THEA 101
ACTING STUDY II
Pre-requisite: THEA 011 or Approval
Spring 2013

Professor Michelle Felten                  Office Hours                   Class Meetings
E-mail: mfelten@csus.edu                Shasta Hall 114            Shasta Hall 249
Office Phone: 278-6280                   M/T 10-11 am                 T/R 11-12:40 pm
Department Phone: 278-3569     Friday by Appointment            3 Units

Course Description and Objectives
THEA 101 aims to further develop the basic concepts of acting begun in Acting Study I, through scene-work from the American modern repertoire, with particular emphasis on the influence of a play's given circumstances, and the commitment required to make bold, active tactic choices when creating character. Focus on the continued development of both vocal and physical flexibility, listening skills, and mental agility in the moment, will aid in the achievement of your goal: to react to stimuli in an immediate and truthful manner, and to affect others in a purposeful manner. This course is designed for students who are contemplating a career in the theatre; therefore commitment, preparation, and participation are a requirement at all times, regardless of major.

Course Expectations
*To attend class regularly.

* To treat the instructor, yourself, and your fellow classmates with respect at all times in order to maintain a positive and productive environment. Disrespectful Behavior includes: cell phones left on; texting; talking while an individual is speaking or performing; sleeping; laying down; wearing revealing clothing not suitable for class work; drinking (except water); eating; chewing gum; arriving late; leaving early; and excessive chattiness. Any of these may be cause for early dismissal from class at the discretion of the professor. Upon repetition, you may be dropped.

*To be prepared for all course work on due dates; to participate in all class discussions, activities and exercises; and to show-up for scheduled rehearsals with your scene partner. Note taking should be hand-written; no computer use in class.

* To dress appropriately and be ready to commit both physically and vocally at all times. Clothing should be easy to move in and non-revealing (front or back). On scene performance days, clothing should be appropriate for the content of the scene.

* To comply with the Shasta 249 Acting Lab space rules and guidelines.
Course Requirements

*Attendance:
1. During the course of the semester you are allowed two absences for any reason. Each additional absence will lower your grade by 50 points.

2. 2 tardies = 1 Absence/Any late arrival greater than 10 minutes = 1 Absence.

3. Excused absences are only granted with official written documentation (w/in 2 weeks) and in the event of illness, family emergency, or a University or Departmental sponsored event. E-mails or text messages are not considered official.

*Class Participation & Preparedness: (150 points) Over the course of the semester you will be expected to fully participate in the class warm-ups, exercises and activities. Complete memorization on presentation due dates is required as part of your scene preparation.

*Showcase Viewing/Quiz: (25 points) All Students enrolled in Acting II are required to perform in or attend the 2013 KCACTF Irene Ryan Showcase of Acting Nominees 02/11 or 02/14.

*Script Reading Quizzes: (75 points) A quiz will be given on script reading content in preparation for all Character Analysis papers and Scene Presentations.

*CSUS Theatre Productions: All students are expected to attend or perform in the two departmental productions being presented this semester (*Zoot Suit* and the *One-Acts*). A quiz on content and performances of *Zoot Suit* will be included within the final script-reading quiz.

*Character Analysis: (150 points) A written analysis detailing your character's given circumstances, objectives, obstacles and stakes is required for all scene work. Each analysis should also include a brief description of the “moment before” in terms of your particular scene, as well as a line-by-line breakdown of your character's action or tactic choices within that scene. *Students who do not complete their analysis in time to perform will receive a zero on each presentation until this assignment is complete.* Due dates are in the schedule. Guidelines for all written analyses are: 3 full pages, typed, double-spaced using 12 point font and one-inch margins; written in the 1st person. Not meeting these guidelines will negatively affect your grade.

*Scene Work for Improvement and Presentation: (600 points) All students will present three scenes over the course of the semester. Each scene will be presented and graded twice as a work-through (50 pts. each), and once as a culminating performance (100 pts.) reflecting the incorporation of notes and suggestions for improvement. Your ability to assimilate notes is expected to improve over the course of the semester as you gain experience and confidence. In scene work all students are graded as individuals. Missing a scene work-through or culminating performance will result in a zero for the absent individual, and be factored into that person's total scene grade. Rehearsal space for scene work is provided in the Shasta 249 Acting Lab. The Studio Theatre space is reserved for directing projects.

*Final Presentation Attendance: All students will perform a culminating presentation of their 3rd scene as a final assignment. At the instructor's discretion, the final performance may be relocated to a departmental theatre space and/or be presented for an audience of faculty, staff, and peers. Missing the final will result in course failure.

Text: There is no text for this course. In most cases scenes will be provided.

Grading: Grading in this class is based on commitment to class work and activities and
overall individual improvement in the craft of acting, rather than perceived “talent” or previous experience. Grades on scene work will not be posted, however inquiries are welcome 24 hours after scene presentations are completed.

**Student’s Course Grade will be Determined as Follows:**

Participation and Preparedness:
- Exercises, Warm-ups, and Memorization 150
- Showcase Viewing/Quiz 25
- Scene and Character Analysis (50x3) 150
- Script Reading/Play Viewing Quizzes (50X3) 75
- Scene Presentations and Improvement (200 x 3) 600

Total: 1000

900-1000=A  800-899=B  700-799=C  600-699=D  Below 600 F

**Students with Disabilities**
If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours within the first two weeks of the semester.

*This syllabus is subject to change depending on class size and progress.*

**ACTING STUDY II Schedule, Spring 2013**

January/February
- T 29 Introductions/Syllabus & Expectations
- R 31 Review Acting Concepts: Objectives, Obstacles & Stakes; “3-Way Conversation”

- T 5 Review Acting Terms: Given Circumstances; “Memories of Home” Exercise
- R 7 Review: Actions/Tactics- “Mixing Actions” Exercise in Class; Assign 1st Scenes/Due Dates

*Cabaret AUDITIONS 02/4-6, University Theatre*

- T 12 Discuss Scene/Character Analysis Format; Exchange Scripts
- R 14 Scene Presentation Expectations; C/A Q&A; Play Reading Quiz

*Mon. 11th and Thurs. 14th-KC ACTF Showcase 5pm, Playwright’s Theatre $5*

- T 19 KC ACTF: No Formal Class-Sign-in on Acting Lab 249 Door-Rehearsal
- R 21 KC ACTF: Rehearsal Time; 1st Scene Character Analysis Due in Theatre Office by 12pm

- T 26 Showcase Quiz and Discussion; Scenes Memorized: “Face to Face” Exercise
- R 28 “Relationship Essence” Exercise: Packing a Suitcase; Making a Salad; Doing the Laundry; Washing the Car; Playing Tennis; Sword Fight; Creating Sculpture

March
- T 5 1st Scenes Presented for Class (Group I)/Suggestions for Improvement
- R 7 1st Scenes Presented for Class (Group II)/Suggestions for Improvement

- T 12 1st Scenes Presented for Class (Group III)/Suggestions for Improvement
Women of Juarez Opens Tonight @ 8pm, Playwright’s Theatre

SPRING BREAK, MARCH 25- April 1, 2013-Catch up!

April
T 2 Play Reading Quiz; Partner Exercise
R 4 2nd Scene Character Analysis Due

T 9 2nd Scenes (Group I) Present/Suggestions for Improvement
R 11 2nd Scenes (Group II) Present/Suggestions for Improvement

Cabaret Opens Wednesday, April 10th @ 8pm! University Theatre

T 16 2nd Scenes Present (Group III)/Suggestions for Improvement
R 18 2nd Scenes 2nd Time w/Improvements--Assign 3rd Scene/Due Dates

T 23 2nd Scenes 2nd Time
R 25 2nd Scenes for Final Grade; Exchange Scripts

T 30 3rd Scene Character Analysis Due; Play Reading/Viewing Quiz

Student Directed One Acts Perform April 30-May 1, 2013

May
R 2 3rd Scenes (Group I) Present/Suggestions for Improvement

T 7 3rd Scenes Present (Group II)/Suggestions for Improvement
R 9 3rd Scenes Present (Group III)/Suggestions for Improvement

T 14 3rd Scene 2nd Time
R 16 3rd Scene 2nd Time

Final: Thursday, May 23, 2013
10:15-12:15 pm
3rd Scene for Final Grade