CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR DRAMA 1351
ACTING I

Semester Credit Hours: 3

INSTRUCTOR: ________________________________
OFFICE HOURS: ________________________________

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Acting I is an introduction to the fundamental principles and tools of acting as used in auditions, rehearsals, and performances. This may include basic theater terminology, script and character analysis, and ensemble performing. This exploration will emphasize the development of the actor’s instrument: voice, body and imagination.

B. This course is a prerequisite for most upper tier Theatre/Drama courses and counts toward fulfillment of the Performing Arts requirement in many performing arts related fields. This course is related to all Theatre Arts occupations and to any liberal arts study field.

C. The course fulfills degree requirement and is a recommended elective. In support of the objectives of the Texas core curriculum, this course provides significant exercise of students’ critical thinking, communication skills, teamwork and social responsibility. These objectives form a foundation of intellectual and practical skills that are essential for learning.
   - Critical thinking skills include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
   - Communication skills include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual media.
   - Teamwork includes the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
   - Social responsibility includes the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

D. Prerequisite: None

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

A. Analyze scripts from the viewpoint of the actor.
B. Analyze, develop, and perform a character.

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C. Demonstrate effective and safe use of the voice and body.
D. Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of theater.
E. Perform at an appropriately skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes and final projects, which may include participation in plays.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Required Text: The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading and Lectures: each student will be expected to take notes and be on time for class lecture at the start of each class day. A reading quiz will be given early in the semester over assigned reading and possibly the lectures.

B. Monologues: each student will be expected to have a monologue (comedic or dramatic) prepared during the assigned performance times. Memorization and text analysis will be checked.

C. Duet Scenes: each student will be expected to have his/her duet prepared at the assigned time. The instructor will assign a partner, day & time for the duet to be performed. Respect your partner and live up to your responsibility for the scene. Memorization and text analysis will be checked.

D. Final 10 minute Play or Scenes: (in lieu of a Final Exam) each student will be expected to prepare for the final showcase of these long scenes. The instructor will assign a partner, day & time for the duet to be performed. Memorization and text analysis will be checked.
   a. Performance Day Note: If you are absent on the assigned day of your performance (for any reason other than an emergency) your assignment grade will be reduced as this will cause your performance to be pushed up to the next available day and have repercussions for the entire class.

E. Performance Critiques: each student will attend a minimum of 3 (in class) performances. The student will be required to respond legibly and mindfully to a selected performance carefully answering provided prompts. In addition, just after each of the presented monologues or scenes in class the student will offer a verbal critique.

F. Projects & Journals: all class projects must be completed and turned in on time. There will be total of approx. 15 journal entries. However, the student will turn their journal in at the notified date (usually a presentation date) three times during the semester. It is your responsibility to keep up with the journal dates. LATE JOURNALS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.
G. Class Participation: Students are expected to practice the following guidelines to ensure positive class participation:

a. You must read the text and the play the monologues or scenes derive!
b. Students are expected to attend every class, be on time, and remain throughout the class.
c. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate any work missed. Because this class depends on the actor’s participation, lateness or absences of major assignments will only be excused in the event of a serious emergency.
d. Students are expected to maintain civility, courtesy, and scholastic honesty.
e. Students are expected to participate fully in class exercises and workshops.
f. Students will be expected to work in class with a partner.
g. Be prepared to wear lose clothing, something you can move in without being restricted.

V. EXAMINATIONS

A. None

VI. Semester Grade Computations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90-100=A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monologue</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80-89=B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Duet Scene</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70-79=C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Duet Scene</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60-69=D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Entries</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>59 or below=F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehearsal Critiques</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. NOTES & ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. Withdrawal from course: If a student is unable to continue in the class, it is his/her responsibility to properly withdraw.
B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** Students may be administratively withdrawn from the class when their absentees exceed a total of four (4) class meetings in a sixteen week semester. Three times tardy will count as one absence.

C. **Incomplete Grade:** The college catalogue states, “an incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work, but, because of personal illness, death in the family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete all the requirements for the course… It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor…to complete the course and change the “I” grade within the specified time.”

D. **Make-ups:** The student will be present and on time for all presentations & exams. If unusual circumstances or emergencies should occur and you are required to be absent from class on a due date, special arrangements should be made with the instructor.

E. **The Final Exam** (final duet scene) will be administered on the scheduled day and time as published in the schedule bulletin unless noted otherwise.

