

**University of South Dakota**  
**Theatre 232, Sec U015, Acting II**  
**3 credits**

**Time/Place:** MW 12:00 noon – 1:15p.m.; Fine Arts 183 (Arena); Spring 2009  
**Instructor:** Priscilla Hagen, 184F; 677-5734; [phagen@usd.edu](mailto:phagen@usd.edu)  
**Office Hrs:** 11:00 – 12:00 MWTTHF and by appointment  
**Crs Prereq:** Theatre 131 or Thea 231 or permission of instructor

**Department of Theatre Vision Statement**

The Department of Theatre prepares the student for a career in the theatre and encourages personal and creative growth. It does this by providing a comprehensive, humanistic education, supplemented by intensive craft training, in which classroom study and practical experience are of equal and complementary value. The Department promotes excellence in education, research, and service; explores new questions, techniques, and practices in the theater; and inspires students to become life long learners who contribute to their respective discipline and profession while enhancing the cultural life of their community.

**A. Catalog Course Description:**

Continuation of Thea 231, emphasizing improvisation, script analysis, scene study and practice.

**B. Additional Course Description and Objectives:**

In Acting II we continue the work on relaxation, concentration, and role analysis that was started in Acting I. We continue to promote responsibility and self-direction and provide opportunities for you to apply theories learned in the classroom to the performance situation. Our primary focus will be on deepening our powers of observation and on exploring the use of physical mask as a tool in creating character. Acting exercises designed by Constantin Stanislavsky, Lee Strasberg, Viola Spolin, Mary Overlie and others will serve as a foundation for our exploration. Our work on the physical mask of the character will culminate with performance of a scene and a monologue from a published play.

**C. Instructional Methods:**

Craft based exercises, performance, discussion, written analysis papers.

**D. Required Text:**

Henley, Beth. The Miss Firecracker Contest. NY: Dramatists Play Service.

\*\*The student is required to visit the zoo to study an animal: approximate cost \$6-7.

**E. Disability Services:**

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access to accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register w/Disabilities through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered w/Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester. (For information contact: Ernetta L. Fox, Director Disability Services, rm. 119, Service Ctr., 605.677.6389, [www.usd.edu/ds;dservices@usd.edu](http://www.usd.edu/ds;dservices@usd.edu)).

**F. Attendance Policy:**

Please help to build a strong sense of trust with your acting partners and a sense of ensemble with the class by being prompt, prepared, and dependable. If you should miss more than 2 class periods, your final grade may be lowered. Exceptions to this policy are for family

emergency, serious illness, or the pursuit of professional opportunities in theatre, film, or TV. If you have any special needs (physical or learning) that I should know about, please contact me so that we can make accommodations.

### **G. Make-up Policy:**

In the event of a family emergency or serious illness the student should, if able, contact the instructor prior to the performance so that the student's scene partner can be informed. The student will be expected to make up the performance during the next scheduled class period.

### **H. Evaluation:**

1. Contribution to in-class activities; preparedness; attitude..... 10 points
  2. Life Studies (self, someone else, famous figure, animal).....30 points
  3. Production Response Papers (2 @ 5 points each).....10 points
  4. Acting scene (bio 10 pts., role analysis 10 pts, acting 20 pts).....40 points
  5. Final Exam (Monologue audition)..... 10 points
- \*Extra credit: Knutson Theatre – 5 pts, Arena – 5 pts, Directing Scene – 1 pt.,  
Perfect attendance – 1 pt (maximum 10 pts.)

- A = 90-100 points, exceptional work, complete, detailed, consistently dynamic and inventive  
B = 80-89 points, very good work, fairly complete w/numerous details but not consistently dynamic  
C = 70-79 points, average to good work; meets minimum requirements but lacks details/specificity  
D = 65-69 points, below average work; incomplete, shows lack of care for the assignment  
F = below 65 points, fails to meet any of the assignment's goals

### **I. Cheating and Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is defined as the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of writings, or the ideas or language of the same, passing them off as the product of one's own mind (*Black's Law Dictionary*). By extension this has traditionally been applied to the appropriation of artistic product including music compositions, designs, paintings, sculpture, etc.

Credibility and integrity are essential traits in a professional who is guaranteed the exclusive ownership of his or her own creations and must respect the same right of others. No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

- a. Given a zero for that assignment.
- b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- d. Dropped from the course.
- e. Failed in the course.

### **J. Freedom in Learning:**

Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate the review of the evaluation.

**K. Course Outline (subject to change):**

- Jan. 26 – Syllabus, introduce life studies #1 & #2; review warm up, trust exercises;  
28 – **Life study #1 due** (personal role); discussion, improvisation exercises;
- Feb 2 – **Perform life study #2** (unusual behavior);  
4 – Improvisation exercises, introduce life study #3;  
  
9 – **Life study #3 (famous figure) pictures/video due**;  
11 – In class style analysis and voice/movement prep for life study #3;  
16 - President's Day;  
18 – Dress rehearsal for life study #3 (group #1);  
23 – Dress rehearsal for life study #3 (group #2);  
25 – **Perform life study #3**, discuss and evaluate;
- Mar 2 – Catch up; Viola Spolin improvisation exercises;  
4 – Continue Spolin improv exercises - working with physical irritation, work on dialect;  
9-13 – **Spring Break**;  
16 – **Study play due**, discuss and assign roles, work on character biography;  
18 –Assign scenes, talk about zoo assignment;  
23 – **Present animal exercise levels 1 & 2**;  
25 – **Present animal exercise level 3 (activity and voice)**;  
30 - **Character bio** is due, work on floorplan, costume list, prop list;
- Apr 1 - **Role Analysis due**, in class rehearsal with instructor;  
6 – In class rehearsal with instructor;  
8 – Dress rehearsal of scenes (group #1);  
13 - **Easter Break**;  
15 – Dress rehearsal of scenes (group #2);  
20 – **Perform scenes**, discuss and evaluate;  
22 – Begin work on final audition monologue;  
27 – In class rehearsal;  
29 – In class rehearsal;
- May 7 - **Final Exam: 8-10:00 p.m.**