

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Acting I

Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-5

Class Location: TBA

Instructor: Dawn Naser

Email: dlnaser@hotmail.com

Course Objectives and Description:

This course is an introduction to the principles, process and skill requirements of acting for the stage. Acting I will allow the students to explore the following concepts: imagination, spontaneity, basic vocal and movement awareness, improvisation, objectives, tactics, obstacles and truth in acting. Students will have the opportunity to explore these concepts in class and rehearsals through physical and vocal warm-ups, improvisations, journal writing, class discussions and monologue work.

Course Outcomes and Goals:

To gain self-knowledge through exploration and play

To craft realistic behavior on stage in imagined circumstances

To develop a greater awareness of the world, of others, and of self

To respond to the “truthfulness” of peer and professional performances

To develop commitment, trust, listening, and consistency in performance through group work

To understand and utilize basic theatre vocabulary

Required Text:

Respect for Acting by Uta Hagen

Course Requirements and Rules:

1. All classes are mandatory. Exercises, discussions, and performance work cannot be made up for the simple reason that they happen in class.
2. Don't be late! Tardiness is an unacceptable practice in this business and will severely affect your final grade.
3. All written assignments must be typed. Use a 1 inch margin and 12 point font. Staple papers that are more than one page.
4. Students are responsible for making up all work missed during an absence by the next class.
5. Late work will be accepted for half credit the day after an assignment is due. Work more than one day late will not be accepted.
6. Students are required to schedule and attend rehearsals when necessary.
7. Be prepared to move during every class. Students are required to change into their theatre uniform at lunch. For more information about the departmental dress code, see the Theatre Handbook.
8. Bring water in a closed container to every class. You will need it and will not be permitted to leave the classroom to get a drink.

9. Bring *Respect for Acting*, a journal, notebook and pen/pencil to every class.
10. Any student caught cheating on or plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for that assignment and reported to Mama Tracie and Principal Logan. Plagiarism includes pirating information from the Internet without proper documentation.

Physical Environment:

Due to the nature and content of this course the student must understand that s/he will be required to work in close physical proximity, often requiring contact, with instructor and fellow students. It is assumed that each student is comfortable with such contact unless stated otherwise.

Please inform the instructor if you have any physical problems, which may prevent you from fully participating in class work. If you believe you have a physical disability that may warrant accommodation in this class, speak with the instructor as soon as possible so that a method for addressing your needs can be developed.

Grading Scale:

100-90	A	(Excellent. Far above and beyond my expectations in both artistic and academic accomplishment).
89-80	B	(Above average. Superior achievement in both academic and artistic achievement).
79-70	C	(Average. a grade of "C" will put you on artistic probation).
69-60	D	(Below Average).
59 and Below	F	(Failure).

Students will receive grades for the following:

1. Practice and Application 50% (warm-ups, in-class discussion, improvisations, exercises, movement sequences, attendance, focus, work-ethic)
2. Assessments 40% (scene work, reflective papers, exams, juries, group projects, performances, compositions)
3. Participation/Citizenship 10% (leadership within the department: behavior in hallway and class, participation in activities like theatre fund raisers and events, volunteer project, ensemble job responsibility)

Acting I will address the following DC Theatre Standards:

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

HSA.2.1 Create rehearsal schedules, set deadlines, organize priorities, and identify needs and resources when participating in the production of a play or scene.

HSA.1.6 Demonstrate concepts of space, time, and energy in group improvisations.