THEA 1351.003 & .004: Acting One

ACTING FOR NON- MAJORS

Fall 2013—.003  MONDAY, WEDNESDAY 3:30- 4:45
Fall 2013—.004  TUESDAY, THURSDAY 3:30- 4:45

Instructor:  Professor J. Don Luna
Office Hours:  M 3-3:30   T, W, H 2-3PM   F BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Office Location:  Bay Hall 3.33
Office Phone:  825-5988
E-mail: don.luna@tamucc.edu (Preferred method of contact.)

The mission of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Theatre Program is to provide students with the tools needed in preparation as theatre educators or professional practitioners, or for continuation of their studies on the graduate level.

The goal of the program is to provide students with meaningful experiences that promote an understanding of theatre as a medium of expression and collaboration. We give students the opportunity for creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and exploration in an environment that values artistic integrity, understands failure as well as success, and respects the viewpoints of others in the encouragement of artistic truth. The extensive season of the Theatre Program serves not only as a training lab for our students, but also enhances the cultural and aesthetic experience of our campus and is a major cultural resource for the residents of South Texas.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
As the title indicates, this course is an ACTING class where students will be given the opportunity to develop basic skills in realistic acting techniques. Acting techniques, improvisational approaches, and methods of character analysis will be emphasized. Each student is required to be an active participant. The course will include such activities as physical and vocal exercises, improvisational activities and games, relaxation, rehearsal and performance of theatrical scenes, and reading quizzes.

II. TEXTBOOK: Robert Cohen: Acting One
ACTING SCRIPT: THE DINING ROOM: A. R. GURNEY

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility: The student will critically analyze a play script and roles to perform in class. This analysis will document the students understanding of the socio-economic, political, cultural, and religious origins of the play script. Social Responsibility is necessarily a part of this critical analysis. Dramatic literature always involves the understanding and practice of social responsibility as it relates to the culture from which it is derived.

Teamwork and Communication Skills: The student will work alone and with others to present a monologue and scene (with others) from the analyzed play script. The
student will demonstrate communicative methods (verbal and non-verbal) in these performances. Listening as a skill set is a necessary part of this communication.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE OUTCOMES:**
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Identify a character’s goal, other, tactics and expectations
- Distinguish between “doing” vs. “being” in regards to acting (play action)
- Evaluate acting in two TAMUCC University Theatre Productions
- Reduce performance anxiety by utilizing various relaxation techniques
- Perform exercises and scenes with energy and enthusiasm
- Apply constructive criticism to improve performances of scenes and monologues
- When performing in a scene, place their focus and attention on the other actor
- Rehearse scenes using the techniques described in *Acting One*
- Incorporate active listening in scene work and exercises
- Perform a duet scene with a partner
- Perform an effective audition monologue

**IV. GRADED ACTIVITIES**
- **Reading Quizzes.** Students will be quizzed on daily reading assignments. Missed quizzes cannot be taken at a later time. At the end of the semester, the two lowest quiz grades for each student will be dropped.
- **Duet Scenes and Monologues.** Students will critically analyze the plays and scenes used as performance opportunities. Students will perform one duet acting scene with a partner and one monologue. For the duet acting scene, it will be the responsibility of each student to collaborate with his or her partner outside of class in order to rehearse for required performances.
- **Play Reviews.** Further, you will be required to see two theatrical performances at TAMU-CC. You will be responsible for buying tickets to these productions. Consider it a necessary expense for the course just like a book, lab manual, or course materials. You will submit a written play critique for each production. Play critiques must be between two and five typed pages. Don’t forget that seeing actors onstage is a very important part of your training. Plan to see each of the following shows:

  **AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY**  October 8-13  **THEPOLIS NORTH**  November 12-17

- **10-Minute Play Festival.** All Acting One students will be CONSIDERED to be cast in a student directed 10-minute play FOR EXTRA CREDIT. Students will audition with their class duet acting scenes. Once cast, you will be required to rehearse outside of class with your director and perform on one night of the TAMUCC 10-Minute play festival, which runs in December. You will receive a grade for you performance based on acting concepts covered in class. A character and play analysis will be required.
- **Final Exam.** Student will take a written final exam over the material covered throughout the semester.
V. EVALUATION

10% Final Exam  
20% Reading Quizzes  
25% Monologue  
25% Duet Scene and Play and Character Analysis  
10% AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY Critique  
10% THEOPOLIS NORTH Critique  
EXTRA CREDIT Performance in Student Directed Scene (Directing Class 10-minute play)

Grading Scale:
A = 100-90
B = 89-80
C = 79-70
D = 69-60
F = 59-0

VI. ATTENDANCE

Attendance in this course is critical to your success. For purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in your family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions.) Your absence affects the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of two will lower your final average a full letter grade. More than four absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You must consult with me immediately to make such an exception viable.

