

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

THEA 1303 Acting I

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 2

Studio Hours: 2

Prerequisite: THEA 1203 Introduction to Theatre or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Student studies and applies the techniques of acting. Emphasis on creative self-expression.

B. Additional Course Information

This course is an optional requirement for students seeking a theatre minor, and is required for most 4-year degree programs. It may be taken by students in other disciplines as an elective.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the development of the modern western acting tradition under Stanislavski.
2. Explain the correlation between body, vocal, and emotional acting work.
3. Describe the role of performance and the performer in culture.
4. Prepare an acting role using an acting process developed from the student's primary learning styles and physiological modes.
5. Analyze a script to determine beats, scenes, objectives, obstacles, and moments.
6. Exhibit proper and professional rehearsal technique.
7. Define "action" and how it relates to character development and be able to break down a performance into action objectives.
8. Utilize a safe and effective emotional recall, control, or substitution technique.

9. Critique acting performances for effective technique and appropriate choice making.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Communication is key to the theatrical art. Students will improve their ability to communicate to the audience through exercises and performances.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will begin the process of building a personal performance process. Also, the values of initiative, work ethic, and thorough completeness as they relate to performance will be introduced.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Acting is a process of interaction. Students will work with other student actors to produce characters and stories. Ensemble acting will also be introduced.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Creation of a role and character will be introduced and covered in depth. Students will begin to explore how they can create works of art from scratch by drawing upon their own energies and experiences.

III. MAJOR COURSE TOPICS

- A. Stanislavski
- B. Western Acting Traditions
- C. Grotowski
- D. Character Development
- E. Action
- F. Beats
- G. Scene Work
- H. Objectives/Obstacles
- I. Voice Work/Movement Work
- J. Through-Line
- K. Script Analysis
- L. Process Development