Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information
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Office: SHS 266
Office Telephone: 278-7715

Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 Wednesday and by appointment

E-mail: andonia@saclink.csus.edu

Course Description: The course is designed to give the students an appreciation of acting by familiarizing them with theatre terms, play observation and actual classroom exercises in investigation of the acting process. The course is lecture and activity. The emphasis is on activity and discussion rather than lecture. Individual and group performance assignments are a key part of the course.

Prerequisite: No prerequisite required. GE area: C2 - Introduction to the Arts

Textbook & Course Materials Required Text
There is no required text for the course. Scripts for scene work will be provided. Student will be required to read one play-text, which can be obtained in the library purchased at a reasonable cost from Amazon.com.

Recommended Texts and Other readings: None

Course Requirements: Students will need conventional supplies - pen, pencil, and a Notebook dedicated to this class which will be used for daily notes as well as daily written assignments.

Part 1: Course Structure

The class will meet in the Playwright's Theatre, Shasta Hall 101.

The course will be a combination of lectures, exercises and performance projects, and written response. The lectures will concentrate on acting terms, styles and performance techniques.

Part 2: Course Objectives

1. To learn the essential decorum of working together in the theatre or classroom and exercise it throughout the course.
2. To develop skills of observation, expressed in discussion and writing of reviews.
3. To experience the process of acting through monologue and ensemble by direct participation.
4. To improve speaking and presentational skills.
5. To develop the skills effectively working in a group.
You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in the course:

1. **Decorum** = agreed upon behaviors: **attend class, be on time, be alert, participate, be supportive of others' participation, and do not distract others.** Specifically the student should try to miss no classes, notify the teacher and performance group of anticipated absences. (Even last minute ones) and obviously: no sleeping, no eating, no texting, no talking to neighbors during class in a disruptive manner: these are the same rules that would apply to attending any theatre performance.

2. **Writing and discussion.** Student will learn the terminology of acting technique, observe performances of other students in class and in Department Productions, discuss the techniques that were effective, and learn the process of writing reviews. All written assignments must be typed and are to be in hard copy to give to me on due date. And if absolutely necessary to email must be turned in the due date to me or will be considered late.

3. **Performance:** There will be several performance projects in which the student will **execute his/her part to the best of their ability. Each performance experience will build confidence improving the next.**

4. **Speech and presentation skills:** The practice of vocal, movement, and acting exercises, participating fully in rehearsals, and learning from one’s scene partners will be demonstrated through the student’s progress in each successive performance project.

5. **Working in a group:** Since acting is above all an ensemble art, each student will demonstrate in rehearsals and performance the collaborative attitude and initiative taken to fulfill the groups’ goal of a fine performance.

**Part 3: Grading Policy**

All assignments are required for completion of the course and assigned reading when relevant. The grade for the course is based on an average of the following four categories:

- 35% Classroom Participation
- 35% Prepared Assignments
- 30% Final Major Project

**Late Work Policy:**

**Lectures and Classes missed:** Student is responsible for seeing instructor during office hours.

**Reviews:** Reviews may be handled in after the deadline only by permission of the instructor, unless prearranged, it will receive reduced credit.
**Rehearsals:** Since all rehearsals involve an entire group, any absences should be pre-cleared with the group and instructor; it is the student’s responsibility to get contact information and use it.

**Presentations:** Attendance at Presentations is mandatory. There is no Make-up, and student will lose the full credit for that assignment.

**Letter Grade Assignment**
Grades are assigned as follows by department policy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</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>80-83%</td>
<td>Above Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>Mostly Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>Poor Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>Failed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Important Note:** *For more information about grading at Sac State, visit the academic policies and grading section of the university catalog.*

**Part 4: Course Policies**

**Attend Class:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions.

1. Because the 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. Please see me if you have any attendance issues. Rehearsals depend upon all members being present: student is responsible getting phone contact information, and in case of absence or tardiness to any rehearsal, informing the director and or scene partners.

2. All written work must be typed.

3. Laptop computers ad cell phones may not be used during class. If I am aware of cell phone use, you will be excused for the day, and marked absent. This will be true even if it happens at the end of the class meeting.

4. Adding and dropping a Class: Via computer registration, 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.
If you decide to drop the class, you must do so, 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.

The following are University policy in all classes:

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**: Your work is the product of your energy, commitment, and knowledge. It should be protected, as should the work of others. As a result, any act of academic dishonesty will be cause for serious consequences.

Such acts may include, but are not limited to:

- copying from another's work
- submitting work previously, or simultaneously used in another class
- misrepresenting another's work as one's own in whole or in part

Consequences may include a drop in grade, a grade of zero for the assignment in question, or dismissal from the class, and loss of credit.

For more detailed information, please see Sac State catalog under Academic Policies.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**: If you have a disability, and require accommodations, you will need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6965. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class, or during office hours as soon as possible.

**Personal Note to the Class**:

I have taught this course for approximately 30 years and I continue to marvel at the talent, abilities, creativity and vitality of non-majors of theatre. In my 36 years of teaching I have taught all levels of acting for majors, as well as movement for actors and many other courses in the Department. This class should be fun and joyful and an exploration of your own creative self. Structure and organization and decorum in the classroom allow for the "space" of personal exploration to occur in a safe and respectful way.

I welcome all of you to "OUR SPACE". You are in for an adventure and a journey.

*"The word theatre comes from the Greeks. It means the seeing place. It is the place people come to see the truth about life and the social situation. The theatre is a spiritual and social x-ray of its time. The theatre was created to tell people the truth about life and the social situation." ~ Stella Adler*