THEA 1351.002: Acting One
Fall 2015—Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-4:45
CA-228

Instructor: Kelly Russell
Office Hours: TR 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., MW 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
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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

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 influences 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. Active listening and comprehension as skill sets are 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. GRACED 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:

  ORANGE/JULIUS    Oct 13-18    ARGONAUTIKA    Nov 10-15

• 10-Minute Play Festival. All Acting One students will be cast in a student directed 10-minute play. Students will audition with their class duet acting scenes at 2:00 on Friday, October 17. 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 December 2-5. 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
  15%   Final Exam
  20%   Reading Quizzes
  15%   Duet Scene and Play and Character Analysis
  15%   Monologue and Play and Character Analysis
  10%   ORANGE/JULIUS Critique
  10%   ARGONAUTIKA Critique
  15%   Performance in Student Directed Scene (Directing Class 10-minute play)
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/PLAGIARISM
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of “0” for that assignment.

VIII. DROPPING A CLASS
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, July 25 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
IX. CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

X. STATEMENT OF CIVILITY
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

XI. GRADE APPEALS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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 Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

XII. DISABILITIES ACCOMODATIONS
The Americans 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
XIII. ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.

XIV. STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Tentative Class Schedule—Tuesday/Thursday

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS CONTENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Syllabus &amp; Expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. xvii-14 “Preparing to Act”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 15-28 “Goal &amp; Obstacle”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 29-38 “Acting with the Other”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 39-44 “Beginning to Act” Content less Scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 45-65 “Tactics &amp; Expectations/GOTE”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 67-78 “Preparing a Role” Glass Menagerie scene in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 79-91 “Rehearsing &amp; Staging the Scene” Duet scenes distributed in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Cohen pgs. 101-105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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| Thursday  | 10/1 | “Performing”
Cohen pgs. 223-230
“Building a Scene” |
| Tuesday   | 10/6 | “Evaluation & Improvement”
Cohen pgs. 106-110 |
| Thursday  | 10/8 | “Voice, Stage Speech and Using Your Voice”
Play and Character Analysis due |
| Tuesday   | 10/13| Scene Rehearsals |
| Thursday  | 10/15| Scene Performances in class. |
| Tuesday   | 10/20| “The Actor’s Body”
Critique of ORANGE/JULIUS due.
Email: kelly.russell@tamucc.edu |
| Thursday  | 10/22| “Voice & Body Integration”
Cohen pgs. 149-157 |
| Friday    | 10/23| 2:00 Audition for Short Play Festival with Duet Scene from Class |
| Tuesday   | 10/27| “Imagination & Creativity”
Cohen pgs. 158-163 |
| Thursday  | 10/29| “Emotion—and Acting Theory”
Cohen pgs. 164-173 |
| Tuesday   | 11/3 | Bring Monologue to Class
Cohen pgs. 175-190
“Phrasing” |
| Thursday  | 11/5 | “Attack & Follow-Through”
Cohen pgs. 191-204 |
| Tuesday   | 11/10| “Line Linkage”
Cohen pgs. 205-214 |
| Thursday  | 11/12| “Creating a Monologue”
Cohen pgs. 231-235 |
| Tuesday   | 11/17| Critique of ARGONAUTIKA due.
Email: kelly.russell@tamucc.edu |
| Thursday  | 11/19| Short Play Festival Rehearsal |
| Tuesday   | 11/24| Short Play Festival Rehearsal |
| Thursday  | 12/1 | Monologue Performance/Review for Final |
| Tuesday   | December 8 | FINAL EXAM – 1:45-4:15 |

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