

FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING: Fall 2014

University of Alaska Fairbanks Theatre & Film Department

Course: THR F121 F01

CRN: 77840, 3 credits

Location: Fine Arts Building, Lab Theatre (Salisbury backstage area)

Dates: September 4 – December 18, 2014

Time: Tuesday & Thursdays 9:45-11:15AM

CARRIE BAKER, Associate Professor, Theatre & Film Department Chair

ccbaker@alaska.edu

Office Phone: 907-474-7754

Office: THEA 109A

Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:30AM or by appointment

I. Course Description:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the basics of acting. In this class we will explore core elements of acting such as goal, other, given circumstances, objectives, tactics, obstacles, and expectation. Through exercises, improvisation, monologues, and scene study, we will apply these concepts while freeing up and strengthening your creative self.

II. Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

You will become familiar with basic acting techniques and methods while developing your creative tools vocally, emotionally, and physically. By the end of the semester, you will know how to approach improvisation exercises, monologues, scenes, and character analysis. The semester will culminate with a final public performance.

III. Instructional Methods:

This class is very active! You will constantly be up on your feet acting in exercises and watching your classmates act. The class will include class discussions, in-class critiques of all your performances, a midterm exam, and several writing assignments including journal writing and character analysis. Your final project will be a public performance of a scene with a partner.

IV. Required Reading:

You will have weekly readings from the following books. Your midterm exam is on these two books, so keep up with the reading. I will give periodic pop quizzes to ensure you are reading. The following books are available in the bookstore, the online bookstore, and there are also copies of both books on 2-hour/ overnight reserve in the library.

- Acting One, Robert Cohen, fifth edition, McGraw-Hill Higher Education, ISBN: 9780073514161
- An Actor Prepares, Constantin Stanislavski, Theatre Arts Books, ISBN: 9780878309832

V. Auditions (optional):

All *Fundamentals of Acting* students are encouraged to attend Fall Auditions Saturday September 6, 2014 in the Salisbury Theatre 1pm. Find more information about this and the Theatre/Film season at www.uaf.edu/theatrefilm/.

VI. Attendance & Lateness Policy:

Attendance to all classes is mandatory. Exercises, improvisations, discussions, and scene work cannot be made up for the simple reason that they happen in class. If you miss classes, you are missing the course.

Students are permitted two unexcused absences. Excused absences must be supported with written documentation (such as a doctor’s note) presented when you return to the following class. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade. Missing a class in which you are scheduled to perform is unacceptable and will further reduce your grade. When possible, notify me via email or phone before class if you will be absent. All handouts and assignments will be given in class; if you miss a class, you are responsible for getting all handouts and assignments. All course paperwork (syllabus, assignments) will also be posted on Blackboard (online).

Please arrive to class on time. Being late will reduce your grade. Three lates will equal one unexcused absence and reduce your grade accordingly. Come to class everyday and be on time. I expect the highest level of professionalism and responsibility from each of you.

VII. Grading Policy:

Please note: Grading will be based on a +/- system this semester. A minimum grade of C- is required for all prerequisites and major courses in the 2014-15 catalog.

Attendance/ Participation/ Pop Quizzes.....	20 points
Midterm Exam.....	25 points
Performance Attendance.....	5 points
Performance & Written Work.....	50 points
Personal Monologue.....	10 points
Open Scene Presentation.....	10 points
Final Scene Presentation and Written Work.....	30 points

A. Class Attendance, Participation, Pop Quizzes: 20 points

Your level of participation, enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to risk in this class is of the utmost importance. Your effort and growth is as important as the finished product of your scene work. Extensive preparation and rehearsal outside of class is expected. I expect each of you to be committed to creating a positive, supportive, respectful atmosphere. Because of the personal nature of acting, you will all be stepping into uncharted territory which can be exciting and scary. You must support one another during this process. I have zero tolerance for mocking, ridiculing, or in any way insulting a classmate. This classroom is a safe and respectful space. You are graded each class for participation and attitude. Pop quizzes on the reading are part of this grade (5 points).

What to Wear:

Please wear clothes that you can easily move in, such as sweat pants, T-shirts, and sneakers. No tight blue jeans, clunky hard soled shoes, or clothes that will inhibit movement. Shut off cell phones. Arrive to class on time, dressed properly, and ready to work, armed with an open mind and spirit.

B. Midterm Exam: 25 points

The midterm exam will be on the readings in Cohen and Stanislavski and will consist of short answer, identification, and essay questions. EXAM: Thursday October 30, 2014.

C. Performance Attendance: 5 points

You will attend one production this semester: An Inspector Calls directed by Brian Cook November 7-16, 2014 produced by Theatre UAF in the Lee H. Salisbury Theatre. You receive one free ticket for the show because you are in this class. Simply give your name to the box office when getting your ticket and inform them that you are in this class. You will sign for your ticket and sign-in at the production.

D. Performance and Written Work: 50 points**• Personal Monologue: 10 points**

You will present a one-minute personal monologue written by you that must be memorized for performance. I will pass out the Personal Monologue Assignment next class.