F. **Topic Approval:** topics chosen by the student for each assignment must be approved by the instructor.

G. **Return of Graded Assignments:** the instructor will return written feedback on scenes after all scenes are completed.

H. **Grading:** grading is highly subjective in theatre courses due to the artistic nature. Demonstrating teamwork, ethics (on time, meeting your commitments, etc.) are essential to the process.

I. **Audience Behavior:** being a good audience member and team player is essential to understanding the nature of theatre. Please do not enter or exit the room during performances.

J. **Tardy:** Students are expected to arrive on time. If you are tardy check with the instructor at the end of class for missed important announcements. 3 times tardy equal 1 class absence. Only four absences are allowed during a sixteen-week semester.

K. **Disability Support Services** provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support) for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

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**VIII. CLASSROOM GROUND RULES**
1. All discussions of your grade including assignments, attendance, tardiness, etc. should take place during office hours.

2. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, & other devices.

3. Although we are in an auditorium, proper classroom practices will be the student’s responsibility. Please do not leave the room during class. If you must leave, leave quietly. Do not allow the classroom doors to slam! Occasionally, you are given breaks--utilize these wisely and return promptly! If you should return from break after the agreed upon time you will be counted tardy.

4. NO FOOD OR BEVERAGE IN CLASS!

5. READ YOUR SYLLABUS! This is the first item I turn to when I am trying to help you with the class.

6. The classroom is an inappropriate place for children.

7. Student guests are NOT allowed during rehearsal periods in the auditorium. However, feel free to invite friends and family during the scheduled performances if the class votes with a majority to do so.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE

General Learning Activities:
- Instructor lecture & demonstration
- Class discussion
- Reading assignments
- Vocal & Physical team warm-ups
- Ensemble exercises
- Some rehearsal
- Scene performance
- Critical analysis
- Texas Core Curriculum specific assignments (addressing the four required Creative Arts objectives): Communication, Critical Thinking, Teamwork and Social Responsibility will be evaluated through various assignments that will be graded with a rubric.

1. Unit One: Basic Skills and Technique
   a. Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic nature and technique of acting. (D) Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of theater. (A) Analyze scripts from the viewpoint of the actor.
   b. Activities:
      i. Lecture
      ii. Vocal exercises: projection, enunciation, pronunciation, interpretation, timing
iii. Voice interpretation for Scene
iv. Lecture workshop & rehearsal
v. Scene performance
vi. Critical analysis
c. **Outline:**
   i. Fundamentals of theatre etiquette
   ii. Introduction to acting
   iii. Theatre improv games
   iv. Monologue viewing
   v. Monologue selection
   vi. Monologue performance and critique
   vii. Text analysis

2. **Unit Two: Tools, Workings with another Actor & Playing the Action**
   a. **Learning Outcome:** Students will identify and utilize the voice and body as interpretive instruments. (D) Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of theater. (A) Analyze scripts from the viewpoint of the actor. (B) Analyze, develop, and perform a character. (C) Demonstrate effective and safe use of the voice and body. (E) Perform at an appropriately skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes and final projects, which may include participation in plays.
   b. **Activities:**
      i. Lecture
      ii. Acting warm-ups
      iii. Vocal exercises: projection, enunciation, pronunciation, interpretation, timing
      iv. Voice interpretation for Scene
      v. Lecture workshop & rehearsal
      vi. Scene performance & critique
      vii. Critical analysis
c. **Outline:**
      i. Text analysis review
      ii. Introduction to vocal training
      iii. Vocal exercises
      iv. Components of projection
      v. Individual voice
      vi. The body as an interpretive instrument
      vii. Physical warm-ups
      viii. Stage movement
      ix. Character and the body
      x. Integrating the actor’s voice to the character (modern scene work)

3. **Unit Three: The Collaborative Art of Theatre**
   a. **Learning Outcomes:** Students will identify and practice the usefulness and difficulty of director/actor collaboration. (D) Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of theater. (A) Analyze scripts
from the viewpoint of the actor. (B) Analyze, develop, and perform a character. (C) Demonstrate effective and safe use of the voice and body. (E) Perform at an appropriately skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes and final projects, which may include participation in plays.

b. Activities:
   i. Lecture
   ii. Acting warm-ups
   iii. Ensemble work
   iv. 10 min scene selection
   v. Rehearsal
   vi. Performance

c. Outline:
   vii. Text analysis review
   viii. Composition, blocking, staging techniques
   ix. Integrating skills into scene work
   x. Critical analysis