

**THEATRE 170
FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING**

BULLETIN INFORMATION

THEA 170 - Fundamentals of Acting (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

An introduction to the craft of acting that explores Stanislavski's techniques through nonverbal and scripted scene work.

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

This class will allow the student to take an inside look at the work of a stage actor, and will follow the creative process. It will allow the student to experience the craft of acting from auditioning for a role, the first read through, the rehearsal process up to final dress rehearsal and performance.

Performance Training Disclosure:

The Department of Theatre and Dance endorses the concept that the body is the performer's true instrument of creativity and craft. It is through the body (including voice production) that a performer communicates to an audience. Consequently, the nature of performing training will at times require physical touch between instructor and student and/or between student and student in order to clarify or demonstrate the body's processes as related to actor training. If you have special needs or concerns or are uncomfortable with the nature of this work, or have past physical injuries that may restrict or prevent your taking part in the work, please make an appointment with the instructor for further discussion. If you are uncomfortable discussing this with your instructor, please see the Coordinating Professor or Chair of the department.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Theater 170, students will be able to:

1. Explain how a play is produced from the actor's perspective
2. Investigate the craft of acting
3. Define and apply the basics of Stanislavski's techniques
4. Demonstrate understanding of historical and contemporary acting techniques
5. Analyze plays and create a character analysis from the actor's perspective
6. Rehearse and work creatively with other people
7. Perform a scene
8. Perform a monologue and audition
9. Critically evaluate theatrical productions

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. *Acting Essentials* by Alex Golson
2. *The Proposal* by Anton Chekov
3. *The Shape of Things* by Neil LeBute published by Faber & Faber
4. *Almost Maine* by John Cariani published by Dramatic Play Services Inc.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM

1. **OPEN SCENE** performance and written work
2. **SCRIPTED SCENE** memorized and fully rehearsed with partner/s
3. **PLAY AND CHARACTER ANALYSIS** - written work for scripted scene
4. **MID TERM EXAM**
5. **MONOLOGUE** performance and written
6. **WRITTEN REVIEW OF OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD** – Drayton Hall (You are required to write a three-page acting review on *Our Country's Good*, one of the USC Main Stage productions. Tickets are \$10 for students and are available at the Longstreet box office in the lobby noon –4 PM or 1 hour before the performance at the theatre the show is performing in. See departmental web site for performance schedule.)
7. **WRITTEN REVIEW OF BIG LOVE** – Longstreet Theatre (You are required to write a three-page acting review on *Big Love*, one of the USC Main Stage productions. Tickets are \$10 for students and are available at the Longstreet box office in the lobby noon –4 PM or 1 hour before the performance at the theatre the show is performing in. See departmental web site for performance schedule.)
8. **Final Exam**
9. **PARTICIPATION** (class exercises, promptness, discussions, pop quizzes, commitment)
10. **Memorization and Reading for Assignments:** You will be responsible for reading three plays: one for script analysis in class and the two plays you will be performing pieces from. You will also need to read assigned chapters in *Acting Essentials*. You will be responsible for memorizing three pieces: a one page open scene, one short scripted scene and a one-minute monologue.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

Week 1: Lecture 1 Introduction: ALL GROUPS in Longstreet Theatre room 303
Assignment: Research Stanislavski.

- Week 2:** Lecture/demonstration 2 ALL GROUPS in Longstreet Theatre
Assignment: Read Chapter 1 & 2 *Acting Essentials*
Lecture/demonstration 3 ALL GROUPS in Longstreet Theatre
Assignment: Chapter 3 (to page 53) *Acting Essentials*
- Week 3:** Labor Day No Class
ALL GROUPS - Warm Ups and Improvisations
Discuss Chapter 3 (page 53)
BREAK OUT GROUPS - Warm ups and improvisations
Open scenes assigned
Assignment: Chapter 3 (page 54 to end) *Acting Essentials*
Show and Tell: *Our Country's Good*, Longstreet Theatre, 12:30 PM
BREAK OUT GROUPS
Assignment: Read Chapter 4 *Acting Essentials*
- Week 4:** Lecture/demonstration 4: ALL GROUPS in Longstreet Theatre
Discuss Chapter 4
ALL GROUPS: Improvisation and Open Scenes
- Week 5:** ALL GROUPS: Improvisation and Open Scenes
BREAK OUT GROUPS – Open scene exercises
Scripted plays are assigned
- Week 6:** Final Presentation of Open Scenes
Assignment: Read Chapter 5 *Acting Essentials* and *The Proposal* by Chekov
Final Presentation of Open Scenes
Open Scene written assignment due
Lecture/demonstration 5 ALL GROUPS in Longstreet Theatre
Script Analysis
- Week 7:** Lecture/demonstration 6 ALL GROUPS in Longstreet Theatre
Script Analysis
ALL GROUPS – Discuss scripted scenes
Demonstration of cold readings/auditions
BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
Assignment: Opening Night *Our Country's Good* 10/1 thru 10/9
Written Review of *Our Country's Good* due
Assignment: Memorize scene
- Week 8:** BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
Assignment: Memorize scene
BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
ALL GROUPS – sharing - side coaching
Scripts Down

- Week 9:** BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
 Show and Tell: *Big Love* Longstreet Theatre 12:30 PM
Our Country's Good Papers DUE
 BREAK OUT GROUPS MID TERM REVIEW RESULTS
- Week 10:** MID TERM EXAM ALL GROUPS
 ALL GROUPS – Review Midterm
 Assignment: Chapter 6 and 7
 Scenes must be memorized
 Lecture/demonstration 7 ALL GROUPS Longstreet Theatre
- Week 11:** BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
 BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
 BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
- Week 12:** BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
 BREAK OUT GROUPS - rehearsing scripted scenes
 ALL GROUPS – review actions, relationships, and given circumstances
- Week 13:** BREAK OUT GROUPS – Dress rehearsal of scenes
 BREAK OUT GROUPS – Final Scripted Scene Presentations
 Assignment: read audition handout on blackboard
 BREAK OUT GROUPS –Final Scripted Scene Presentations
 Assignment: Opening Night of *Big Love* 11/12 thru 11/20
- Week 14:** Written Review of *Big Love* due
 BREAK OUT GROUPS –Final Scripted Scene Presentations
 Assignment: Memorize monologues
 Lecture/demonstration 8 ALL GROUPS in Booker T. Washington Lab Theatre
 Assignment: Memorize monologues
 ALL GROUPS – Monologues
Monologues must be memorized
- Week 15:** BREAK OUT GROUPS – Monologues
 Discuss *Big Love*
Play and Character Analysis Paper due
 Thanksgiving Holiday No Class
- Week 16:** BREAK OUT GROUPS – rehearse monologues
 Course Evaluations
Final Presentations of monologues
Monologue Written Assignments due
Final Exam according to University Exam Schedule

