



ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS (THE 133)

Instructor: Stacey Tweedlie Willis

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Office Hours: By appointment

Class Meetings:

Tues/Thur. 8:45 – 10:15 AM

Required Texts:

1. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* by Melissa Bruder, Lee Michael Cohn, Madeline Olnek, Nathaniel Pollack, Robert Previto, Scott Zigler

Catalog Course Description: This course is designed to help the amateur actor develop a beginning understanding and appreciation of the art and skill of acting through the study of acting principles, dramatic scenes and basic stage techniques. Students will learn to use the tools of the actor (mind, body and voice) through exercise, improvisation, scene and character study and learn the basics of the rehearsal process. The student will also develop into a more informed observer of theatre.

Communication: Email is the best way to contact me, I will usually respond within 24 hours. I am available for VIRTUAL office hours by appointment. You may also text me, *at a reasonable hour*.

Virtual Attendance: Attendance for this course is mandatory due to the participatory nature of the content. We will meet at our regularly scheduled class time, every week. I expect you to be present, turn on your cameras and engage in the class; this will be reflected in your participation points. If there is an emergency, contact me and we will discuss your options to make up your participation points.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted, however the highest grade possible for any late work will be a B.

Assignments/Homework/Grading:

All homework assignments MUST be turned in via Blackboard, unless otherwise discussed in class. Handwritten or emailed assignments will result in points deducted.

Attendance/Participation Points (250 points total): Attendance, along with your participation in class will contribute to your participation points each class meeting. We will have detailed discussions in class and your participation is imperative to the success and progression of our classroom.

Reading: Reading is required and there will be quizzes addressing topics and facts from the reading. This book is small, but full of valuable information. Take the time to read what's assigned. I have spaced it on purpose to allow you ample time to read and absorb the information.



ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS (THE 133)

Theatrical Experience Essay (10 pts.): First week half page assignment touching on your preconceived notions and/or experience with the theatre. Turn in on Blackboard.

Journal Entries (50 pts: 10 entries/5 pts. each): Journal entries will be due every week on Tuesday. They must be at least 100 words and reflect on your journey throughout this course, as well as this school year. Turn in ONLY via Blackboard.

Quizzes (50 pts. each): There will be 2 content quizzes coordinating with each chapter in the book. We will have a class designated to review and prep for the quiz.

Actor Profile & Presentation (20 pts.): A one-page handout detailing the life and contributions of someone important and/or influential to you as an actor/actress. You will present your handout to the class.

9-11 Group Project (30 pts.): Students will be split into groups and explore theatrical projects based on the events surrounding the historical event on September 11, 2001. They will choose one project to present to the class via PowerPoint, verbal presentation and performance. The presentation must be 15 – 20 minutes and every group member must present a portion.

Chapter Presentation (25 Points): Students will choose one chapter (group of pages from the text) to present to the class via PowerPoint and verbal presentation. Presentation must between 10-15 minutes long. See below for dates of presentations, you will sign up for your presentation via Blackboard in class.

Theatre Game (20 pts): Student will bring a theatre game (that can be played virtually) that we will play and dissect in class. Students will turn in a handout of this game via Blackboard.

Scene Analysis' (20 – 30 pts.): Students will analyze their open scene, class play, monologue and the play from which they found their monologue. Point values will increase with each analysis. If notes from the previous analysis are not applied, points will be deducted.

Mock Performances (30 pts: 3/10 pts. each): Students will have mock performances. Notes will be given by the instructor and must be applied in the final performance to be eligible for full points.

Performances (20 – 30 pts.): Students will perform an open scene, a class play and a monologue. Point values will increase with each performance. Notes from each performance must be applied to the subsequent performance to be eligible for full points. This is NOT about acting ability but your ability to listen, put in effort, and apply notes given.



ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS (THE 133)

Class Play (150 pts.): In class performance of a pre-determined play. We will work on this all semester together and present a final performance. You will, as always, be graded on effort not talent.

Play Critiques (30 pts. each): You will write a **1-page, single spaced, justified text** critique of each of the plays we read in class (example on Blackboard). Grading of these critiques will get more difficult as the course goes on, as I expect your knowledge of the theatre world to grow.

Theatre Production Attendance/Critique (30 pts.): Students will attend any sort of theatrical performance, this can and likely will be virtual. You will turn in your “ticket”, a photo of you “attending”, along with a one-page, single spaced, justified, review of the production. *Turned in via BlackBoard ONLY.*

In Class Assignments (30 pts.): There will be various in class assignments throughout the semester.

Written Final Exam (100 pts.): The final exam will cover the entire course, we will touch on everything we have learned and read, including past quiz questions.

Extra Credit Opportunities (5–10 pts.): Attend ANY live or virtual performance and receive 5 pts. for bringing in or emailing a copy of either a ticket stub, program, evidence you attended from the performance. Receive 10 pts. for writing a review of the production.

ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS (THE 133)

Grading Breakdown: (Subject to change at professor's discretion)

Attendance/Participation: 25%		250 Points Total
Homework/Classwork: 40%		
Theatrical Experience Essay		10
Journal Entries (10 posts/5 pts)		50
Actor Profile & Presentation		20
9-11 Group Project		30
Chapter Presentation		25
Theatre Game		20
Open Scene Analysis		20
Open Scene Performance		20
Class Play Analysis/Critique		25
Monologue & Play Analysis/Critique		30
Monologue Performance		30
Mock Performances (3/10 pts. each)		30
In Class Assignments		30
Performance Attendance & Critique		30
Play Critique: <i>Rabbit Hole</i>		30
		400 Points Total
Quizzes: 10% (50 Pts. Each)		
Quiz 1: Chapter 1		50
Quiz 2: Chapter 2		50
		100 Points Total
Group/Class Play Performance: 15%		
Group Performance Rehearsals/Check In's		50
Group Performance		100
		150 Points Total
Final Exam: 10%		100 Points Total
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE		1000



ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS (THE 133)

TENTATIVE CLASS ITINERARY

Week 1

Aug. 25

Introduction, Class Expectations, Syllabus Review.

Assignment: **Get your book!**

Read Intro – Pg. 10 (Available on Blackboard)

Aug. 27

Virtual Theatre Tour. Discuss Intro – Pg. 10

Extra Credit Syllabus Quiz

Chapter Presentation Assignments in class.

Assignment: **Read Pg. 10 – 18. Journal Entry 1**

Theatrical Essay: What preconceived notions about the theatre and theatre people are you bringing to class? What previous experience do you have with the theatre? (*Turn in Via BlackBoard*).

Week 2

Sep. 1

Journal 1 & Theatrical Essay Due. Present in class.

Discuss Pg. 10 – 18.

Assignment: **Actor Profile (Due Sept. 3)**

9-11 Project Plays/Musical Group Project (Due Sep. 10)

Sep. 3

Actor Profile Presentations

Assignment: Journal Entry 2

Week 3

Sep. 8

Journal 2 Due.

Open Scenes.

9-11 Breakout Group Work

Assignment: 9-11 Projects

Sep. 10

9-11 Project Presentations

Assignment: Journal Entry 3. Read pg. 19 – 39

Week 4

Sep. 15

Journal 3 Due.

Presentation 1: pg. 19 – 39: _____

In Class Scene Analysis Exercise

Sep. 17

Open Scene Assignments & Work

Review for Quiz 1: Intro – Pg. 39

Assignment: Journal Entry 4.

Week 5

Sep. 22

Journal Entry 4. Quiz 1.

Open Scene Work.

Discuss Class Play. Read Class Play in Class.

Sep. 24

Open Scene Analysis Due.

Open Scene Mock Performances.

Assignment: Journal Entry 5.

Week 6

Sep. 29

Journal 5 due.

Open Scene Performances

Assignment: Read pg. 40 – 47.

Oct. 1

Discuss Pg. 40 – 47

Auditions for Class Play

Assignment: Theatre Game. Journal 6.

Week 7

Oct. 6

Journal 6 Due.

Theatre Game Due/Present in class.

Assignment: Read pg. 48 -54

Oct. 8

Finish Theatre Games

Class Play Cast Announced

Review for Quiz 2

Presentation 2: pg. 40 - 54: _____

Assignment: Journal Entry 7. Read Pg. 55 – 66

Week 8

Oct. 13

Journal 7 due.

QUIZ 2

Class Play Rehearsal # 1: Read Through

Assignment: Class Play Character Analysis. Read pg. 55 – 66.

Oct. 15

Class Play Character Analysis Due

Class Play Rehearsal #2

Discuss pg. 55 – 66

Assignment: Read Rabbit Hole Act One. Journal Entry 8.



ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS (THE 133)

Week 9

Oct. 20

Journal 8 Due.

Presentation 3: pg. 55 - 66: _____

Read Rabbit Hole Act Two in Class

Oct. 22

Grade Check In: Missing Assignments, etc.

Assignment: Watch Rabbit Hole movie with Nicole Kidman & Aaron Eckhart.

Critique due October 27.

Week 10

Oct. 27

Rabbit Hole Critique Due.

Class Play Rehearsal #3

Read Pg. 67 - 73.

Oct. 29

Presentation 4: pg. 67 - 73: _____

Class Play Rehearsal #4

Monologue assignment discussion.

Assignment: Journal 9. Read pg. 74 – 86. Begin researching monologues.

Week 11

Nov. 3

Journal 9 Due

Presentation 5: pg. 74 - 86: _____

Class Play Rehearsal #5: Mock Performance

Nov. 5

Class Play Performance!

Assignment: Monologue Analysis /Play Critique.

Week 12

Nov. 10

Monologue Analysis/Play Critique Due.

Nov. 12

Mock Monologue Performances.

Assignment: Journal 10.

Week 13

Nov. 17

FINAL: Journal 10 Due.

FINAL: Written Final Exam, all chapters.

FINAL: Monologue Video Presentations.