

INTRODUCTION TO ACTING

TPST 1122-20

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M-TH 10:45-12:40 DPAC 035

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Overview

This course is an entry point to the Cultural Humanities and Arts at Georgetown, introducing students to the fundamental principles of acting. Through structured exercises and games, students study Concentration, Observation, Given Circumstances, and Stage Setting. Students will create their own performance material, exploring physical self, space/staging, working with props, and ensemble and interplay with fellow actors. The work is focused on understanding the art of acting through games, exercises, reading, discussions, open scenes, and evaluations of one's own work and the work of fellow classmates. No acting experience required.

Course Objectives

IN THIS HALC AND BEGINNING LEVEL ACTING COURSE YOU WILL :

1. explore acting as a means of self-awareness and individual and collaborative expression
2. develop openness, resilience, curiosity, creativity, imagination.
3. develop and improve communication
4. explore techniques of basic acting principles
5. expand and develop rehearsal and performance potential
6. acquire and develop critical evaluation skills through written and oral critiques
7. develop a new found respect and appreciation for the art of Acting
8. create an environment of trust, respect and collaboration through work with peers
9. engage with difference and diversity by stepping into the shoes of the other
10. explore a shared sense of humanity through the exercises studied in class

Suggested Texts:

Tips For The Actor, Jon Jory

Stanislavski For Beginners , David Allen, Jeff Fallows

Respect For Acting, Ute Hagen

A Practical Handbook For the Actor, Bruder

Primary Assignments/Requirements

Class Participation- Presentation of Rehearsed Assignments, In Class exercises and contribution to class discussions, exercises & performance critiques. Please be prepared to accept public evaluation of your work.

Reading/video viewing assignments – Supplemental Reading and Video Viewing on the Canvas site.

Written assignments – unit reflection, process observations/reactions, journal/note work

Rehearsals -You are required to rehearse on your own or with a scene partner outside of class in preparation for in-class performances and presentations.

Notebook-You must have a dedicated notebook for Acting I notes, lectures, handouts, discussions, critiques, reports, reflections, & assignments. You will need your notebook and a pen or pencil for every class.

No note taking on computers. No cell phone use during class unless by permission from instructor.

Class Content Overview

The course is divided into 3 Units:

Unit One

- Work on The Self

Unit Two

- Character Work

Unit Three

- Given Circumstances / Open Scene Work

Every Unit Focuses on a major principal of acting.

Unit One focuses on Stage Presentation, Concentration, Imagination, Physical Openness and Staging.

Unit Two focuses on Physical Character, Stepping into the shoes of the other, observation, Physicalization/Vocalization, Objective, Obstacle, Transitions, Transformation.

Unit Three Focuses on Given Circumstances, Creative Script Analyses/Interpretation, Interplay, Staging.

Unit Reflections

At the end of each Unit you will write a 3 page reflection of your experience of the unit. Due dates TBD. This Overview is Subject To Change based on the progress of the students in the course. We will modify the content as the course goes on. Summer Session Moves Fast, be prepared for a swift work flow.

Attendance

Attendance is Mandatory for this Studio Acting Course. You must attend class to learn the basic skills/craft of Acting.

If you are involved in any special school functions, sporting events, etc., or have a religious event or holiday, which may require you to miss a class, please inform the Professor immediately. You are responsible for contacting the Professor when you are going to be absent or late.

Presence and Active Participation are essential to this course. Absences and late arrivals will impact your final grade.

*Two (2) late arrivals will be considered one unexcused absence.

(Students who arrive late disrupt the studio work. You are considered late if you arrive after the roll has been taken and warm-up or scene preparation has begun.)

*Three (3) unexcused absences mandate consultation with the Professor regarding continued enrollment and prospects in the course. Four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

(Excused absences are limited to legal/religious holiday with prior notice, a death in the family or a serious illness/medical emergency **supported by a physician's documentation.**)

The student is responsible for contacting the Professor and for making up any missed work.

Simplify: Be on time. Every time. If you are not, out of respect for the class, please have the curtesy to notify the professor of your late arrival or absence.

