HUMA 189  Introduction to Acting: Acting and Improvisation

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS HUMANITIES
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT
MAY 2015
A. Title: Introduction to Acting
B. Course Number: HUMA 189
   Short Title: Introduction to Acting
C. Credit Hours: 3
D. Writing Intensive Course:
E. Course Length: One Semester
F. Semester Offered: Spring or Fall
G. Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial Activity: 3 hours lab
H. Catalog Description: This course will examine various strategies for creating and performing characters from written and unwritten texts. Students will practice improvisation and perform various roles for both self and peer evaluation. Various acting techniques and methods for creating characters will be utilized.
I. Pre-Requisites/Co-Courses: None
J. Student Learning Outcomes:
   By the end of this course, the student will:

   a. Evaluate and perform characters from various plays to enhance versatility.
      1. Comm Skills
      2. Critical Thinking
      3. Inter-Intrapersonal
   b. Utilize improvisation as a means of developing a character.
      1. Comm Skills
   c. Analyze and critique the performances of self and of others in order to enhance technique.
      1. Comm Skills
      2. Critical Thinking
      3. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills

K. Text(s): (Representational. Actual text to be determined by Instructor)


L. References:
M. Equipment: Rehearsal cubes
N. Grading Method: A-F
O. Measurement Criteria/Methods: Students will be evaluated through
   1. Actor’s Self-Evaluation
   2. Participation/Attendance
   3. Performance evaluations for individual performance-student
   4. Performance evaluations for individual performance-instructor

P. General Topic Outline

   1. Week One: Course Outline, Why Act?, Improvisation
   2. Week Two: Early Acting Theories, Stanislavski
   3. Week Three: Etiquette, Warm Up and Relaxation. Stage Fright
   4. Week Four: Actor’s State of Mind and the Creative State
   5. Week Five: Truth and the Illusion of the First Time
   6. Week Six: The Body and Stage Movement, The Voice and the Actor
   7. Week Seven: Character Analysis and the Elements of Characterization
   8. Week Eight: Internal-External Character Traits and Action
   9. Week Nine: The World, Objectives, and Needs of the character
  10. Week Ten: Scene Study: Script and Character Analysis
  11. Week Eleven: Shaping and Pacing, Beats and Scene Structure, Staging
  12. Week Twelve: Economy of Characterization, Performance Process
  13. Week Thirteen: Shaking Up the Scene, Spontaneity, Subtext
  14. Week Fourteen: Auditioning
  15. Week Fifteen: Monologues, Attack and Retreat

Q. Detailed Topical Outline:

   1. Week One: Course Introduction, Journals, Improvisation: Jumps, Impulse Circle
   2. Week Two: Stanislavski: The Magic If, Open Dialogue
   3. Week Three: Mental, Physical, Vocal Warm Ups, Group Warm Ups, Partner Greetings’ Work in Progress: scene 1
   4. Week Four: The Journey, Self Awareness, Checklist, Self Imitation, Final Version: scene 1
   5. Week Five: Maneuvering, Exchanges, Being and Doing, Reactions
   8. Week Eight: Coming and Going, The Three V’s
  10. Week Ten: Choices, Character’s Past, Present, and Future, Ambiguous Dialogue, Final version: scene 3
  11. Week Eleven: Speed Through, Slow Through, Hills and Valleys
  12. Week Twelve: Subtext, Work in Progress: scene 4
13. Week Thirteen: Spoken/Silent Script, Role Reversal, Passing and Contact, Final Version: scene 4
14. Week Fourteen: Audition Expectations, Audition process
15. Week Fifteen: Monologues, Attack and Retreat, Present Monologue

Weeks three through fourteen include scene study--presentations of scenes from the following representative plays. Actual plays to be determined by instructor.

Miller, Arthur, The Crucible
---. Death of a Salesman
---. All My Sons

Williams, Tennessee, The Glass Meagerie
---. A Streetcar Named Desire
---. Summer and Smoke

Sherman, Martin, Bent
Shepard, Sam, Buried Child
---. True West
Wilson, Landford, Burn This
---. The Fifth of July
---. Talley's Folly
Albee, Edward, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
---. Zoo Story
Hellman, Lillian, The Little Foxes
Wasserstein, Wendy, The Heidi Chronicles
---. Uncommon Women and Others
Durang, Christopher, Beyond Therapy
Shaffer, Peter, Letteic and lovage
---. Equus
vanDruten, John, I Am A Camera
Greenberg, Richard, Eastern Standard
Lucas, Craig, Prelude to a Kiss
Simon, Neil, Barefoot in the Park
---. Rumors
---. The Odd Couple