

TH 223/01
TH 423/01

Capital University
ACTING FOR THE STAGE
ADVANCED ACTING

Instructor: Colton Weiss

Office Hours:

Tu/Th 2-3pm
Spielman Hall #27

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Phone: 740-222-3539 (cell)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To create, through theory and practice, an appreciation for and an approach to the actor's discipline. To examine the range of the acting tools of the students and various performers. To establish a methodology for creating a role. To experience, as artist and audience, the actor's contribution to play interpretation. To establish a foundation for the adoption of generally accepted rules of behavior in the theatrical environment. To develop technique and discipline as a theatrical artist. To develop critical standards for one's own performance and the performances of others.

SUGGESTED TEXTS: Though there are many fine acting texts, there is no specific required text for the course. The student is required to read plays for any material they present!

The Art of Acting, Stella Adler
The Actor Prepares, Stanislavsky
A Practical Handbook for the Actor, Scott Zigler, et al.
Acting in Musical Theatre, Deer and DalVera

CLASS MEETINGS:

This class will meet from 12:30-1:45 on Tuesday and Thursday in SPH 30. Attendance and punctuality are vital to this class, your work as an actor, and your work with others. We depend on you to be in class and ready to work. Roll will be taken. Missed classes will affect your participation grade.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

223 and 423 BOTH

| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| Monologues and Scenes and Analysis | 5@10% | 50% |
| Classical, Contemporary, Bold Choice, Your Choice, Movement/Vocal Choice | | |
| Journals | 3@10% | 30% |
| Final with Portfolio | | 10% |

223 ONLY

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| Participation/Exercises (may earn extra credit with journals and 423 duets) | 5% |
| Coaching meetings | 2 @ 2.5% 5% |

423 ONLY

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| Duet or Group | 10% |
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*423 students must also score scenes and monologues

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Sign-Ups

You must schedule times for each performance Lab and personal coaching NO LATER than the day before it occurs. I will post lists either in class or on my office door with available times.

GRADING SCALE:

100-90 A 89-80 B 79-70 C 69-60 D 59- F

| | <u>Date</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Discussion/Assignment</u> |
|--------|-------------|------------|--|
| August | 20 | T | Orientation and Introduction—Auditions |
| | 22 | H | Stage fright/Criticism, Finding Material |
| | 27 | T | Scoring and Analysis |
| | 29 | H | Using Scoring and Analysis |
| Sept | 3 | T | Monologues (not graded) |
| | 5 | H | Response |
| | 10 | T | Classical Acting/ Heightened Text /Ian |
| | 12 | H | Classical COACHING |
| | 17 | T | Presentation 1 (Classical) |
| | 19 | H | Presentation 1 /Journal #1 |
| Oct. | 24 | T | Voice and Body & Imagination |
| | 26 | H | Character Choices |
| | 1 | T | Presentation 2 (Movement/Voice) |
| | 3 | H | Presentation 2 |
| | 8 | T | What is ‘the method’ – connecting back to Stanislavsky |
| | 10 | H | Working with Directors/Using the Stage |
| | 15 | T | Presentation 3 (Contemporary or Bold) |
| | 17 | H | Presentation 3 / Journal #2 |
| | 22 | T | Focus and Multi-tasking |
| | 24 | H | Working Scenes |
| Nov | 29 | T | Improv / Comedy |
| | 31 | H | Make-up/Special Skills |
| | 5 | T | Presentation 4 (Contemporary or Bold) |
| | 7 | H | Presentation 4 |
| | 12 | T | Acting for Camera |

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| 14 | H | The Business – Unions, Agents, Headshots, Resumes... |
| 19 | T | Presentation 5 (Your Choice) |
| 21 | H | Presentation 5 / Journal #3 |
| 26 | T | Coaching / Make-up Day |
| 28 | H | THANKSGIVING BREAK |

FINAL Monday December 2, 1-3pm (MANDATORY)

You will bring a PORTFOLIO of monologues from the semester. I will choose a monologue for you to perform.

Expectations

The first monologue (Sept. 5) will not be graded and does not count towards your total. You may redo it for credit later on. All scene work and monologues **MUST** be memorized. This is basic. No PRESENTATION will be graded without the required paperwork (ANALYSIS-223, ANALYSIS and SCORING—423) Sample sheets will be shared later. Copy it and use for your assignments. Suggestions and direction will be given during coaching. You **MUST** provide a hard copy of the script that I can mark for coaching. Memorization is recommended for coaching, but not required.

A role in a University theatre/ Conservatory production may count as one presentation assignment. PAPERWORK is still required. (Only one role may be used for this.) I strongly recommend monologues and scene selections from published plays. (I am flexible, but **NO** self-written work.) To understand the character, it is vital to read the entire play. You may use these for journals.

Assignments are expected on time. If they are late, it will be reflected in the grade. Assignments and evaluation criteria will be explained as the semester progresses. Note where extra credit is possible. Any student requiring accommodations for taking notes or participating in exercises or performance should make arrangements as early as possible by discussing the needs with me. All written assignments will be typed unless you are instructed otherwise. (This includes the analysis.) Good writing is expected for all assignments. Multi-page assignments should be stapled and organized before you hand them in or points may be deducted.

Cell phones, headsets, and laptops (gadgets in general) must be turned off in class. Food and beverages are allowed within reason.

