



ACTING I SYLLABUS

Class Time: 9th Period
Class Location: G52

Instructor: Deidra Starnes
Email: msdeezellington@gmail.com

REQUIRED TEXT

Respect for Acting – Uta Hagen

REQUIRED READING

A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry
Ruined – Lynn Nottage
Angels in America – Tony Kushner
Stop Kiss – Diana Son

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to prepare students for their journey as actors by introducing them to the fundamentals skills of acting through the examination of “self” and “community.”

COURSE OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

The student will develop:

- A heightened sense of self as an individual and as a member of multiple communities
- Flexibility of emotional expression as communicated through the body and the voice
- An understanding of and the ability to accurately use theatrical terminology
- Techniques to engage the imagination at will
- The ability to concentrate and remained focused in given circumstances
- An awareness of character and dramatic action through observation and discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Promptness: You must be present and on time for each class.

Classroom Etiquette: You must enter the classroom quietly and professionally, and exercise self-control and discipline at all times.

Dress: You must come to class in the departmental uniform. Long dangling earrings, bracelets or necklaces are not permitted.

Class Participation: You must participate in all class activities, exercises, games, warm ups, and discussions.

Readings: You must complete reading assignments prior to class discussion.

Homework and Written Assignments: You must complete all homework and written assignments on time. Assignments must be neat and legible. Unexcused late assignments will be accepted no more one school day after the deadline and will incur a 5-point deduction.

Journal: You must keep a composition journal notebook containing *no less than two entries per week*. You must write legibly. Each entry must be well thought out and detail an impact on one or more of your 5 senses. Be advised that the journal is not a diary, but a reflective account of your observations. Journals will be collected randomly.

Performance Work: All performance work must be presented when scheduled.

Exams and Quizzes: In addition to a midterm and final examination, pop quizzes will be given on any material that was covered in class or reading assignment.

Final Project: The first-year class will create a theatrical class project for departmental presentation in the fourth advisory.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Due to the nature and content of this class the student must understand that s/he will be required to work in close physical proximity, often requiring contact with the 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 conditions, 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 of addressing your needs can be developed.

GRADE PERCENTAGE POINTS

Participation	10%
<i>Warm-ups</i>	
<i>Constructive Comments/Opinions</i>	
<i>Thoughtful Criticisms</i>	
<i>Use of Terminology</i>	
<i>Attentiveness</i>	
Practice and Application	50%
<i>Classwork</i>	
<i>In-Class Preparation</i>	
<i>Assignments</i>	
<i>Journals</i>	
Assessment	40%
<i>Performance Work</i>	
<i>Quizzes</i>	
Cumulative Exam*	20%
<i>Written Midterm</i>	
<i>Freshman Class Performance Project</i>	
	<i>*Factored into Final Class Grade</i>

DC THEATRE STANDARDS

HSP.1.5	<i>Distinguish facial expression, physicality and gesture based on ones understanding of the character's inner life</i>
HSA.1.6	<i>Demonstrate concepts of space, time, and energy in group improvisations</i>
HSP.1.7	<i>Collaborate on the development of original dramatic pieces leading to performance</i>
HSA.3.1	<i>Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as genre, style, theme, and design to analyze theatrical experiences.</i>
HSP.3.3	<i>Document observations and perceptions on how a specific actor used theatre techniques to convey meaning in his or her performances.</i>

GRADING SCALE

100 - 90	A	Excellent
89 - 80	B	Above Average
79 - 70	C	Average*
69 - 60	D	Below Average
59 and Below	F	Failure

**Artistic Probation*