

**THEATRE 270: BEGINNING ACTING
FALL 2015****INSTRUCTOR: Elise Forier Edie****CLASS HOURS: M 1:00-4:20****OFFICE HOURS: M 12pm-12:50pm, 4:30-6:30pm, T 11am-12pm, W
12pm-12:50pm, R 11am-12pm (ATA 212) or by appointment
forierem@wlaac.edu****COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course prepares a student to apply basic acting theory to performance and develops the skills of interpretation of drama through acting. Special attention is paid to skills for performance: memorization, stage movement, vocal production, and interpretation of text.

TEXTBOOK

The Sanford Meisner Approach: Workbook 1
Larry Silverberg

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

Students will successfully identify and describe the role of the actor in a theatrical performance

Students will differentiate between key Western theatre schools and teachers such as Adler, Meisner, Strasberg and Spolin

Students will analyze three to four scenes for beats and intentions

Students will rehearse, and perform a variety of monologues and scenes from different plays

Student will participate in and become more fluent with improvisational exercises designed to increase imagination, emotional flexibility and expression

Students will work cooperatively and collaboratively on small group projects

Students will exercise critical thinking skills by analyzing and critiquing their work and the work of others

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Critical Thinking: Evaluation of successful performances. Analyze positive and negative aspects of a scene and group discussion

Communication: Create effective, compelling acting scenes and performances in collaboration with classmates.

Self-awareness/Interpersonal Skills: Apply self-awareness strategies as students review and critique their performances. Prepare scenes and participate in exercises and improvisations with a variety of students from diverse backgrounds.

Technical Competence: Use competent technique in performance.

Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them in the collaborative art form of acting.

Ethics: Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.

Aesthetics: Use multiple approaches to produce creative, artistically satisfying acting performances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Scene work and exercises

This is a performance based class and a majority of your grade will be based on your participation in exercises and scenes that will be rehearsed, then provided with instruction and feedback. Grade will be based on improvement, proficiency, and willingness to participate. If you do not attend class, you will lose points. If you arrive late to class, you will lose points. If you leave class early you will lose points.

Late Assignments

There are NO late assignments. Students who skip an assignment without making prior arrangements with the instructor will not be allowed to make it up.

Attendance

Because class discussions and scene work are an integral part of this course, attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Excessive absenteeism will lower your grade, as will walking in and out of class.

Walking In and Out of Class

When you arrive to class, make sure you have used the restroom, had a chance to eat, checked your messages, etc. Walking in and out is rude

and disruptive. If you need to leave early, or have some other problem, you need to notify me in advance.

Preparedness

You are expected to arrive on time. You will come to each class session prepared having rehearsed scenes, made an attempt at memorization, and done required reading and writing assignments.

Cell Phones, iPods, etc.

Turn them off and put them away when class begins! Although it may not seem possible, you can survive without talking and texting on your cell phone, or listening to your iPod. Talking and texting on cell phones not only distract you, but they are a distraction for me and your peers.

Contacting Instructor

E-mail is the best and quickest way to contact me. If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact me immediately. Students are expected to ask questions and obtain help from instructor via email and/or during office hours.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

In accordance with code 9803.28, academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in this class. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. Academic dishonesty of any type, such as cheating or knowingly furnishing false information, by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation.

Student Conduct

According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the

Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes for more information.

Recording Devices

State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (WLAC College Catalog)

CAMPUS RESOURCES

As stated earlier in this syllabus, if you are having problems, don't let them snowball. Come and talk with me and check out some of the campus resources available to you.

Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)
Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119 | (310) 287-4450.

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center
Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4486
Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling, math fundamentals and chemistry knowledge with convenient, self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center. Increase your knowledge and learning success: sign up for tutoring in various college subjects (WLAC College Catalog).

Library Services

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4269 & (310) 287-4486

The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the Library. Web access is available in LIRL as well as meeting rooms. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study (WLAC College Catalog).

