Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts

Date: August 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: THE 102

   Course Name: Acting I

   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: A performance course in the study and application of fundamental acting techniques for the stage. No pre-requisites. Open to all students.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

   Student Learning Outcomes: Through the use of improvisation, theatre games, and scene study, students will be exposed to the working techniques that assist the actors in creating a role and executing it in performance. The course will focus on the fundamental skills of the actor: concentration; believable action; basic stage directions and motivated movement; observation; emotional and sensory recall; and defining objectives. The course will culminate in a final monologue performance.

   The student will:
   1. Analyze a performance and write about the fundamental qualities of the actors’ job.
   2. Discuss the difference between representational and presentation performance and how that relates to different styles of acting.
   3. Practice techniques to help understand stage fright and overcome nervousness.
   4. Participate in physical and vocal conditioning.
   5. Practice improvisational acting to develop short scenes during class and for performance.
   6. Participate in theatre games and exercises.
   7. By performing an improvisation based on conflicting objectives, students will work to improve concentration.
   8. Practice and perform a pantomime to develop the techniques of believable action.
   9. Use their powers of observation and imagination to create scenes for performance.
   10. Practice emotional and sensory recall in class activities and in performance.
   11. Outline the blocking for a scene using actor’s notation and perform the scene according to those notes.
   12. Perform with motivated movement that is open to the audience.
   13. Strengthen memorization through the discovery of character objectives and muscle memory.
   14. Participate in rehearsal and performance techniques.
   15. Complete a character analysis form that includes identifying the characters super-objective and scene objective.
16. Perform a memorized monologue.

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:**

Acting is a recommended course within the Theatre Arts advisement area and is required for the AS Communications program. Acting is open to all students as a humanities elective.

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

- ☒ writing
- ☒ computer literacy
- ☒ oral communications
- ☐ ethics/values
- ☒ reading
- ☐ citizenship
- ☐ mathematics
- ☐ global concerns
- ☒ critical thinking
- ☐ information resources

**III. Instructional Materials and Methods**

**Types of Course Materials:**

Text book and play script

**Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar ...):**

- A. Lectures
- B. Discussions
- C. Physical and Vocal warm-ups
- D. Performances
- E. Pantomime
- F. Improvisation
- G. Theatre games
- H. Journal writing and Outline Preparation
- I. Critique sessions

**IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):**

**Writing and computer literacy** will be assessed through the writing and re-writing of journal assignments, a character analysis and several performance outlines.

**Reading and Critical Thinking** will primarily be assessed through reading a full-length play, analyzing the character and a scene or monologue for performance.

**Oral Communication** will be assessed through several of the performances throughout the semester.
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:
   A. Definition and discussion of the different style of acting
   B. Resources, Characteristics, and Attributes of actors
   C. Play Analysis
   D. Building Ensemble
   E. Rules for Improvisation
   F. Preparing yourself to act
      1. Physical warm-ups
      2. Vocal warm-ups
   G. Believable Action and Pantomime
   H. Stage Directions and Basic Stage Movement
   I. Concentration Skills
   J. Observation
   K. Developing Imagination
   L. Emotional and Sensory Recall
   M. Working with Objectives
   N. Rehearsal and Performance Skills