THEA 011
ACTING STUDY I
Spring 2013

Professor Ed Brazo                          Office Hours                      Class Meetings
E-mail: edbrazo@csus.edu             Shasta Hall 112             Shasta Hall 249
Office Phone: 278-6530                  M/W 1:30-3:00                       M/W 1:00-2:40
or by appt.                              3 Units

Course Description and Objectives

THEA- 011 aims to provide the beginning theatre student with an introduction to, and a solid foundation of, the basic building blocks of acting including the understanding and implementation of the following terms: given circumstances, objectives, obstacles, stakes, and actions or tactics. Through ensemble building, personal reflection, physical commitment and both individual performance and scene partner work, the student will begin the process of developing an acting technique steeped in the concept of honest listening and responding in the moment. This course is designed for students who are contemplating a professional career in 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 adhere to the 249 Acting Lab space guidelines as posted.

* To OBEY the “CED~PP&P”-Cell phone/Electronic Device Policy/Procedure/Punishment contract
Course Requirements

*Attendance:

1. During the course of the semester you are allowed two absences for any reason.
2. Two 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: Over the course of the semester you will be expected to fully participate in the class warm-ups, exercises and activities. Complete memorization on due dates is expected as part of your Auto-Drama, monologue, and scene preparation.

*Auto-Drama Performance Piece: All students will present a 10 minute performance piece encapsulating pivotal moments from their lives. Details on this assignment will be discussed thoroughly in class. An example handout will be provided.

*Auto-Drama Observation Notes: When not presenting, students will be expected to take observation notes during all Auto-Drama performances.

*Personal Monologue Creation, Rehearsal & Performance: Students will write, stage and perform a monologue based on discoveries made during the Auto-Drama exercise.

*Audition Monologue Research, Rehearsal and Performance: (100) Students will be provided with an audition monologue appropriate for their age and type in order to facilitate departmental audition participation. Students may provide and use material of their own choosing with instructor approval.

*Scene and Character Analysis: A written analysis detailing your character's given circumstances, objectives, actions, obstacles and stakes is required for scene work. Expectations, due dates, and format will be discussed in class. Students, who do not complete their analysis in time to perform, will receive a zero on each presentation until the assignment is complete. Guidelines for this assignment will be discussed in class. Not meeting these guidelines will negatively affect your grade.

*Play Reading Quizzes: There will be two quizzes on monologue & scene script content.

*CSUS Theatre Productions Quiz: 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, production, and performances may be given for both productions.

*Scene Work for Improvement and Presentation: All students will present a scene from the American Theatre Repertoire which will be presented and graded twice as a “work through”, and once as a culminating presentation reflecting the incorporation of notes and suggestions for improvement. In scene work all students are graded as individuals. An unexcused absence on a “work” day or culminating presentation performance will result in a zero for the absent individual, and be factored into that person's total scene grade.

*Final Presentation Performance: All students will perform a culminating scene/monologue presentation as a final assignment. Missing the final will result in course failure.
Text: There is no text; handouts will be provided as needed. Scenes and Audition Monologues will be chosen and distributed by the instructor. Personal monologues will be written by the students.

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 monologue and scene work will not be posted, however inquiries are welcome 24 after performance presentations are completed.

Student's Course Grade will be Determined as Follows:
Participation and Preparedness 100
Auto-Drama Performance 150
Personal Monologue Creation/Rehearsal/Performance 125
Quizzes 100
Audition Monologue Research, Rehearsal, & Performance 100
Scene/Character Analysis 100
Quizzes: Play Reading/Viewing 100
Scene Presentation and Improvement 200
Total: 1000

900-1025=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, progress & cancellations.

ACTING STUDY I- Weekly Schedule

January
M 28 Introductions/Syllabus; Ensemble Building; Contact Information
W 30 Stage terminology and geography

February
M 4 Warm-up, trust exercises (Cabaret Audition)
W 6 Basic Acting Concepts, Warm-ups, trust exercises: Objectives & Actions
M 11 Basic Acting Concepts: Objectives & Actions, Obstacles & Stakes; Assign Auto-Drama
W 13 Theatre Improv/Games; Auto Drama Q & A, Assign Auto Drama performance dates
M 18 - TBA – Faculty travel
W 20 – TBA – Faculty travel

M 25 Perform Auto-Dramas (10 Minutes, timed/Observation Notes)
W 27 Perform Auto-Dramas (10 Minutes, timed/Observation Notes)
March

M 4 Personal Auto-Drama Monologue Draft Due/Read for Class- Set up coaching times
W 6 Return Written Monologues w/notes; Assign Monologue Work Dates

M 11 Work Memorized Monologues (Group I)
W 13 Work Memorized Monologues (Group II)
M 18 Perform monologues for Grade; Assign New Audition Monologue
W 20 TBA as Needed; Monologue Play Scripts Found by Student Actors

M 25 SPRING BREAK
W 27 SPRING BREAK

April

M 1 Monologue Work (Group I)
W 3 Monologue Work (Group II); Assign Scenes/Character Analysis
M 8 Monologue Work (Group III)
W 10 All Monologues Perform w/Improvements
M 15 Play Reading Quiz; Scene Character Analysis Due; Acting Exercise w/Scene Partner
W 17 Work Scenes (Group I)
M 22 Work Scenes (Group II)
W 24 TBA
M 29 Work Scenes (Group III) 2nd Work w/Improvements (Group I/II)

May

W 1 2nd Work w/Improvements (Group II/III); Monologue Review Reminder
M 6 Scene continuation if needed
W 8 TBA

Final: MONDAY, MAY 20th 10:15 – 12:15 p.m.

I, (print name)____________________________________________ agree to turn my cell phone or any
other electronic device to the OFF position the split second the professor enters the classroom,
then store it safely somewhere within my daily belongings brought to the class, NOT in my
pockets It may NOT be turned back on until the class is dismissed. If I am expecting an
emergency call, I must obtain permission from the professor prior to the class beginning.

Failure to turn off such devices will result as follows:

1st offense – I will be asked to leave the class and be marked ABSENT for that day

2nd offense – I will be asked to leave the class permanently, dropped from the class, or will
receive a grade of “F” if this occurs after the final day to drop spring semester classes

Signed: __________________________________________________________

Date:__________________________