



DRAM 1351-140CL-7504

Acting I

Fall 2023

Tuesday / Thursday 11:00am – 12:20pm / Studio Theatre

Instructor Information: H. Russ Brown – hrussbrown@com.edu - 409-833-9544

Student hours and location: Mon/Wed 9am-Noon and Tues/Thurs 8am-9:15am or by appointment.

Required Textbook/Materials: NO TEXT REQUIRED. Must have a COMPOSITION BOOK instead for Journaling and Course Work. Due for a Grade by 3rd Class. You will not be considered present in class if you do not bring your composition book.

Course Description: This course provides study with practical experience in problems of creating dramatically effective characterizations through an emphasis on developing vocal and physical acting techniques. *Prerequisite: CPT Reading 46.*

Course requirements:

1. Full participation and regular attendance in class
2. Satisfactory completion of all graded assignments on the date due
3. Attendance at COM Theatre productions of MISERY, PETER & WENDY, and ON THE AIR!

“I GET TO...”s :

Daily Explorations

Mid-Term Test – Acting Vocabulary: There will be a written test covering the Actor’s Vocabulary.

Projects: You will present multiple monologues and scenes (with a partner from class) taken from a full-length play. These must be memorized by assigned memorization deadlines. Although we will dedicate in-class time to rehearsing the scenes, you may certainly want to work on these scenes with your partners outside class. Be sure to get contact information from your partners.

****Final Project: “Evening of Scenes”** will be presented on Tuesday, Dec. 5th at 7pm in the Studio Theatre / Call time is 6pm**

Attend all COM Theatre Fall Productions: THE BEST WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN, BOY GETS GIRL, 10 WAYS TO SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE, and THE SWEET SCIENCE OF BRUISING. You are required to attend these plays. In the week following the close of the play, we will discuss the play as a class.

Attendance and Participation in the discussions are mandatory and counted for a completion grade. Admission to COM Theatre productions is FREE to All COM students, faculty and staff. As part of this class, you will be allowed to bring a guest for FREE. There is no need to make a reservation. Your name will be on a list in the Box Office. In order to get credit for attending you MUST check in at the Box Office and say you are in H. Russ Brown's ACTING I Class.

- **THE BEST WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN – Mainstage Theatre – Sept. 7th thru 24th
- **BOY GETS GIRL – COMlab Studio Theatre – Oct. 20th & 21st (two nights only!)
- **10 WAYS TO SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE - COMlab Studio Theatre – Oct. 27th & 28th (two nights only!)
- ** THE SWEET SCIENCE OF BRUISING – Mainstage Theatre – Nov. 2nd thru 19th

All performances run Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:00pm and Sundays at 2:30pm.

Test – Acting Vocabulary: There will be a written test covering the Actor's Vocabulary.

Projects: You will present multiple monologues and scenes (with a partner from class) taken from a full-length play. These must be memorized by assigned memorization deadlines. Although we will dedicate in-class time to rehearsing the scenes, you may certainly want to work on these scenes with your partners outside class. Be sure to get contact information from your partners.

Scripts: If you wish, you may borrow scripts for your scenes and monologues if I have them. You must return or replace all scripts whether you drop the class or not by the end of the semester. If you do not return the script, a hold will be put on your account and you will not be allowed to enroll in classes, receive grades or obtain transcripts until the script is returned or replaced.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: Your grade is based on participation, attitude, effort, attendance, growth and completion of assignments. It not based on your "talent" as an actor.

Here's how the **grading breaks down:**

Attendance/participation	30%
Play discussions	20%
Midterm Test	10%
Weekly Projects	20%
Final Project	20%

The **grading scale** is as follows:

90 – 100 =	A
80 – 89 =	B
70 – 79 =	C
65 – 69 =	D
64 - below =	F

COM Theatre Performance Classes – GRADING CRITERIA

A – Clear, grounded choices; application of learned skills; clear, interesting tactics; obvious growth; vital connection to partner; truly alive in imaginary circumstances.

B – evidence of thorough preparation; objective and tactic work definite but uneven; some growth; good concentration.

