

Acting II

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Title: Acting II

Semester & Year Offered: Second Year 2011/2012

Teacher's Email Address: tracie.jade@gmail.com

Essential Question: *Does Art Imitate Life or Embody It?*

Course Description: Acting II will provide students with a comprehensive, humanistic education, supplemented by intensive acting training in which classroom study and practical experience are of equal and complementary value. It is our hope that students of the craft will become diligent students of life in the process. Our primary focus will be on deepening skills in observation, sense memory, and demonstrating truthful human behavior through the lens of "life studies". Students will also be introduced to Stanislavsky's Method Acting techniques and practices in the theatre that will support the analyzing of text and character development.

Course Goals and Objectives The goal of this course is to help students develop self awareness, emotional and physical presence and knowledge of a variety of acting techniques. Students will be able to achieve these goals by exploring:

- Sense memory
- Emotional recall
- Beats
- Sending and receiving
- Script analysis
- Physical characterization
- Objectives
- Environment

Instructional Methods

These skills will be introduced through the exploration of theatre exercises, improvisation, discussion, written analysis papers, and monologues.

Texts, Readings

- **Respect for Acting** by *Uta Hagen*
- **An Actor Prepares** by *Stanislavski*
- **Audition** by *Michael Shurtleff*

Attendance Policy

The Theatre Department prides itself in addressing each class as company. This idea promotes building ensembles and developing a respect for each individual contribution to the whole. That being said, students are expected to be prompt, prepared, and dependable. If student is late for class, he will not be allowed to participate for the day and will receive "0" or F. If student is late two times within a semester, he will be marked for one absence. Three unexcused absences will result in an F for the class. Exceptions for this policy are for family emergencies and serious illnesses. If student has any special needs (physical or emotional) that Theatre Staff should be made aware of, please contact Department Chair.

Professional Practices

- Student is expected to arrive appropriately dressed and start warm-up upon arrival
- No jewelry (earrings, necklaces, rings, etc.)
- Student should be actively engaged in class
- No excessive talking or distractions during class
- **Students should not leave studio for any reason without teacher's consent**
- Student should be engaged in personal acting development at least one hour per day. Student should record these sessions in their acting journal. Acting journals will be turned in at the end of each advisory.

Make-up Policy

In the event that there is a family emergency or serious illness, student or parent should contact instructor via e-mail prior to class (if possible). The student will be expected to make up the assignment/performance during next scheduled class period. Each day late after due date, a letter grade will be dropped.

Evaluation

1. Participation, preparedness, attitude.....10 points
2. Company/ensemble work ethic.....10 points
3. Life studies (person, animal, figure).....10 points
4. Journal entries.....10 points
5. Monologue/Scenes presentation.....20 points
6. Final (jury).....40 points

A= 90-100 points, exceptional work, complete, detailed, consistently dynamic and inventive

B = 80-89 points, very good work, fairly complete w/numerous details but not consistently dynamic

C = 70-79 points, average to good work, meets minimum requirements but lacks detail and specificity

D = 65-69 points, below average work; incomplete, shows lack of care for assignment

F = below 65 points, fails to meet any of the assignment goals

Plagiarism Policy

Credibility and integrity are essential traits in a professional who is guaranteed the exclusive ownership of his or her own creations and must respect the same rights of others. No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

- a) Given a zero for that assignment
- b) Assigned a reduced grade for the course
- c) Reported to Department Chair for further action

National and DCPS Standards for Arts Education:

HSP.1.4 Make acting choices using script analysis, character research, reflection, and revision through the rehearsal process

HSA.1.5. Create gestures, movement qualities, and physical attributes based on one's interpretation and analysis of the inner workings of character

HAS.3.3 Document observations and perceptions of production elements of a play noting, pacing, and use of space

8.3.1 Use the vocabulary of theatre to describe theatrical experiences