Course Work and Grading

Attendance & Class Participation: 140 points

Written work: 120 points

 Given Circumstances for Open Scene: 30 points

 Given Circumstances and Action Analysis for Two Person Scene: 40 points

 Given Circumstances and Action Analysis for Group Scene: 30 points

 Character Analysis of Raisin in the Sun: 20 points

Quizzes & Tests: 40 points

 Acting teacher quizzes (4): 10 points each

Performance projects: 100 points

 Open Scene: 20

 2 Person Scene : 30

 Group Scene: 20 points

 Monologue : 30

360-400 points = A, 320-359 points =B, 280-219 points =C, 240-279 points = D, anything below 240 is an F.

DAILY SCHEDULE (Subject to change):

MON AUG 31:

Introductions and class policies

Physical warm ups

Gesture, Name

Bean Bags

Telling a story in a circle

Repetition, Exercise 1
Stage Directions Game
Three Centers
Homework:
Look up this person: Constantin Stanislavski

MON SEPT 7: NO SCHOOL

MON SEPT 14:
Quiz & Discussion: Who was Constatin Stanislavski?
Physical Warm ups
Repetition Exercise 2
Person, Place and Problem
Open Scenes With Person, Place and Problem
Building a Character
Deciding an Action
Rehearsing and Refining Scenes
Homework:
Look up this person: Michael Chekhov
Memorize Open Scene

MON SEPT 21:
Quiz & Discussion: Who was Michael Chekhov?
Physical Warm up
Repetition Exercise 3
Imaginary objects
What are you doing?
Using imaginary objects with a partner
Beanbags to memorize lines
Creating imaginary environments for open scenes.
Building a ground plan
Blocking scenes
Rehearsing Scenes
Homework:
Look up this person: Viola Spolin
Rehearse open scenes and write analyses

MON SEPT 28:
Quiz and Discussion: Who was Viola Spolin?

Physical & Vocal Warm up
Final Performances of Open Scenes
Turn in Analyses
Introduction of Two Person Scene Assignment
Choose Scenes and Scene Partners
Homework:
Look up this person: Sanford Meisner
Finish and type up monologue

MON OCT 5:
Quiz and Discussion: Sanford Meisner
Physical & Vocal Warm ups
Repetition exercise 5
Read through two person scenes
Analyze through line of action and tactics
Determine Given Circumstances
Prepare ground plans
Homework: Type up 2 person scene analysis

MON OCT 12:
Physical & Vocal Warm ups
Initial blocking and work on 2 person scenes
Memorize lines
Sign up for time to meet with instructor
Homework: Rehearse 2 person scenes

MON OCT 19:
Students work with teacher on scenes
Homework:
Memorize and rehearse scenes

MON OCT 26:
Students perform 2 person scenes
In class reading of "A Raisin in the Sun"
Discussion of character through lines of action
Homework: Prepare a character throughline and analysis for "A Raisin in the Sun"

MON NOV 2:

Physical & Vocal warm ups
Begin group scene assignments
Read and analyze script
Set up Ground plan
Begin Blocking
Homework: Memorize lines for group scene
Work on Character through line sheet

MON NOV 9:

Physical & Vocal warm up
Rehearse and Block Group Scenes
Sign up for time to work with instructor
Homework:
Rehearse group scenes
Have lines memorized for next class!

MON NOV 16:

Work with instructor on group scenes
Homework:
Prepare final performances of group scenes

MON NOV 16:

Final performances of group scenes
Monologue assignment
Sign up for meeting with instructor
Homework:
Choose and write monologue

MON NOV 23:

Meet with instructor to go over monologue
Homework:
Memorize and prepare monologue

MON NOV 30:

Initial performances of monologues for class commentary
Sign up for times to work with instructor
Homework:
Work on final monologue

MON DEC 7 :
Work final monologues with instructor

Student Acknowledgment

(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

“I _____, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

Special needs or circumstances:

Signature: _____

Date: _____