Evaluation/Grading

Solo Performance Unit 1: 20

Character Performance Unit 2: 20

Open Scene/ or Myth Performance Unit 3: 20

Unit Reports: 3 @ 10 points each: 30

Class Participation (contribution to discussion, in class improv/exercises etc : 10

Total: 100pts

Grade Point Breakdown

94-100 A

90-94 A-

87-90 B+

83-87 B

80-83 B-

77-80 C+

73-77 C

70-73 C-

65-70 D

0- 65 F

Note: *Assignments/Class performances that are missed must be presented in the next class.

Late assignments and papers that are missed due to an unexcused absence will be graded for ½ credit only. Missed written assignments will be turned in at a time established by the Professor and graded for half credit only.

Attire and Physical Requirements

Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes for complete freedom of movement. No bare feet, no flip flops, or high heels. Gym shoes and/or tennis shoes or similar footwear is encouraged.

No hats, food, smoking or gum-chewing in class. No cell phones. No computers.

*(Exceptions: props and costumes necessary and approved for presentations/scene work)

Please bring bottled water if you like.

We will always ready the classroom for the next class after our use. Clean up the space before you leave.

If you have any special learning needs or a physical condition (e.g. asthma, epilepsy, prior injury, etc) that could be aggravated by aerobic/stretching activities or deep relaxation techniques please let your Professor know now.

Performance Viewings

As a student of Acting, you are encouraged to attend as much theater as possible. Attending theater and observing acting is an excellent way to expand your understanding of the craft.

Please attempt to attend two productions this term. The Washington Theater Scene is vibrant and there are many performances this summer. Save your ticket or receipt as proof of attendance. In summer there is a Theater Festival with many possible. Feel free to inquire/discuss choices for viewing with the professor. Extra Credit tbd.

Sexual Misconduct

Georgetown University and its faculty and staff are committed to supporting survivors and those impacted by sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, and stalking. Georgetown requires faculty members, unless otherwise designated as confidential, to report all disclosures of sexual misconduct to the University Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator. If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a professor or staff member in or outside of the classroom (with the exception of disclosures in papers), that faculty or staff member must report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator, or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. The coordinator will, in turn, reach out to the student to provide support, resources, and the option to meet. Please note that the student is not required to meet with the Title IX coordinator and no action will be taken without the student's awareness. More information about reporting options and resources can be found on the Sexual Misconduct Website: <https://sexualassault.georgetown.edu/resourcecenter>

Links to an external site.

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If you would prefer to speak to someone confidentially, Georgetown has a number of fully confidential professional resources that can provide support and assistance. These resources include:

- Health Education Services: Sexual Assault Response and Prevention: sarp@georgetown.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS): 202.687.6985

Additional resources are included below:

- Georgetown Self-Care Resource Guide: [https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/health-promotion/self-care/Links to an external site.](https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/health-promotion/self-care/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site.)
- Georgetown Wellness Wheel: [https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/hoya-wellness-wheel/Links to an external site.](https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/hoya-wellness-wheel/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site.)
- Georgetown Guide to Recognizing Students in Distress: [https://studentaffairs.georgetown.edu/studentoutreach/facultystaffresources/Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.georgetown.edu/studentoutreach/facultystaffresources/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site.)

Pregnancy Modifications and Adjustments

Georgetown University is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for pregnant students. At any point throughout their pregnancy students may request adjustments/modifications based on general pregnancy needs or accommodations based on a pregnancy-related complication or medical need. Students may also request accommodations following labor and delivery based on a complication or medical need.

To request pregnancy modifications, please complete the [SCS Pregnancy Modification Request Form](#)

Links to an external site.

: <https://forms.gle/ZBfASxui7u13A8TU6>

Links to an external site.

More information about pregnancy modifications can be found on the Title IX Georgetown University Website: <https://titleix.georgetown.edu/title-ix-pregnancy/student-pregnancy/>

Links to an external site.

Honor Code

You must abide by the University Honor Code in this course.

In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life I commit myself to respect and to uphold the Georgetown University honor system:

To be honest in every academic endeavor.

To conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community as we live and work together.

Link: <http://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/system/policies>

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE