

University of South Dakota
Theatre 331, Sec U015, Acting III
3 credits

Time/Place: TTR 2-3:15 p.m.; Fine Arts 183 (Arena); Fall 2008;
Instructor: Priscilla Hagen, Fine Arts 184F; 677-5734; phagen@usd.edu
Office Hours: 9:00 – 10:00 MTWTF, and by appointment
Crs Prereq: Thea 232 or instructor permission

Department of Theatre Vision Statement

The Department of Theatre prepares the student for a career in theatre and encourages personal and creative growth. It does this by providing a comprehensive liberal arts 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; promotes student engagement and leadership; develops creative and pragmatic problem-solving skills; explores new questions, techniques, and practices in the theatre; and inspires students to become life-long learners who contribute to their disciplines and professions while enhancing the cultural lives of the University and of their community.

A. Catalog Description:

Extensive work on releasing tension, developing concentration, and training the actor's sensory and emotional instrument for integration into scene work.

B. Additional Course Description and Objectives:

1. To work on relaxation in the actor's preparation and performance of the role;
2. To develop the actor's concentration and sensory awareness through the use of specific exercise work;
3. To integrate the work on the actor's sensory instrument into the acting process.

C. Instructional Methods:

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

D. Required Reading:

Walker, George F. The East End Plays: Part Two, Talon Books: Buffalo, NY 1999.

E. Attendance:

This course requires active participation from everyone on a daily basis. The material that is taught is sequential and others in the class will depend upon your daily presence. Thus, your timely attendance is vital. To help facilitate your growth as an actor, attendance is mandatory. If you should miss more than two (2) class periods, your final grade in the course will be lowered. Exceptions to this policy may occur due to family emergency or serious illness.

F. Evaluation based upon 100 points with 90/80/70/65 grade divisions includes:

Classwork: this includes commitment, positive attitude, participation in class discussion, growth in exercise work.....10

Presentation: one "contentless" scene with a physical irritation
Character Bio/Role Analysis (10 pts.), Acting (15 pts.).....25

Presentation: One scene (from a play in the Walker anthology),
Character Bio/Role Analysis (20 pts.), Acting (25 pts.).....45

Final Exam: A Final Monologue with a Character Private Moment.....20

Note: A late analysis paper has diminished usefulness to the actor and will be penalized one point for every class period that it is late.

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 assignment
F= below 65 points, fails to meet any of the assignment's goals

G. Cheating and Plagiarism Policy:

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.

H. Disability Services:

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register w/Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students 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.edu/ds;dservices@usd.edu).

I. 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 a review of the evaluation.

J. Course Outline (subject to change):

- Week # 1: Intro to the class, intro to simple sensory and concentration exercises,
- Week # 2: Work on simple sensory exercises: "The Breakfast Drink"; recreating self in the mirror, application exercises;
- Week # 3: Con't work on simple sensory exercise "Two different materials", Harold Clurman's "Lies Like the Truth" exercise;
- Week # 4: Continue with Harold Clurman's "Lies Like the Truth" exercise, continue work on simple sensory exercise: sharp taste -- application exercise, work on story with sensory detail;
- Week # 5: Begin work on open scene, in-class rehearsal*;
- Week # 6: In class rehearsals of open scene, **analyses are due**;
- Week # 7: Previews of open scene, **Final performance of scene #1**;
- Week # 8: Begin work on scene # 2, George Walker scene with sensory problem*;

Week # 9: Class rehearsal of scene #2;

Week #10: In class rehearsal; work on Wesley Balk's listening exercise using Walker scene; Preview of scene# 2;

Week #11: **Veteran's Day Holiday**, Preview scene #2, **analyses are due***;

Week #12: **Graded presentation of scene #2**; begin private moment work;

Week #13: Private moment work, **Thanksgiving Holiday**;

Week #14: **Christmas Carol** Matinee, final exam monologue preparation;

Week #15: Continue monologue preparation.

*Detailed rehearsal schedules with assigned scene, scene partner, preview, performance, and analysis due dates will be distributed at this time.