

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 201	Instructor Name:	D. M. Rowley
Course Title & #:	Theatre 120: Fundamentals of Acting	Email:	Deirdre.rowley@imperial.edu
CRN #:	21026	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	738 (in the Gym)	Office #:	2792
Class Dates:	2/13/17 - 6/9/17	Office Hours:	M/W: 1:30-2:30pm T/R: 8:30-9:30am
Class Days:	Tuesday	Office Phone #:	760-355-6484
Class Times:	2 - 5:10pm	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3		

Course Description

This course prepares the 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, and interpretation of text. (CSU, UC)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- 1. Analyze the function of a character/agent within an assigned play script. (ILO2, ILO5)*
- 2. Analyze a play script for diction and character traits. (ILO2, ILO5)*
- 3. Perform an assigned role. (ILO1, ILO3)*

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate basic skills of acting, including physical, vocal, imaginative, analytical, and emotional elements.*
- 2. Compose a character analysis.*
- 3. Analyze dramatic textual components as they pertain to performance.*
- 4. Critique a scene from an observer's point of view, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of that presentation.*
- 5. Utilize appropriate theatrical terminology and jargon.*
- 6. Use and apply a basic craft of acting in performance.*

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney ISBN: 978-0-8222-1496-0 published by Dramatists Play Service Inc. (Required)
- *52 Monologues for Grown-Ups (And College Kids)* ISBN: 978-1-105-80615-5 (Required)
- A notebook for class notes.
- Familiarity with word processing for journals and written assignments

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Clothing: Acting involves movement and interaction as well as learning stage techniques. Students will be lying and sitting on the floor during various acting exercises. Comfortable clothing that allows freedom of movement is required.

Scripts: Scripts (see Textbooks) cannot be shared. Each actor will need her or his own as actors will be writing notes necessary for performance in the script.

Written Assignments: Must be typed so creative handwriting is not a barrier to their being read and understood. All written assignments, journals, character analysis, dramatic analysis, critical observations, must be proofread and written to a college standard using MLA format to ensure the writer's meaning comes across clearly.

Journals: These are due at the beginning of every Tuesday class.

Acting Exercises: These will be a major portion of the class. Acting exercises are based on Viola Spolin's techniques for developing actors.

Plays: Expect quizzes and journals.

Lectures: Students are expected to take notes. Expect quizzes.

Discussions: Films of plays will be shown in class. Discussions will include character analysis, dramatic analysis, and critical observations of the acting.

Written Assignments: Films of plays will be shown in class. Assignments will include character analysis, dramatic analysis, and critical observations of the acting.

Performance: Some short performance assignments will require memorization of lines.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. For a three credit class this equals approximately nine hours a week. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading:

Journals	15%
Quizzes	10%
Written Assignments (course objectives 2, 3, 4,5)	20%
Performance	15%
Mid- Term (written 10% & performed 10%)	20%
Final (written 10% & performed 10%)	20%

- Grades are available throughout the semester on Canvas. 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.
- Late assignments are accepted if a student was absent the day the assignment was due. Such assignments must be submitted when the student returns to class.
- If a student is absent when her or his group is scheduled to perform, the performance goes on with a volunteer stand-in from the class reading lines as needed.

- No past or previously un-submitted assignments will be accepted once final grades are submitted.
- Grades are available 24/7 in Canvas 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.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- **Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. If you expect you will be tardy, absent, or unprepared once in a while this is not the class for you.**
- A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class. There are NO exceptions. Actors must be focused on the exercise in play. Cell phones distract from this essential focus.
- Use of a cell phone during class will result in removal from class and being required to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer prior to returning to class.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and

(11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!)].

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- **Plagiarism** is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

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 Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

These assignments and due dates are tentative* and may change during the semester.

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Journals are due every Tuesday unless noted.	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1	Syllabus & Introduction; sensory awareness; learning focus; journal explanation	Journals are typed, 1 inch margins, minimum of 1 full page.	
Week 2	Sensory awareness, con't; stage directions; acting terms; showing not telling/understanding the text	Journals discuss the student's understanding and feelings of the previous lesson	<i>Sylvia</i> – have read to page 19.
Week 3	Sensory awareness; mirror activities; creating a character; observation; stage movement	Journals include out of class observations, relating these to class exercises .	<i>Sylvia</i> - have read to top of page 32.
Week 4	Physical involvement; the script as a starting point; Much Ado/Character; blocking		
Week 5	Physical involvement con't; Glass/ character/ambiguity of dramatic production/script		<i>Sylvia</i> –finish act 1
Week 6	Physical involvement cont; space substance; Discuss characterization paper		
Week 7	Mid-Term Exam; Intro to Where	No journal	Characterization paper due.
Week 8	What's beyond?; Where exercises		<i>Sylvia</i> – finish act 2

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Journals are due every Tuesday unless noted.	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 9	Who exercises/environment/apply to <i>Sylvia</i>		
	Spring Break – Campus Closed		
Week 10	Gibberish/ projection/discuss monologues		Sylvia scenes
Week 11	The reality of where/ speech exercises		
Week 12	Using the body / Shrew 1/discussion - critique		
Week 13	Refining awareness/ Shrew 2/discussion-critique		
Week 14	monologue / scene work	no journal	Critique paper due
Week 15	monologue / scene work		
Exam	Tuesday, June 6 th , 2017		

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****