

Theatre 120: Fundamentals of Acting

Fall 2013

Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 – 2:55 PM

Instructor: Deirdre Rowley

Office # 2792

Phone: 355-6484

Office Hours: M/W: 11:30-12:30pm T: 10-11am Th 11-12pm

Email:deirdre.rowley@imperial.edu (Put **Theatre 120** in the subject line.) OR Blackboard

Course Description: An introduction to the interpretation of drama through the art of the actor. Development of individual insights, skills, and disciplines in the presentation of dramatic materials to an audience.

Course Objectives:

- To become familiar with standing, moving, and speaking effectively before an audience.
- To learn how to effectively use the body to present emotions.
- To understand how to work with a group.
- To demonstrate responsibility with deadlines.
- To understand and utilize stage directions.
- To learn to read and interpret a script.
- To understand the director's point of view.
- To learn how to subjugate the self for the success of the scene.
- To learn, practice, and improve memorization techniques.
- To explain various acting techniques.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Show growth in the ability to project. (demonstration)
- Show improvement in presenting emotion through physicality. (demonstration)
- Explore personal growth in dramatic presentation of characters (demonstration)

Required Texts and Materials:

- A small notebook for class notes
- Familiarity with word processing for class journals.

How to Contact Your Instructor:

- You may call and leave a voice mail. Make sure you speak slowly and distinctly. All too often voice mails are gabled and impossible to understand.
- If I attempt to return your call, and your phone is busy, I can only try again a limited number of times.
- The best way to contact me is through Blackboard Messaging.
- Whether you call or email, remember, I may not be in the office on holidays and week-ends.

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class on time, prepared with the completed assignments. If you expect you will be tardy, absent, or unprepared once in a while this is not the class for you.

- "A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class MAY be dropped by the instructor immediately following the class. Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students enrolled. A student may be excluded from further attendance in a class during any semester when absences after the close of registration have exceeded the number of class hours which the class meets per week. A student who is tardy three times may be considered as having been absent once."

- Excessive absences prevent the actor from developing his or her skills along with the rest of the class. As much of the class work is group work, an unskilled group member detracts from the group's performance.
- Work due the day a student was absent may be turned in for credit the day the student returns to class, with the exception as noted below.
- After the drop deadline, any "extra" absences result in a zero for that day's work which cannot be made up even though the student was absent.
- Late arrivals interfere with the exercises in progress. Students will be marked tardy when arriving within 15 minutes of class start time. Late arrivals after this time are marked as absences.
- Early departures interfere with the exercises in progress, therefore, unless dismissed by the instructor, early departure is unacceptable and counted as an absence.
- Do not schedule any appointments that conflict with class meetings. This includes medical, financial, counseling, or mechanical appointments. An absence is an absence.
- Emergencies do occur. Contact me as soon as possible, or see a classmate for the day's assignment.
- An absence due to an emergency is still counted as an absence. An absence is an absence.
- The only excused absences are those where the student is a representative of the college at officially approved conferences, contests, field trips, and sports events.

Student Responsibilities:

- Bring your class materials to each class meeting.
- All assignments must be completed and turned in by the due date to receive credit. Late work is not accepted and earns a zero.
- Keep track of your own assignments, due dates, grades, and attendance. An assignment notebook is a wonderful thing.
- If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to talk with classmates regarding what went on in class while you were absent.
- Group presentations go on as scheduled, even if a member of the group is absent. Be kind to your group. Avoid being absent when your group is presenting.
- If absent, **contact your classmates to find out what you missed.**
- If you have problems understanding an assignment, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for a conference with me in my office, to discuss this problem before the assignment is due. Lack of understanding on your part is not an excuse for turning in an assignment late.
- "Any student with a DOCUMENTED disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, Room 2117. (760) 355-6312"

Making an Appointment:

- See me in person immediately before or after class.
- Stop by my office. I may be in.
- Send an email, **several days in advance** of when you want the appointment. Make sure you have a return email confirmation that lets you know I will be in my office at the time you request.
- As much as is possible, if you can not make my office hours, I will try to meet with you at your convenience.
- Do not expect to stay after class to discuss your situation in detail. Meet me in my office or make an appointment.

Classroom Courtesy:

- Give your family and friends your schedule. Tell them they can call your cell phone outside of class hours.
- Turn off your cell phone or pager. No calls are to be received during class. Cell calls destroy both your focus and the focus of your fellow actors. Actors do not leave their cell phones on during rehearsals or performances.
- Leaving class to make or answer a cell phone call will result in the student being sent immediately to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.
- If you have a family situation that requires your cell phone to be left on for a single, particular class, this must be discussed with me prior to class.
- No iPods or CD players in class.
- The gym materials, stability balls, mats, weights, and step platforms, are not to be used unless directed specifically to do so during class.
- No food or drink in class, outside of plain water. [This is a college rule.]
- Make arrangements for childcare. Legally no children are allowed in regular classrooms.
- Save discussion of private topics, (grades, reasons for absences, personal problems), for my office. Do not try to discuss these topics with me in the classroom.
- Theatre takes a group effort. Your participation supports what others are presenting whether you are back stage, on stage, or in the audience.

Academic Misconduct Policy

- Academic misconduct includes misconduct associated with the classroom, laboratory or clinical learning process. Some examples of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism.
- Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, assessment tests or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the faculty member in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the college faculty or staff.
- Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of paraphrased or directly quoted published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Information gathered from the internet and not properly identified is also considered plagiarism.
- Any student found by a faculty member to have committed academic misconduct may be subject to sanctions as determined by the faculty member. Sanctions MAY include a warning, grade adjustment, and course failure. Consequences for plagiarism include a zero on the assignment and a referral to Sergio Lopez, Dean of Student Development and Campus Events.

