jim Dick (jldick@ku.edu) **KEEP TICKET STUB AND PROGRAM!!**

- 1) *The Rehearsal & The Hypochondriac* by Moliere
Crafton-Preyer Theatre
February 26, 27, 28 and March 4, 5, 6
- 2) *Little Women: The Broadway Musical* Book by Allan Knee
Crafton-Preyer Theatre
April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17
- 3) **ANY OTHER PRODUCTION** (see “Additional Productions” sheet)

All performances are at 7:30 PM. Asterisk (*) denotes 2:30 PM start time. You can reserve tickets by calling 785-864-3982 or stop by the University Theatre Box Office, weekdays from 12:00-5:00 pm. You can reserve tickets by calling 785-864-3982 or stop by the University Theatre Box Office, weekdays from 12:00 to 5:00pm.

Course Requirements:

Attire:

We will be moving everyday. You are **required** to wear clothing that you can move in. Clothing should be comfortable, but not overly baggy or revealing. For example: t-shirts, basketball shorts, workout leggings, etc. This may require you to carry other clothes with you to change in and/or out of before or after class. Long hair should be pulled away from the face and any dangling jewelry should be removed. I suggest wearing layers as the room temperature can vary, bringing a bottle of water with a secure lid, and paper and pencil to every class as well as necessary materials for classwork. **No food or gum allowed.** Our class is right at lunchtime so plan ahead and eat before or after class. **Those not dressed appropriately for class will not be allowed to participate in class and it will count as an absence.**

Ensemble Expectations:

As a general note an acting class requires participation, respect, and a willingness to try new exercises. It is essential that everyone respect the space and each other. As we will assess performances it is of the utmost importance that critiques are done with generosity and support. If a student is being disrespectful or disruptive they will be asked to leave with the possibility of it counting as an absence. Chatting, sleeping, texting, and eating are not allowed in class. As fellow members of the ensemble I expect everyone to watch each other perform with active listening and generous encouragement.

Communication:

If you have any concerns or questions about the class or assignments, feel free to email me. I will do my best to respond to your emails in a timely fashion. Grades will not be discussed via email. Course emails will only be sent to your KU email address. It is your responsibility to check your KU email **DAILY**. If I need to clarify an assignment or cancel a class, etc., this will take place via KU email.

Attendance:

This course depends on your presence – as a contributor, participant, audience member, etc. You are allowed 3 absences. After 3 absences your grade will drop 10% and will continue to drop every absence beyond that. For example, if you miss 4 classes the highest potential final grade would be a B; if you miss 5 classes the highest potential final grade would be a C. Absences will *also* affect your participation grade negatively. Missing more than 15 minutes of class—due to late arrival, leaving in the middle of class, exiting early—will count as an absence. Frequent tardiness (3+ times) will be counted as an absence. I make **no** distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Classes will start promptly on time. At 11:00am you should be in class, in studio attire, and ready to act. Fair warning: I am an excessively punctual person and expect punctuality from others.

Blackboard:

As a courtesy to you, I will utilize Blackboard. I will try to ensure that the site contains all documents, assignments, and announcements. Therefore, there is no reason to not know about class assignments, due dates, or expectations. Your grades will be confidentially updated and posted on this site and I highly recommend checking your grades consistently. If you have a question or concern about a grade or your overall grade it is your responsibility to address it with me as soon as possible. Please notify me if there are any grades or documents you cannot find on Blackboard.

Technology:

No laptops, tablets, or cell phones are allowed in class. My expectation is that you have read and synthesized the material from our text *prior* to class. If we need to reference something within the text we can use my computer and investigate it as a class. To be an active participant in the class I need your full, undivided attention and technology is far too tempting of a distraction. If I have to ask you to put your phone away while in class, you forfeit your participation points for that day. You will need a notebook for any in-class notes.

Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.

Disability Resources:

The Academic Achievement & Access Center (AAAC) coordinates accommodations and services for all KU students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course. Please note: I cannot provide accommodations without written information.

Grading:

Etudes (3)

Each performance of an Etude is worth 100 points. You will be given an assignment sheet with a grading rubric for each Etude.

Quizzes (TBA)

There will be a short quiz (5-12 points each) for each chapter that is assigned. The quiz will take place the first 5-10 minutes of class on the day that a chapter is due. If you are late or miss the quiz, it CANNOT be made up.

Monologue (1)

Your monologue performance is worth 100 points. You will perform and 60-90 second memorized monologue from a play.

FINAL—Scene (1)

The final is worth 200 points. You and an assigned partner will perform a 3-5 minute scene from a play as your final.

