Part 1: Course Information and Overview

Instructor Information

Instructor: James C. Anderson
Office Hours: T/Th 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Wed. by prior appointment.
Office: SHS 241
Office Telephone: (278-5785)
E-mail: 1. Use Mail Icon on SacCT-Blackboard 9.1-Blackboard 9.1-Blackboard 9.1 Homepage to reach instructor.
   2. Back-up: janderson@csus.edu

Course Description

An examination of the art of acting: Basic exercises in acting, voice and movement and performance will be utilized. Individual and group performances, journal reflections, and viewing and reviewing of assigned theatre performances are required in the course.

Student Outcomes

Student will complete course with a heightened understanding and appreciation of the art of acting as it is practiced in live performance. Through participation in the exercises, monologues and scenes, he/she will develop his/her creative imagination, and acquire improved vocal, movement, and presentation skills, which may be useful in other classroom and life situations. He/she will develop reflective and critical writing skills through class journal writing and the writing of theatre reviews. Students will develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork through collaborative scene rehearsal and performance.

Prerequisite

• No prerequisite required.

GE Area: C2: Introduction to the Arts

Course Requirements

• Our main means of communication within the class will be through our home page on SacCT-Blackboard 9.1. An Internet connection and SacCT account are essential for receiving announcements and e-mails, maintaining an online journal, submitting reviews and other assignments, viewing progress grades, and communicating with the instructor.
• Students must reflect on the class session experiences and observations, and any assigned reading in weekly journal entries; use the Discussions/Journal button on our SacCT-Blackboard 9.1-Blackboard 9.1 page. The journal is worth 150 points of your final grade. Failure to keep journal entries, or posting entries that are not minimally informative, will result in a loss of grade points. Entries are available for the instructor and teaching assistants to see, and perhaps comment upon, but are not available to other students. Your journal notes will be available for you to reference in answering your Final Exam questions.

• Students will be required to attend (at their own expense) and review two assigned Theatre Department or off-campus plays or dance performances. A review of each performance will be submitted online; use the Assignments button on our Sac CT Homepage. Any other arrangements for submitting reviews must be made directly with the instructor. Spell check or other means of proofing written assignments must be used before submitting.

• Students will be required to wear appropriate clothing and footwear to all class sessions.

Course Locations:

The classes for Section 2 will initially meet in The Playwrights Theatre, Shasta Hall 101; part of the semester we will move to the main stage of the University Theatre, also in Shasta Hall. All classes for Section 5 will meet in The Studio Theatre.

Class Texts (This is a course with a light reading load.)
• Excerpts from Action Theatre by Ruth Zaporah, may be used as the class text. Do not purchase the book; appropriate sections can be downloaded from class website.
• Student may be required to thoroughly read one or two plays from which their monologue and final scenes are selected. If not available through Hornet Bookstore, it can be purchased online at a reasonable cost from Amazon.com, or may be on reserve at the CSUS library.
• Reading material relevant to plays to be reviewed may be assigned.

Part 2: Course Activities and Work Policies:

1. Class attendance: This class is primarily an on-your feet, experience-based class. The learning is achieved through participation in large or small group exercises that each build on the previous session. This requires that you be present and participating in every class. If you must miss a class you must give notice to the instructor ahead of class time using SacCT e-mail. (Last minute emergencies only—notify instructor scene-partners by phone.) Arrangements must then be made with the instructor for a timely make-up session outside of class.
2. Clothing: It is required that all students wear appropriate footwear and clothing for participation in the exercises. Any student who has needs that conflict with this, must make his/her case with the instructor after the first class session or e-mail him on SacCT.

3. Promptness: Class Exercises will begin precisely at the start time for the class. Please arrive early if you need to change into appropriate clothing for the class. Student should make the instructor aware on the first session or by e-mail if there are any anticipated circumstances, which might result in late arrivals.

4. Engaged and Supportive Attitude: Non-participation will not be allowed. Non-supportive attitudes towards the work of other students will not be tolerated. Any such behavior will result in dismissal from the session and treated as an absence. If behavior is repeated, student will be dropped from the class.

5. Journals: Each week the student will make an online journal entry reflecting on his/her experience of the exercises and understanding of the acting principles explored. Instructor will monitor entries to see that an entry is being made before the next week’s classes begin.

6. Presentations: Each student will be responsible for two scheduled in-class performances: a monologue and a group scene. If absent, there is no make-up, and student will lose the full credit for that assignment.

