TPP 2100 – Acting for Non-Majors
Spring 2014
Section 5232 – Period 3 (9:35 – 10:24am), MWF
Constans Theatre, Rm. G12

Instructor: Annelih G.H. Hamilton
Email: annehg@ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment only

UF COURSE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:
The discipline and the creative process of acting: formal and improvisational techniques for developing vocal, physical and analytical skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• To demonstrate competency in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories used within the discipline of acting.
• To communicate knowledge ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline of acting.
• To analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using acting-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

COURSE CONTENT:
• You will participate in exercises and activities during class designed to develop the skills and vocabulary required for acting performance. You are expected to work on these specific skills outside of class in rehearsals.
• You will present a monologue and a scene for the class and are expected to have rehearsed and prepared each piece outside of class. There will be in-class discovery work, workshops of each piece, and a final performance. You will select the monologue & I will approve your choice. I will assign your scene.
• You will prepare a written analysis for each piece. It will strengthen your performance and your understanding of methodologies and theories.
• You are required to attend two UF Mainstage theatre productions and write two critiques discussing an actor’s performance in order to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject material.
• You will be quizzed throughout the term to test your knowledge of the UF theatre productions and/or terminology learned in the course.
• You will keep a binder with the syllabus, class handouts, daily notes, performance pieces, etc., which may be examined throughout the term.
REQUIRED MATERIALS/TEXTS:

- There are no required textbooks for this course.
- You are required to acquire and read the full text of the plays your monologue and scene are from. You may borrow the plays from the library (most plays are found at Library West) or you can purchase them.
- Handouts will be distributed throughout the term. It is your responsibility to read them and be prepared for discussions.

REQUIRED VIEWING:

For this course, you are required to attend two UF Mainstage performances and critique the actors’ performances.

The productions you are required to see are:

**Hobson’s Choice** by Harold Brighouse
Directed by Charlie Mitchell
Constans Theatre
February 8, 11-15 at 7:30pm
February 9, 16 at 2:00pm

**Angels in America, Part 2: Perestroika** by Tony Kushner
Directed by Tim Altmeyer
Constans Theatre
March 28-2, April 1-5 at 7:30pm
March 30 & April 6 at 2:00pm

Buy your tickets at the box office at the O’Connell Center, Gate One. Box office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 12:00 – 5:30pm and Saturday, 10:00am – 2:00pm. You will receive coupons to purchase these tickets for $2.00. Do not lose those coupons! You only get one set.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE:

You must arrive at the play at least 10 minutes before show time! The theatre will be open 30 minutes before the show starts, so you can settle into your seat, read the program, observe the set design, etc. Arriving late is disrespectful & distracting to the actors & the audience. Depending on the show, late seating may not be allowed. Give yourself plenty of time to get to the production on time.

Also, DO NOT USE CELLPHONES, TABLETS or ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE during the show. The actors can see the light dancing off your face. Don’t be that person.

REQUIRED:

Keep your ticket stub! You must have the house manager or an usher sign your ticket stub to prove you were at the performance. They will sign your ticket stub at the end of the performance.
QUIZ ON PRODUCTIONS:
There will be a quiz given in class on the Monday immediately following the final performance (you will not pass the quiz if you don’t see the show, trust me).

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:
No late assignments will be accepted without an excused absence. In the event of an excused absence, late assignments will be accepted no later than one class period after the date in which it was due.
Assignments can be emailed if necessary.
There are no make-up days for your workshop or final performances without an excused absence. In the event of an excused absence, workshop and final performances may be made up no later than the following class period. If you miss, you forfeit your points. You may not switch days with someone from another workshop (scene performances are negotiable). Please look at the calendar closely.

EXTRA CREDIT (Limit of 2 papers @ 50 points each = 100 points):
Each student may write a critique on performances that are not part of the term’s required viewing. These must be performances with acting involved – if there are any questions, please approach me before attending.
To receive the full 50 points, you must turn in a two page double-spaced critique of an actor’s (or actors’) performance with the ticket stub. Do not write a report or summarize the play.
These performances can include, but are not limited to, productions at the Hippodrome Theatre, Across Town Rep, Gainesville Community Playhouse, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Florida Players or any other performances that you are interested in.

**NOTE**
I highly encourage you see UF’s Mainstage production of Tribes or the dance show, Dance 2014, for extra credit.

★ Dance 2014
Directed by Tzveta Kassabova
Nadine McGuire Black Box Theatre
February 20-22, 25-28 at 7:30pm
February 23 at 2:00pm

★ Tribes by Nina Raine
Directed by David Young
Nadine McGuire Black Box Theatre
March 14-15, 18-22 at 7:30pm
March 16 & 23 at 2:00pm
**ATTENDANCE POLICY**: 

Attendance will be taken daily. Due to the nature of this course, attendance is MANDATORY. You are expected to be in class on time & to attend all classes.