C – solid memorization; evidence of some preparation; attempts at tactic work; reliance on ability over technique.

D – uneven memorization; inadequate preparation; lack of application of learned skills.

F – lack of preparation; irresponsibility/no focus to scene partner.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Satisfactory completion of all graded assignments on the date due – you may not make up a missed or late assignment unless approved in advance of the original due date. There is no extra credit.

Attendance Policy: This is a performance class preparing you for the professional “industry”, not a lecture class – there is no performance without your physical presence in class. Absences in excess of three (3) classes over the course of the semester will lower the final grade by one letter grade. Excessive tardies (every 3 tardies) will equal additional absences. Because your scene partner relies on you for his own grade, participation is of the utmost importance.

Students who are absent or who present behavioral issues that affect the work of other students may be withdrawn from the class at my discretion. In addition to your own in-class presentations, you will be required to give constructive feedback to your classmates’ work.

Tardies: Excessive tardies (every 3 tardies) will equal additional absences.

**** EARLY is “On Time”, On Time is Late, and Late is FIRED. ****

Class Rules:

1. No food, gum permitted in class. ALL DRINKS must be in capped, plastic bottles.
2. The Rules of Theatre Etiquette must be observed at ALL TIMES.
3. Cell phones MUST BE OFF for the duration of the class period – NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Please be respectful of your classmates by refraining from engaging in private conversation when we are having a class/group discussion, or when a performance is in progress.
5. NO Flip Flops, House Shoes or Open-Toed Shoes are permitted in class.
6. NO Restrictive Clothing is permitted in class.

A Word about BOUNDARIES:

At COM Theatre we strive to champion a professional atmosphere of non-judgmental inclusion, open communication, and enthusiastic consent so that all involved can feel free to be a pro-active participant in their own artistic growth. It is crucial that you gain an ever-evolving awareness of your own personal boundaries, so that you may teach those boundaries to us – in order to assure the personal comfort and safety of yourself, your partners and the ensemble. Please feel free to inform instructors of any physical or emotional limitations that may hinder your performance of any techniques/material presented in class so that they may be appropriately adapted.

In performance-oriented classroom or production situations, it may sometimes be necessary during the use of techniques and exercises for the Instructor/Director to interact physically with students or for students to interact physically with one another. This is part of the learning process, and any contact is intended to be professional and clinical in nature. If at any time a student is uncomfortable with the idea or the practice of that physical contact, the student will be given an opportunity to voice their concern and the need for adaptation will immediately be respected without fear of reprisal, reprimand or dismissal.

How to SUCCEED in this Class and in your Art:

- ✓ Play! Imagine! Get to know yourself!
- ✓ Breath and creative impulses are everything as you learn technique. Don't ignore them!
- ✓ Embracing the spirit of exploration will take you to exciting new places.
- ✓ Focused attention to detail should coincide with a continual desire to own your innate power, beauty, and imagination.
- ✓ In other words, Never be in denial of your own GREATNESS!

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Script Analysis - Analyze scripts from the viewpoint of the actor.	Communication, Critical Thinking, Cultural Awareness	Daily work, scene study and actor lab work
2. Character performance - Analyze, develop, and effectively perform a character.	Communication, Critical Thinking, Teamwork, Creativity	Daily work, scene study and actor lab work and scene and monologue performance
3. Voice and Body use - Demonstrate effective and safe use of the voice and body.	Communication, Critical Thinking, Teamwork, Creativity,	Daily work, scene study and actor lab work and scene and monologue performance
4. Theatre Vocabulary - Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of the theatre.	Communication, Critical Thinking, Teamwork	Daily work, scene study and actor lab work and scene and monologue performance
5. Performance Skills - Perform at an appropriately skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes and final projects, which may include participation in plays.	Communication, Critical Thinking, Teamwork, Creativity	Daily work, scene study and actor project scene and monologue performance.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Paul Boyd, Fine Arts Chair, at pboyd@com.edu or 409-933-8342.

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 11. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 7.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.