CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR DRAMA 1351
ACTING I

Semester Credit Hours: 3

INSTRUCTOR: ________________________________
OFFICE HOURS: ________________________________

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Acting II involves exploration and further training within the basic principles and tools of acting, including an emphasis on critical analysis of oneself and others. The tools include ensemble performing, character and script analysis, and basic theater terminology. This will continue the exploration of 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 and director.
B. Analyze, develop, and perform a character.
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

A. Recommended Texts: (most of the following texts can be found online)

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Greek Monologue: each student will prepare a monologue from a classical Greek play that explores a quality not covered during their coursework in Acting I or equivalent classroom experience. Memorization and text analysis will be checked.

B. Shakespearean Duet Scene: each student will cooperate with a partner and be expected to have their iambic pentameter duet prepared at the assigned time. Memorization and text analysis will be checked.

C. Analysis/Preview/Directed Scene: (in lieu of a Final Exam) each student will be required to analyze a play and turn that analysis in on the due date. Along with the basic “Hodge” analysis, the student must be prepared to turn in a one page summary of the entire analysis that indicates what they should be staging as directors, a one page quick sketch ground plan including as much information as possible and a copy of their ten-minute play with the action units marked and labeled. Each student
will act as Director. Students will be responsible for casting their scenes from the in-class auditions. There will be two previews; one informal and one formal (graded) of the ongoing work during the period of this assignment. Lastly, each student will be expected to prepare for the final presentation (graded) of these scenes which will include an updated copy of the revised “Hodge” analysis.

You should begin searching for your directed scene ASAP.

D. Performance Critiques: 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.

E. 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 aggressively reduced as this will cause your performance to be pushed up to the next available day and have repercussions for the entire class. Bottom-line, be here on the day of your performance.

F. Projects: all class projects must be completed and turned in on time. Students are expected to bring all necessary materials to class.

G. Class Participation: Students are expected to practice the following guidelines to ensure positive class participation:

1. Students are expected to attend every class, be on time, and remain throughout the class.
2. 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.
3. Students are expected to maintain civility, courtesy, and scholastic honesty.
4. Students are expected to participate fully in class exercises and workshops.
5. Students will be expected to work in class with a partner.
6. Be prepared to wear lose clothing, something you can move in without being restricted.
7. Be prepared to read, and read some more, you cannot find appropriate acting material without reading plays!
8. Remember, you are setting an example for the Acting I students. If you are professional in your manner and precise in your technique, you will find success and so will they!

V. EXAMINATIONS

A. None
VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS:

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 absences 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 (directed 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.

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

A. Lesson One: Acting in the modern style

1. Learning Outcome: Upon successful completion of this unit the student will demonstrate an understanding for the modern style of acting. The student will also develop and present a modern duet scene.

2. Learning Activities:
   a. Instructor lecture & demonstration
   b. Class discussion
   c. Reading assignments:
   d. Vocal warm ups
   e. Ensemble exercises

   (C1, C3, C5, C6, C7, C9, C10, C12, C14, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)

3. Equipment & Materials:
   warm up outfit

4. Audio Visual Aids:
   as appropriate

5. Lesson Outline:

   a. Stanislavski method
   b. Concentration is Relaxation
   c. Trusting your ensemble
   d. Duet Feedback & viewing
   e. Duet selection
   f. Character analysis
   g. Critical analysis

B. Lesson Two: Shakespeare & presentational/representational acting

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the learner will demonstrate a basic understanding of acting style utilized during Shakespeare’s period. The student will also develop and perform a Shakespearean scene.
2. **Learning Activities:**

   a. Instructor lecture & demonstration  
   b. Class discussion  
   c. Reading assignments:  
   d. Vocal exercises: projection, enunciation, pronunciation, interpretation, timing  
   e. Voice interpretation for duet  
   f. Rehearsal  
   g. Duet performance  
   h. Critical analysis

   (C1, C3, C5, C6, C7, C9, C10, C12, C14, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)

3. **Equipment & Materials:**

   *as needed for production*

4. **Audio Visual Aids:**

   *transparencies, videos, etc. as appropriate*

5. **Lesson Outline:**

   a. Vocal exercises  
   b. Components of projection  
   c. Blank verse  
   d. Shakespeare’s characters  
   e. Using the verse  
   f. Duet rehearsal  
   g. Duet performance & feedback

C. **Lesson Three**: Understanding and implementing the role of the Director

1. **Learning Outcomes**: Upon successful completion of this unit the learner will demonstrate an understanding for the interaction and relationship between Director and Actor.

2. **Learning Activities:**

   a. Instructor lecture  
   b. Class discussion  
   c. Reading assignments  
   d. Acting warm-ups  
   e. Ensemble work  
   f. Scene selection  
   g. Rehearsal  
   h. Performance  
   i. Analysis
3. **Equipment & materials**
   
   *as necessary*

4. **Audio-Visuels**
   
   *as necessary*

5. **Lesson Outline:**

   a. Physical warm-ups
   b. Stage movement
   c. The analysis
   d. Guided rehearsals
   e. Comedy of Manners
   f. Scene performance & rehearsal
   g. Critical analysis & feedback

(C1, C3, C5, C6, C7, C9, C10, C12, C14, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)