Performance Critiques (3)

Each performance critique is worth 50 points. You will be given an assignment sheet with a grading rubric for each performance critique.

Term Paper—TBA (1)

The final term paper is worth 200 points. You will be given an assignment sheet with a grading rubric for the term paper.

Homework/In-Class Activities/Minor Performances/Warm-Ups/Etc. (various #)

There will be various additional homework (i.e. short writings, character homework, etc.) and in-class activities (i.e. warm-ups, improv, quizzes, etc.) throughout the course. Point-value will vary.

Participation

Daily participation is worth 300 points (10 points per day). The participation grade will include daily attendance, daily participation in activities and discussions, being a good audience member, and providing feedback to classmates, etc.

Extra Credit

The only opportunity for extra credit in this class will be to attend and write about additional theatrical performances. More information on this later.

Late Work

Late work is allowed for a deduction of points. 10% is taken off the total point value for everyday that an assignment is turned in late. If you do not have the assignment the MOMENT it is due, then it is automatically late. For example, if a paper is due at 11:00am on Tuesday and you turn it in at 11:30am (b/c you are late to class or b/c you still needed to answer one question, etc.) it will be considered late and you will lose 10%. If you turn an assignment in late at any point on the day that it is due you will lose 10%. You will lose an additional 10% each day that an assignment is not turned in. For example, if I collect your paper on Tuesday at 11:00am and you turn it in on Thursday you will lose 30% (Tuesday - 10%, Wednesday - 20%, Thursday, -30%...and so on).

Grading Scale

A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59%
(Note: I do NOT give + or – on the end of semester final grade.)

THR 106 – Acting I Spring 2016 Schedule

Every day—EVERY day—we will do physical and vocal warm-ups, come to class prepared to move!

The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule and contents of this syllabus in order to better aid the artistic and educational needs of the class.

Date	Reading Due	Daily Activity	Quiz/Writing/ Performance Due
19 January (T)		Syllabus/Rules of the Ensemble/Introductions	
21 January (R)	“Introduction” pg.1-10	Tour of Murphy and Intro in <i>Free to Act</i> and Actors We Love/Hate	QUIZ - Introduction
26 January (T)	Ch. 1 and 5 pg. 13-36 pg. 84-92	Intro to Warm-ups and Assign Introduction Story	QUIZ – Ch. 1 and 5
28 January (R)	Ch. 2 pg. 37-54	Performance and Voice Work	QUIZ – Ch. 2
2 February (T)		Discuss Hagen’s BOE	Introduction Story DUE
4 February (R)	Ch. 14 pg. 207-222	Performance and The Rehearsal Process	QUIZ – Ch. 14 Hagen’s BOE DUE
9 February (T)	Ch. 7 pg. 107-120	Given Circumstances and Etude #1	QUIZ – Ch. 7
11 February (R)	Ch. 3 pg. 55-67	Etude #1 Rehearsal	QUIZ – Ch. 3
16 February (T)		Etude #1 Rehearsal	
18 February (R)		Performance	Etude #1 DUE
23 February (T)	Ch. 8 pg. 121-131	Objectives and Actions Etude #2	QUIZ – Ch. 8
25 February (R)	Ch. 4 pg. 71-83	Etude #2 Rehearsal	QUIZ – Ch. 4

1 March (T)		Performance	Etude #2 DUE
3 March (R)		Acting Techniques and Assign Term Paper	
8 March (T)		Monologue Work	
10 March (R)		Discuss Moliere plays	Performance Critique DUE
SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
22 March (T)	Ch. 13 pg. 192-206	Creating a Character and Monologue Rehearsal	QUIZ – Ch. 13 Monologue Script DUE
24 March (R)		Monologue Rehearsal	
29 March (T)		Performance	Monologue DUE
31 March (R)	Ch. 10 Pg. 145-160	Reading a Play and Assign Scene Partners	QUIZ – Ch. 10
5 April (T)	Ch. 12 pg. 175-190	Scene Work	QUIZ – Ch. 12
7 April (R)		Scene Work	Scene Script DUE
12 April (T)		Etude #3	
14 April (R)		Etude #3 Rehearsal	
19 April (T)		Discuss <i>Little Women</i>	Performance Critique DUE
21 April (R)		Performance	Etude #3 DUE
26 April (T)		Scene Coaching	
28 April (R)		Scene Coaching	
3 May (T)		Scene Coaching	
5 May (R)		Applications of Acting	Performance Critique DUE Late Work DUE
12 May (R)	FINAL	@ 10:30am-1:00pm	Scenes DUE