• Open Scene Presentation: 10 points

You will present one Open Scene this semester. The Open Scene will consist of pre-set dialogue for which you and your partner will create the characters and given circumstances. I will assign scene partners for the Open Scene. You will perform this scene once and we will work on it in class. I will hand out Open Scene Guidelines later in the semester.

• Final Scene Presentation & Written Work: 30 points

You will present one contemporary naturalistic scene this semester. You will choose your own partners for this scene. For the first showing, you will present the scene and we will work on it in class. For the second showing you will present the improved scene in the Lab Theatre. For the final showing you will present the further improved scene in front of a public audience in the Lab Theatre. *This final showing and accompanying written work will count as your final exam.*

When you present the scene in class for the first showing, you need to come in with the scene REHEARSED (at least four hours), BLOCKED (movement decided), and OFF-BOOK (lines learned). Also, you should dress appropriately for your character in the scene and have necessary props and set pieces (furniture, etc.). I will hand out Scene Work Guidelines later in the

semester. For the final showing of the scene, you must turn in extensive written work which I will explain on the hand out. All written work must be typed.

VIII. Important selections from the UAF Student Code of Conduct:

“UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the rights of others is prohibited.... Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

- Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
- Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
- No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.”

If you cheat or plagiarize in this class, you will FAIL the assignment and possibly the entire class.

IX. Disabilities Services:

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 Whitaker, phone: 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

<http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>

X. Support Services:

- UAF Student Support Services <http://www.uaf.edu/sss>
- UAF Writing Center <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/>

XI. Tentative Semester Overview (subject to change):

NOTE: “Weekly Reading” should be done by *Tuesday’s class* each week. We will have periodic pop quizzes on Tuesdays.

WEEK 1:

9/4 Enrollment, Business, Course Objectives, Grading Policy, Warm-ups

WEEK 2:

Reading:

- Cohen: Lessons 1-3
- Stanislavski: Chapters 1-3

Assignments Due:

- Write Personal Monologue

9/9 Warm-ups/Group Exercises/ *Personal Monologue Assignment*
9/11 Warm-ups/ Group Exercises/ Improvisation

WEEK 3:

Reading:

- Cohen: Lessons 4-8
- Stanislavski: Chapters 4-6

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Personal Monologues

9/16 Warm-ups/ GOTE Exercises/ Improvisation

9/18 Personal Monologues (3)

WEEK 4:

Reading:

- Cohen: Lessons 9-14
- Stanislavski: Chapters 7-8

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Personal Monologues

9/23 Personal Monologues (3)

9/25 Personal Monologues (3)

WEEK 5:

Reading:

- Cohen: Lessons 15-19
- Stanislavski: Chapter 9-10

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Personal Monologues

9/30 Personal Monologues (3)

10/2 Personal Monologues (4)

WEEK 6:

Reading:

- Cohen: Lessons 20-23
- Stanislavski: Chapters 11-13

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Open Scenes

10/7 Open Scene Exercise/ Assignment/ Open Scene Rehearsals in-class

10/9 Open Scene Performances (2)

WEEK 7:

Reading:

- Cohen: Lessons 24-28
- Stanislavski: 14-16

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Open Scenes

10/14 Open Scene Performances (2)

10/16 Open Scene Performances (2)

WEEK 8:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Open Scenes
- Review/ prepare assigned sections for Stanislavski discussion

10/21 Open Scene Performances (2)

10/23 Stanislavski/ Cohen Discussion/ Midterm Review

WEEK 9:

Assignments Due:

- Review/ prepare assigned sections for Stanislavski discussion
- Final Scene Partners due in class Tuesday 10/28
- Midterm Exam Thursday 10/30

10/28 Stanislavski/ Cohen Discussion/ Midterm Review

10/30 MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 10:

Assignments Due:

- Memorize/ Block/ Rehearse scenes
- Attend An Inspector Calls performance

11/4 Scene selections in class/ Discussion: Rehearsal Techniques

11/6 Performance Schedule/ In-class rehearsals

WEEK 11:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: First Showings
- Attend An Inspector Calls performance

11/11 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

11/13 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

WEEK 12:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: First Showings

11/18 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

11/20 Scene Presentations First Showing (1)

WEEK 13:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: First Showings

11/25 Scene Presentations First Showing (1)

11/27 THANKSGIVING

WEEK 14:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Second Showings

12/2 Scene Presentations Second Showing in Lab Theatre (3)
12/4 Scene Presentations Second Showing in Lab Theatre (3)

WEEK 15:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Second Showings

12/9 Scene Presentations Second Showing in Lab Theatre (2)

12/11 Final Performance Rehearsal/ Final Discussion

EXAM WEEK:

Final Exam Performance: Sunday December 14 in the Lab Theatre.

3:30 Actor call

4pm Performance

Invite friends and family to this final performance!

- Public Performance of Final Scenes in Lab Theatre.
- Written work for scene due at performance.