Lateness: Three late arrivals constitute one absence. If you arrive more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

Missed Assignments: No make-up work for quizzes or missed in-class activities. Reviews are due on the assigned deadlines and will not be accepted late. An unexcused absence on the date of an assigned performance will result in a failing grade for that activity. (Exceptions to deadlines will only be made in extreme circumstances at the discretion of the instructor.)

VII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating will receive an “F” for the assignment, and, if the situation warrants it, for the entire course.

VIII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you
believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

IX.  ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Arts and Humanities requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

X.  GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
# Tentative Class Schedule

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY**

**TUESDAY, THURSDAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS CONTENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W, H</td>
<td>9/4, 9/5</td>
<td>Syllabus &amp; Expectations&lt;br&gt;Discussion of textbook and play script</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, T</td>
<td>9/9, 9/10</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. xvii-14&lt;br&gt;“Preparing to Act”</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, H</td>
<td>9/11, 9/12</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 15-28&lt;br&gt;“Goal &amp; Obstacle”</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, T</td>
<td>9/16, 9/17</td>
<td>Movement Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, H</td>
<td>9/18, 9/19</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 29-38&lt;br&gt;“Acting with the Other”</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, T</td>
<td>9/23, 9/24</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 39-44&lt;br&gt;“Beginning to Act”&lt;br&gt;Content less Scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, T</td>
<td>9/30, 10/1</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 67-78&lt;br&gt;“Preparing a Role”&lt;br&gt;Glass Menagerie scene in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>W/H</td>
<td>10/2, 10/3</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 79-91&lt;br&gt;“Rehearsing &amp; Staging the Scene”&lt;br&gt;Duet scenes distributed in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/T</td>
<td>10/7, 10/8</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 92-100&lt;br&gt;“Choices”&lt;br&gt;Cohen pgs. 215-222&lt;br&gt;“Scene Structure”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W, H</td>
<td>10/9, 10/10</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 101-105&lt;br&gt;“Performing”&lt;br&gt;Cohen pgs. 223-230&lt;br&gt;“Building a Scene”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day, Day</td>
<td>Date(s)</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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| M, T     | 10/14, 10/15 | Cohen pgs. 106-110  
“Evaluation & Improvement” |
| W, H     | 10/16, 10/17 | Play and Character Analysis due  
Scene Rehearsals |
| M, T     | 10/21, 10/22 | Scene Rehearsals |
| W, H     | 10/23, 10/24 | Scene Performances in class. |
| M, T     | 10/28, 10/29 | Scene Performances in class.  
Critique of AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY due.  
Email: don.luna@tamucc.edu |
| W, H     | 10/30, 10/31 | Cohen pgs. 231-235  
“Creating a Monologue”  
DISCUSSION OF MONOLOGUES |
| M, T     | 11/4, 11/5 | BRING MONOLOGUE SELECTIONS TO CLASS  
Cohen pgs. 113-135  
“Voice, Stage Speech and Using Your Voice” |
| W, H     | 11/6, 11/7 | Cohen pgs. 136-148  
“The Actor’s Body” |
| M, T     | 11/11, 11/12 | Cohen pgs. 149-157  
“Voice & Body Integration” |
“Imagination & Creativity”  
Cohen pgs. 164-173  
“Emotion—and Acting Theory” |
| M, T     | 11/18, 11/19 | Cohen pgs. 175-190  
“Phrasing” |
| W, H     | 11/20, 11/21 | THEOPOLIS NORTH critique due  
Email: don.luna@tamucc.edu  
Cohen pgs. 191-204  
“Attack & Follow-Through” |
| M, T     | 12/2, 12/3 | Cohen pgs. 205-214  
“Line Linkage” |
| W, H     | 12/4, 12/5 | Monologue Rehearsal |
| M, T     | 12/9, 12/10 | Monologue Performance |
| TBA      | FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE | Final EXAM |

- **IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ACTIVATE YOUR UNIVERSITY Islander EMAIL ACCOUNT AND CHECK IT DAILY.**
- **YOU CAN EASILY FORWARD THE MAIL YOU RECEIVE THROUGH YOUR UNIVERSITY ACCOUNT DIRECTLY TO YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS.**