You are allowed two unexcused absences. If you are absent more than 2 times, 30 points will be deducted from your final grade for each additional absence. Please use these allowed absences wisely as absolutely NO exceptions will be made. NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.

*Excused Absences*: In order for an absence to be excused, you must turn in the proper written documentation. (Ex: team travel, band, academic field trips, doctor’s note, etc.)

*Tardy Policy*: In addition to your 2 allowed unexcused absences, you will be given 2 opportunities to be late. If you are late more than 2 times, 10 points will be deducted from your final grade for each additional tardy.

Please note that it is your responsibility to notify me after the class that you arrived late. If you come in late and I’m unaware, you will receive an absence for that day. If you arrive late, DO NOT come into the room while another student is performing – please be respectful!

You need to attend class even on days when you are not scheduled to workshop your piece or perform. A major part of this class is learning through experiencing other classmates’ performances. For this reason, on days when you do not have to perform you MUST be there to support and learn from your classmates who are performing.

**DRESS CODE**: 

Dress appropriately and comfortably, wearing clothes and shoes that allow you to move with ease.

On workshop days, it is highly encouraged (but not required) you wear the costume you plan to perform your piece in so you rehearse in your character’s clothes.

On performance days, a costume is required.

**WORKSHOP DAYS**: 

You will be assigned a day(s) to workshop your piece. On Workshop Days, you must have the following:

a. TWO copies of your scored script. One for you – one for me.
b. Character Analysis & Freytag Pyramid (one copy)
c. Preparation
d. Dressed to move.
**FINAL PERFORMANCE DAYS:**
You will be assigned a day to perform your piece for the class. When you arrive, you must have the following prepared items:
   a. Costume required
   b. Final piece must be memorized.

**GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation <em>(This includes, but is not limited to: daily warm-ups, Physical/Vocal Units, improvisation, contentless scenes, theatre games, ensemble exercises etc.)</em></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Contract</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Introduction Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of the Term Reflection Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminology Quiz</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in <em>Hobson’s Choice</em> Discussion</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Hobson’s Choice</em> Quiz</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Hobson’s Choice</em> Actor Critique &amp; Ticket Stub</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in <em>Angels…</em> Discussion</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Angels…</em> Quiz</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Angels…</em> Actor Critique &amp; Ticket Stub</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Monologue Exploration Work</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monologue Written Analysis</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monologue Preparation/Workshop</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monologue Final Performance</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Scene Exploration Work</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scene Written Analysis</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scene Preparation/Workshop</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scene Final Performance</td>
<td>100</td>
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Total Points Possible = 1,000 pts
GRADE SCALE:

A = 921-1000 pts.
A- = 900-920 pts.
B+ = 870-899 pts.
B = 821-869 pts.
B- = 800-820 pts.
C+ = 770-799 pts.
C = 721-769 pts.
C- = 700-720 pts.
D+ = 670-669 pts.
D = 600-669 pts.
E = 599 pts. or less

CLASS DECORUM

This class is of an exploratory and experimental nature. Exercises require full participation and often a sense of humor and play. In order to foster a trusting and creative environment, respect of the instructor and of fellow students is demanded. Please feel free to see me with any concerns.

**NOTE**:

In this course, I am offering my point of view of what has worked for me in acting. I ask you to respect my point of view and try my notes & suggestions. My point of view is not the only way to approach this craft, but I can only share with you what has worked for me up to this point.

When you are not working in front of the class, you must give your full attention to your fellow classmate who is working. There will be zero tolerance of cell phone use (including texting), sleeping, eating, drinking, doing work for other classes, reading, or disruptive talking in this class. If you engage in any of these behaviors, your overall grade will be deducted by 20 points for each offense.

Notes must be taken by hand - no laptops, tablet computers, or other electronic devices can be open once class has begun.

No food or drink allowed in the classroom. Water only!

HONOR CODE:

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

If you cheat on a test or quiz, or plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of
intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

Student guidelines for ethical behavior can be found at:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html

The Student Conduct Code is available at
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/

LEARNING DISABILITIES:
If you have a disability that is documented with the Disability Resource Center and wish to discuss accommodations, please see me during office hours. If you have a learning disability that has not been documented, contact the DRC at 352.392.8565, email accessuf@dso.ufl.edu, or go to their office at 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall).

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:
Address:
3190 Radio Rd.
P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: www.counsel.ufl.edu

FINAL NOTE:
This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the term, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. It is your responsibility to make note of any changes discussed in class. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Please feel free to approach me with any concerns you may have about this class.
***Please sign the following, detach, & return to instructor***

I have carefully read over the Spring 2014, TPP 2100 Acting for Non-Majors Syllabus. I AGREE to all the rules and regulations of the class as outlined in this syllabus.

PRINT NAME:________________________________________

UF ID#______________________________________________

SIGNATURE:________________________________________

DATE:_____________________________________________