

CM 221-01 ACTING

Mon/Wed 3:55 – 5:15 Location MH 106 Instructor: David Harwell
harweld.uah.edu 824-6909 Office Hours Tue/Thur 2:30-3:45pm MH 325A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides students with an opportunity to experience the process of acting including such elements as: direction, personal discovery, vocalization, physicality and live performance. There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide each student the spirit of intellectual curiosity, critical thinking skills, abilities in writing and oral communication, aesthetic awareness and creativity, familiarity with human history and behavior, a knowledge of languages and culture, and an understanding of the bases of ethical behavior and the duties of citizenship.
2. To provide you with an overview of acting as a discipline and art form.
3. To analyze differences in the various performance genres (tragedy, comedy, musicals) and apply them.
4. To analyze the process of acting through improvisation, scenes and exercises.
5. To understand the contributions of playwrights, directors, and actors to the theatrical production and creative drama.
6. To provide an opportunity to perform in front of a live audience.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students will come to class on time and respect general rules of courtesy. There will be no food or drink in classroom. All conflicts must be directed to the instructor in a timely fashion. Students are expected to attend class and turn in assignments on time. All class material including notes, text books must be present in class. Students must give their best effort on all assignments. This course will assess your performance based on responsibility, effort and attitude. Students are expected to have read the assigned material, especially the plays, before coming to class. Also, lines must be learned when assigned in order to effectively practice a scene. Regular attendance and class participation are critical.

GRADING

- Monologue.** The student will choose and memorize the material for a class workshop and performance. This will determine the student's ability to learn lines and develop a character.
- Scene.** The assignment will be with one acting partner. The material will be learned and worked in class. This will assess the student's ability to work with each other outside of class, develop blocking and accomplish the goals of the scene.
- Final Performance.** In front of an audience. Overall understanding of characterization, staging and support materials will be assessed. Vocalization, physicality and intent will be evaluated. Make up work is at the discretion of the instructor.
- Autobiographical worksheets** of each character portrayed during the semester. Each is worth 5% for a semester total of 15%. Due dates are listed in the course schedule.

•**Live performance paper** revealing their observations and opinions of an attended play. This is to assess the student's abilities as an audience member. It is due by the final day of class. This will constitute 5% of the final grade.

•**Class attendance.** After four unexcused absences, students will be penalized 10% of their final grade. Come to class!

Monologue	20%
Scene	20%
Final Performance	20%
Autobiographical worksheets	15%
Live performance paper	5%
Attendance	10%

COURSE SCHEDULE – changes will be announced in class

Aug 19	First day - syllabus – monologue assignment - orientation
Aug 24	MONOLOGUE – the actor prepares
Aug 26	Autobiographical Worksheet Due – Monologue reading
Aug 31	LABOR DAY – no class
Sept 2	Monologue reading - continued
Sept 7	Workshop #1
Sept 9	Workshop #2
Sept 14	Workshop #3
Sept 16	Workshop #4
Sept 22	Scene assignments
Sept 24	MONOLOGUE PRESENTATION
Sept 29	Autobiographical Worksheet Due – Scenes begin
Oct 1	Workshop #1
Oct 6	Workshop #2
Oct 8	Workshop #3
Oct 12	Workshop #4
Oct 14	NO CLASS – Rimers Opening
Oct 22	Scene preview #1
Oct 24	Scene Preview #2
Oct 26	Dress Rehearsal for scenes
Oct 28	SCENE PRESENTATION
Nov 2	Ten Minute Play Assignment
Nov 4	Autobiographical Worksheet Due – Scenes begin
Nov 9	Workshop #1
Nov 11	Workshop #2
Nov 16	Workshop #3
Nov 18	Workshop #4
Nov 23	Class Tech rehearsal
Nov 25	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving
Dec 1	Final Dress rehearsal – Ten Minute Plays
Dec 3	FINAL PERFORMANCE (4:00 – 8:30pm - MH 106)