

THEATRE 170: FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING

Instructor: Sara B.T. Thiel
Office: Krannert Level 4-101
Office Hours: MW 12:00-12:50
Meeting time: MWF, 11-11:50

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Classroom: Armory 242

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This class is designed to foster an understanding of the basic cornerstones of acting. It is geared toward you, the non-major, and throughout the semester you will:

- Build and utilize a foundational vocabulary of theatre with a focus on acting terminology.
- Read and analyze dramatic texts from the point of view of an actor in preparation for a role.
- Learn warm-ups to prepare the body and voice for performance.
- Use improvisational techniques to practice making strong acting choices.
- Learn and practice effective audition techniques through cold-readings and prepared monologues.
- Work with your peers on presenting a final scene presentation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is essential to your success in this class. Attendance will be taken and tardiness will be noted for every class period.

Each unexcused absence after the 2nd will result in a ONE-THIRD LETTER GRADE deduction from the final grade (i.e. if your final grade is an A-, it will be reduced to a B+). 3 late arrivals will be counted as 1 absence.

Religious holidays, medical excuses, and emergency absences (validated by a recognized authority such as the Emergency Dean) are the only excusable absences.

If a student is ill, they must present a note of absence due to an appt. at McKinley Health Center or other health care professional. ***It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any missed classes/assignments because of religious holidays or family/health emergencies.***

Please Note: If there are numerous absences due to illness, the student's grade will be affected through their participation points.

CLASSROOM ATTIRE

Students should wear clothes that they are comfortable in: gym shorts, sweats, loose or stretch pants, t-shirts, tennis shoes, etc. No dangling jewelry or open-toed sandals should be worn. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a deduction from Participation Points.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Any student caught cheating on any assignment will receive 0 points for that assignment. Any student plagiarizing will receive 0 points for that assignment. Any student involved in a coordinated event to cheat or to plagiarize will fail the course. In each case of suspected or confirmed cheating/plagiarizing the student's academic advising unit will be notified.

Students experiencing severe medical or personal conditions that may interfere with class performance should contact the instructor and the Dean of Students. Any learning disability must be made known to the instructor within the first two weeks of classes so appropriate accommodations may be made.

REQUIRED TEXTS

While there are no texts required for the course, students will be expected to make good use of the scripts available through the University of Illinois Library system throughout the semester. Most playscripts are held at the Music and Performing Arts Library.

GRADING

100 possible points

Improv Participation:	10 points
Cold Reading Participation:	10 points
Monologue:	15 points
Monologue Analysis:	10 points
Monologue Critique Participation:	5 points
Final Scene:	25 points
Final Scene Analysis:	20 points
Final Scene Analysis Participation:	5 points

100 points

0-59%= F

60-62%= D-; 63-66%= D; 67-69%= D+

70-72%= C-; 73-76%= C; 77-79%= C+

80-82%= B-; 83-86%= B; 87-89%= B+

90-92%= A-; 93-96%= A; 97-100%= A+

TIMELINE (subject to change)

Week:	Date:	Activities/Assignments:
#1	Wednesday, January 18	Syllabus
	Friday, January 20	Class introductions and icebreakers
#2	Monday, January 23	Open scenes
	Wednesday, January 25	Open scenes One-sided open scenes
	Friday, January 27	Improv
#3	Monday, January 30	Improv
	Wednesday, February 1	Improv
	Friday, February 3	Cold reading workshop
#4	Monday, February 6	Cold reading workshop
	Wednesday, February 8	DUE IN CLASS: Three play titles with characters you can play
	Friday, February 10	DUE IN CLASS: The monologue you will perform Discuss character analysis Determine performance order
#5	Monday, February 13	In class time to work on monologues
	Wednesday, February 15	In class time to work on monologues

	Friday, February 17	DUE IN CLASS: Character analysis Begin monologue performances
#6	Monday, February 20	Monologue performances
	Wednesday, February 22	Monologue performances
	Friday, February 24	Monologue performances
#7	Monday, February 27	Monologue performances
	Wednesday, February 29	Discuss monologue performances and critiques
	Friday, March 2	NO CLASS
#8	Monday, March 5	DUE IN CLASS: 2 nd round of monologue performances, implementing feedback
	Wednesday, March 7	2 nd round of monologue performances
	Friday, March 9	2 nd round of monologue performances
#9	Monday, March 12	2 nd round of monologue performances
	Wednesday, March 14	2 nd round of monologue performances
	Friday, March 16	TBA
#10	SPRING BREAK	Have fun Be safe Enjoy

#11	Monday, March 26	DUE IN CLASS: Bring in two copies of a duet scene in which you would cast yourself
		Work through scene selections
	Wednesday, March 28	Work through scene selections
	Friday, March 30	Work through scene selections Have all scenes cast by end of class

#12	Monday, April 2	Character analysis table work
	Wednesday, April 4	Work through character analysis with partner
	Friday, April 6	Work through character analysis with partner

#13	Monday, April 9	In-class time to work on scenes
	Wednesday, April 11	In-class time to work on scenes
	Friday, April 13	In-class time to work on scenes

#14	Monday, April 16	In-class time to work on scenes
	Wednesday, April 18	In-class time to work on scenes
	Friday, April 20	In-class time to work on scenes

#15	Monday, April 23	Perform scenes
	Wednesday, April 25	Perform scenes
	Friday, April 27	Perform scenes

#16

Monday, April 30

Perform scenes

Wednesday, May 2

Finish remaining scenes