Discipline Policy

- "Imperial Valley College is maintained for the purpose of providing students in the community with programs of instruction in higher education. The College is concerned with the fostering of knowledge, the search for truth and the dissemination of ideas. Students shall assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college's function as an educational institution.
- An instructor MAY REMOVE a student for the day of removal and the next class meeting. Such action must be immediately reported to Sergio Lopez, Dean of Student Development and Campus Events. During the period of removal the student MAY NOT return without the consent of the instructor."

Successful Study Techniques:

- Create a schedule for work, eating, rest, play, class time, reading lab, and study/reading time. Post your schedule. Tell family and friends they can contact you are available outside of work, class, and study/reading time.
- When studying outside of class, it is wise to turn off your cell phone or pager.
- Working and studying while you are hungry produces poor results. Eat prior to these activities. Eating while studying divides your attention.
- If you have children, you usually don't take them to work with you. Make arrangements so they don't interrupt your class time or your study/reading time either.
- Often a discussion with children, even small children, explaining how going to school requires concentration and quiet time, helps them to understand you won't be available during this time. It also sets an excellent example for their academic experiences.
- Do your reading/study/homework/journal writing in advance of class. Don't wait until an hour or two before class. Remember, observation requires time.
- Read the assigned material before attempting the assignments.
- Doing your best at all time results in your best getting better.
- Carefully read, then re-read the TIME section that follows.

Time:

- A face-to-face class spends 3 hours in the classroom with lectures and discussion.
- A general rule of thumb for a college student is to spend approximately 2 to 3 hours studying outside of class for each hour spent in class. This means a student can expect to spend between 6 and 9 hours a week reading, practicing, memorizing material, and doing written assignments outside of time spent in the classroom. Some weeks will require less time. Some weeks will require more time.
- Acting is time intensive. It requires focused attention and effort.
- **As Confucius said, "Learning is labor, call it what you will."**

Class Assignments:

- Homework/journals are due at the beginning of class. No late work is accepted.
- An absence entitles the student to turn in assignments due the day of the absence immediately at the beginning of the next class meeting when the student returns. Assignments due the day a student was absent will not be accepted the second, third, or succeeding class meeting after a student returned to class.
- When turning in work collected when you were absent, please write "Absence" at the top of the assignment.
- All work assigned when a student was absent is due the day the student returns to class.
- If absent, check with your classmates for any assignments you missed.
- Missed tests and quizzes may be only made up **by student request** within five school days of the original test or quiz date. If you miss a test or quiz contact me immediately upon your return to class to make arrangements to take the test or quiz. Make-ups are usually given in my office.
- Tests or quizzes not taken within five school days of the date a student returns to class earn a zero. Once this five day grace period is passed, missed tests and quizzes may not be made up.
- If a student is allowed to stay in the class after exceeding the one absence limit, work missed on the second or succeeding absences earn a zero and may not be made up expect for extreme circumstances as determined by the instructor.
- After the drop date, any work missed due to absences over the two absence limit earns a zero and is not available for make-up.
- Presentations must be given on the day assigned even if a member of your group is absent. Simply put, "The Show Must Go On."

Phone Numbers of Other Students in My Class

Names

Home phone

Cell Phone

Types of Assignments

Journals: These are due at the beginning of every Tuesday class. Journals must be typed so creative handwriting is not a barrier to their being read and understood. Journals are not marked down specifically for poor writing, but your meaning will come across more easily if you proofread before printing.

Plays: Expect the occasional quiz.

Syllabus: Used as a resource. There is space in the assignments area for writing your group's specific assignments.

Lectures: These are brief. Students are expected to take notes. Expect the occasional quiz.

Research: You will be asked to look up plays, read them, and write an assigned journal. These plays may be found in the library and online.

Grading:

Journals	10%
Quizzes	10%
Performance	40%
Mid- Term (written & performed)	15%
Final	15%

- Grades are available throughout the semester on Blackboard. Any questions must be brought to my attention before the next class. After that time, the posted grade is considered accurate.
- Keep a file of graded and returned assignments.
- No past or previously un-submitted assignments will be accepted once final grades are submitted to Instruction, so do not ask, plead, or even inquire.
- Grades are available 24/7 throughout the semester. Therefore, no discussion of grades is entertained after final grades are posted.
- Your grade is the grade you earn. No grade will be changed due to problems with financial aid, graduation, or transfer requirements.
- The mid-term and the final both have two parts: a written section (5%) and a performance section (10%).
- Grades in other classes, math, P.E., art, music, reading, math, or literature classes are not necessarily indicative of grades in this class.
- This is a transfer level class. Expect to have to spend some time and effort to earn an "A".

- This is largely a practical class. Willing, successful, and enthusiastic participation in individual and group activities is essential to passing this class.
- Remember your math classes. A string of zeros worth 10% can destroy the “A” you are positive your acting deserves.

Assignments for Fall 2013

This schedule may be altered at any time during the semester if circumstances require.
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Week	Date	Journal	Your Notes for Assignments
1			Orientation 1
2		A	Orientation 2
3		journal	Where
4		is	Space
5		due	Part of a whole
6		at	Objects 1
7		the	Objects 2
	Mid-	Term	exam
8		start	Gibberish
9		of each	On the street
10		and	Age
11		every	Projecting
12		Tuesday	Transformation
13		class	What
14		without	Scenes
15		fail.	Scenes
16	Final	Exam	