Be aware of issues of academic integrity (a good thing) and plagiarism (not so good). University policies governing drop dates, penalties, plagiarism, incompletes, and academic integrity will be observed.

Journals – Should include reactions to all plays and material you have worked on up to that point. Not a plot summary or review. Focus on characters that interest you. Why do they interest you? How would you play them? Why would you be right (or not) for the role? Use what we discuss!!! Go deep. Three required.

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Character Analysis - study, copy, and use the attached sheet. BE SPECIFIC. Think deeply. Use it to inform your work! (The syllabus is available on ILearn)

If you are not satisfied with a grade, you may redo the piece. You must do new paperwork and hand in the earlier paperwork and grade sheet. You may present a song (with recorded accompaniment) for one of your monologues. You will be evaluated on the acting of the song. It MUST be in English. Basic musicianship will be considered.

Goals and Grades: The purpose of this class is to enhance your appreciation and skills in the theatre and/or performance situation. For some, this class serves as general enrichment while for others it meets a specific objective. In either case, you are evaluated on the work you present and on my observations of your work in class/lab. Your grades come from your work, your improvement, and the generally accepted standards of educational theatre.

Class Format

Class will be a mixture of lecture, performance, viewings, exercises, and discussion. Ask questions. Raise new ideas. Attendance is expected. You are responsible for notes and materials you may miss.

Attendance Policy. You have **ONE** absence to use any way you like. After that, an absence must be excused. Otherwise, each non-excused absence will count as one letter grade. An excused absence involves a school activity with a note from the sponsor, a health emergency with a note of verification (the Campus health center does not provide such notes), or a family emergency with a note of verification. (A note from you does not constitute verification.) A phone call or e-mail from you does not excuse an absence. If you are late twice, that equals one absence.

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION:

TH 223 - This course includes basic performance and rehearsal techniques for the actor in which different forms of oral and written discourse are stressed. This involves practice in exercises and scene work, and studies in character development and physical/vocal work. It also includes examination of the historical development of the role of actor and of theories of acting. Students will engage in classroom performance/critique of scenes.

TH 423 - This course is a continuation of the work started in TH 223 with special emphasis given to advanced scene work, styles of acting, advanced character development, and audition techniques.

Department of Communication Learning Goal:

Goal 1: Prepare and deliver an effective public presentation that includes a clear message, coherent pattern, and needed supporting materials.

Goal 2: Demonstrate the ability to analyze critically a communication event or artifact from a theoretical perspective.

Goal 3: Demonstrate competence in a specific communication context.

STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL POLICY:

University policies governing drop dates, penalties, plagiarism, and academic integrity, as

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detailed in the university bulletin, student handbook(s), and/or undergraduate time schedule, will be observed.

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:

Services at The Office of Academic Success: Academic Success provides valuable support services and resources for students as they study and work to meet their academic goals. Regular drop-in and appointment hours are available for the Math, Science, and Writing Centers. Students can schedule an appointment ahead of time by calling Academic Success at 236-6327, sending a request through <https://tutortrac.capital.edu/TracWeb40/Default.html>, or stopping by the Academic Success location on the second floor of Blackmore Library. A wide range of subject area tutoring is also available; consult the *Tutor Yellow Pages* (available in the Academic Success office and on the Academic Success website at <http://www.capital.edu/Academic-Success/> to find a tutor for a particular course. In addition, online eTutoring (www.etutoring.org) is available in accounting, anatomy/physiology, biology, chemistry, math, physics, statistics, and writing. Students can also contact Academic Success to schedule individualized study strategies consultations or peer academic advising sessions. For additional information about Academic Success programs and services, contact Director Bruce Epps at bepps@capital.edu or 236-6461.

Disability Services in Center for Health and Wellness: Capital University welcomes students with disabilities to be an integral part of the educational community. The University's Office of Disability Services offers an array of accommodations and support services to ensure equal educational opportunities for eligible students with disabilities. Students may request accommodations by providing documentation of their disability to the Disability Services Coordinator. Faculty, students, and the Coordinator for Disability Services work as a team to facilitate appropriate services for students with disabilities. The Disability Services office is located in the Center for Health and Wellness in the Kline Building. Students interested in further information are encouraged to contact Disability Services Coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Speakman at 236-7127 or jspeakman@capital.edu. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY ABSENCE POLICY:

If a student misses a class due to a scheduled, university-approved event, such an absence is considered approved. Permissible events include musical or theater performances, academic conferences, and athletic competitions, but do not include practices, rehearsals, or attendance at university-approved events in which the student is not a participant. Generally, students should be permitted to make up any scheduled assignments, quizzes, or exams for university-approved absences. However, when students miss unique in-class learning experiences, faculty may require appropriate substitute assignments. If a student fails to provide adequate notice to the instructor in advance of an approved absence, the instructor may consider the absence unexcused. Students bear the ultimate responsibility for all missed class material.^[1]_[SEP]

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. See the Student Handbook (section on Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity 2015 – 2016, at

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http://www.capital.edu/uploadedFiles/Content/Audience_Navigation/Current_Student/studenthandbook20969.pdf).

ALL instances of violations of Academic Integrity will reported to the Dean of Studies, the Director of the Academic Integrity Board, and/or any other appropriate individuals.

CREDIT HOUR: Definition of a Credit Hour: A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates no less than: (1) one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or (2) at least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other activities as established by an institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.