7. Rehearsals: A number of class sessions will be devoted to rehearsals in small groups. Since all rehearsals involve an entire group, any absences must be pre-cleared with both the group and instructor; it is the student’s responsibility to get full contact information within the group and use it. It is also the student’s responsibility to memorize his/her part of the assignment outside of class to be ready for each rehearsal.

8. Reading assignments: Throughout the course the student may be assigned chapters from the course text or play text to read which will explain and reinforce the intent and meaning of the exercises, monologue or scene from an acting point-of-view. Reading should be finished and fully understood before making the weekly journal entry.

9. Reviews: Viewing two assigned CSUS or off-campus productions are required for the course: early purchase of tickets is the student’s responsibility. A double-spaced written review is to be posted by the assigned deadline in the Assignments section of the Class Homepage, analyzing certain acting principles according to guidelines posted by the instructor. Reviews may not be handed in after the deadline except by permission of the instructor; unless prearranged, it will receive reduced credit. A third review of a production approved by the instructor may be used for extra Credit.
Part 3: Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation account for approximately one-third of your total grade (See Grading Policy) The first way to build a good grade is to attend, participate and support others. The surest way to insure a bad grade is to cut class, not come prepared, or not carry your weight in the assigned activities and rehearsals.

1. **Attend Class:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar. Because this class relies very heavily on participation in class activities, your attendance is extremely important. After two absences your grade will be negatively affected, even if all other work is satisfactory (for example, each additional absence will automatically reduce your grade in the class by 10 points (for example, B to B-)). Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Please contact the instructor at the very first class or by SacCT e-mail if you foresee any attendance issues. **Scene Rehearsals**, which will begin after Spring Break, depend upon all members being present; absences during this time are especially serious because they affect all of your partners as well as your own progress. Each student is responsible getting phone contact information for all other members in the scene, and in case of unavoidable absence or tardiness to any rehearsal, informing the director and/or scene partners.

2. **Clothing:** It is required that all students wear appropriate footwear and clothing for participation in the exercises. Any student who has needs that conflict with this, must make his/her case with the instructor at the first class session or e-mail him on SacCT.

3. **Laptop computers and cell phones** may not be used during class; except when specified by instructor. If I am aware of unauthorized cell/smart phone use, you may be asked to leave, and marked absent. This will be true even if it happens near the end of the class meeting.

Part 4: Grading Policy

**Graded Course Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Decorum: Includes attendance at class sessions throughout semester, a supportive attitude in class, and responsibility and initiative within group rehearsals.</td>
<td>300 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Written Assignments: Includes meeting submission deadlines for weekly reading, journal entries, and reviews.  
  - Weekly Journal Entries: Total 150 pts.  
  - 2 Theatre Reviews of assigned Department Performances: 50 pts. Each. | 250 pts.   |
| Performances:                                   |            |
| Midterm Presentation (Individual)               | 150 pts.   |
### Final Presentation (Group) 200 pts.

### Final Exam 100 pts.

### Total 1000 pts.

**Extra Credit, by arrangement with the instructor:**
Attending/reviewing or appearing in additional plays or dance concerts. Up to 50 pts.

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**Late Work Policy:**

**Reviews:** Late Reviews may be handed in after the deadline only by permission of the instructor; unless prearranged, it will receive reduced credit.

**Classes:** All class sessions build upon the work of the previous session. An absence from class must be made up by special arrangement with the teacher.

**Presentations:** Attendance at your own scheduled, in-class performance is mandatory. There is no make-up, and student who misses performance date will loose the full credit for that assignment.

**Viewing Grades in SacCT:** If technically possible the procedure below will be followed on SacCT.

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the SacCT-Blackboard 9.1 Grade Book. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points.

Instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically 3-5 days following the completion of an activity: that is, a theatre review, class presentation, or the end of a several-week series of class activities. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your SacCT home page under the link to this course.

**Letter Grade Assignment**

Grades are assigned as follows by department policy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>Nearly Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>Very Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>Mostly Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>Above Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>Mostly Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
<td>Poor Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important note: For more information about grading at Sac State, visit the academic policies and grading section of the university catalog.

Adding or Dropping This Class

The following are University policy in all classes:

Adding a class: there may be students on a wait list for this class. If you wish to add the class, I will need to verify that there are no students already waiting to add. At that point, if there is room, you may submit an add petition.

Dropping a Class: If you decide to drop the class, you must do so—the instructor cannot. You can do this within the first two weeks of the class by submitting a drop request to the department office (Shasta 104). If your request is received after the first two weeks, you may need to submit documentation to support your request. Drops are not automatic, even if you have not attended any classes, and they will seriously and negatively affect your GPA if you fail to drop them from your class registration.