



DRAM 1351.140C3

ACTING I

Fall 2025

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

Instructor Information: Michael McIntosh, mmcintosh2@com.edu, 409-933-8626

Student hours and location: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00am-9:30am; Wednesday 9:00am-11:00am; Friday 12:00-2:00, and by appointment

Required Textbook/Materials: You will need to acquire and/or possibly purchase plays from which you will perform scenes and monologues. You will also have to copy and/or scan and print your scenes..

Dress as for a professional rehearsal situation. Dress comfortably in simple clothes meant for movement. Clothing should not be restrictive or baggy. Nothing you wouldn't want to roll around on the ground in.

Course Description: An introduction to the fundamental principles and tools of acting as used in auditions, rehearsals, and performances. This may include ensemble performing, character and script analysis, and basic theater terminology. This exploration will emphasize the development of the actor's instrument: voice, body and imagination. Prerequisite: CPT Reading 46.

Since this is a practical course and the ultimate utilization of the study of acting is to become a professional and work in some aspect of the business, this course will also have the goal of helping the student understand the nature and realities of this career path.

Course requirements:

1. Full participation and regular attendance in class
2. Satisfactory completion of all graded assignments on the date due
3. Reaction papers of the COM Theatre productions of

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
September 4-21, 2025

The Thanksgiving Play
Oct. 25-26

Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play
Oct. 30-Nov. 16, 2025

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.

Your learning is my principal concern, so I may modify the schedule if it will facilitate your learning. We may discover that we want to spend more time on certain topics and less time on others.

Audition monologue (10%)
Headshot and Resume (5%)
Daily Assignments (50%)
Scene 1 (10%)
Scene 2 (15%)
Responses to COM productions (10%)

Rubric

	5-Outstanding: Highest caliber for Acting I student 4-Strong: Work of high caliber; continue to work on ways to improve 3-proficient: Work is acceptable for but not strong 2-Needs Significant improvement 1-Not Acceptable: Requires rethinking and reworking	5	4	3	2	1
Character Choices (grounded & creative)						
Objectives & Obstacles (strong & committed)						
Honest Emotions (truthful, not indicated)						
Focus (listening to partner, working from partner)						
Physicality (appropriate for character)						

Any lack of preparation – forgetting lines, not reading the script, no objective/given circumstances and others will result in a two letter-grade drop for that assignment.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Assignments must be completed on the date due. Make-up or late work is only accepted if arranged with the instructor before the original due date, except in documented emergencies. Approved late work may receive a grade reduction at the instructor’s discretion. Unapproved late work will receive a zero.

Attendance Policy: This is a performance-based class designed to prepare you for the professional world, where your presence matters. Unlike lecture classes, we cannot recreate group exercises or scene work without you in the room.

- You are allowed up to three absences over the semester without penalty, regardless of reason, except for documented emergencies approved by the instructor.
- Missing a performance day or major presentation counts as two absences.
- Each additional absence lowers your final grade by one letter.
- Arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving early without approval will count as an absence.
- Every three tardies equals one absence.

Attendance is tied to daily points. Missed classes mean missed points.

Active participation is a key part of your grade. In addition to performing your own work, you'll be expected to offer constructive, respectful feedback to your classmates. Repeated absences, behavioral disruptions, or anything that interferes with your work, or the work of your peers, may result in withdrawal from the course at the instructor's discretion.

Tardies:

Three tardies equal one absence.

Tardiness is defined as "failure to be sitting down, paying attention, and materials out and ready at the moment class starts". Please treat this class like a rehearsal. You should be ready to work at the start of class. Emphasis is laid upon: rushing into the room AS CLASS STARTS – that counts as tardy, leaving the room immediately after class starts to fill your water bottle, use the restroom, get coffee – that will count as tardy.

EARLY is "On Time", On Time is LATE, and Late is FIRED

Atmosphere:

1. No food, gum permitted in class. All drinks must be in capped, plastic bottles.
2. 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.
3. Cell phones must be off for the duration of the class period.

Subject Advisory:

This class may explore student picked scenes, plays, films, and visual art that some may find controversial and "politically incorrect" with adult language, subject matter, and sexuality. Artistic subject matter will not be censored; however, you are not required to participate in or watch anything you may find offensive.

Boundaries:

At COM Theatre, we want our classroom to feel safe, welcoming, and respectful so everyone can take creative risks and grow together. In this movement class, you will often work closely with your classmates, which will include physical contact. This might happen during partner exercises, group work, or when the instructor offers physical adjustments to help with alignment or technique. These moments are always meant to support your learning and will be handled with care and professionalism.

Your comfort and boundaries matter. If something doesn't feel right, whether it's physical, emotional, or just a gut reaction, please let your instructor and/or classmate know. We'll listen, adjust, and support you without judgment or penalty or an alternate exercise will be provided so you can continue meeting course goals.

Open communication and mutual respect help us build the kind of ensemble where everyone can thrive.

How to Succeed in This Class (and in Your Professional Theatre Career):

1. **Show Up Ready to Play and Explore:** This class is all about engaging your body, voice, and imagination. Give yourself the freedom to be curious and take risks.
2. **Embrace Mistakes:** Try new things, mess up, and try again. Growth comes from experimenting with new ideas, especially the unconventional ones.
3. **Stay Focused and Be Authentic:** Your creativity is what sets your work apart. Stay true to yourself and your unique perspective.
4. **Trust Your Place Here:** Even if it feels intimidating at first, remember that you belong. You have more potential within you than you might realize, and this is a safe space to uncover it.

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).

Texas Objectives for Core Courses:

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this assignment
Analyze scripts from the viewpoint of the actor.	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills	Daily work, scenes and actor monologue performance

Analyze, develop, and perform a character.	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork	Daily work, scenes and actor monologue performance
Demonstrate effective and safe use of the voice and body.	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility	Daily work, scenes and actor monologue performance
Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of theater.	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork	Daily work, scenes and actor monologue performance
Perform at an appropriately skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes and final projects, which may include participation in plays.	Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Teamwork	

Academic Dishonesty: Disciplinary actions will be taken for students who exhibit disorderly conduct, cheat on exams, submit plagiarized work (see below), or are involved in collusion (helping others cheat or plagiarize) as defined in the Student Handbook under the heading, “Discipline and Penalties.” The maximum penalty imposed for violations will be an F in the course. The student will also be referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. Please read through the “Standards of Student Conduct” in the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of these issues and your rights and responsibilities.

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 Dr. Kristina Jantz, Fine Arts Department Chair, at 409-933-8255 or kjantz@com.edu.

Course outline:

Daily Points: We will work on a daily point system. There are 29 class sessions. A student may earn up to six points per class for work done in class. Daily work counts for 50% of your grade. To earn full daily points, you must:

- Arrive on time and stay for the full class
- Be dressed appropriately for movement
- Participate fully in exercises and group work
- Offer constructive feedback to classmates
- Maintain focus and respect during others’ performances

Much of the work in this class is assigned and completed during class time. The essence of the study of acting is working effectively with others and taking risks and challenges during class. If you aren't in class, it's difficult for you to learn effectively, difficult for me to help you, and it makes it difficult for your scene partner to learn. There is no effective way to make up a missed day.

Improper attire, tardiness, or disengagement (including use of phone or laptop) will lower your daily points. If you have a personal boundary and opt out of a physical exercise, you must complete an approved alternate assignment by the next class meeting to earn daily points. Alternate assignments will be clearly defined and graded for effort, detail, and application to course goals. Unfinished or minimal work will receive reduced or no credit.

Scene 1:

Each student will work with a partner to prepare and perform a 3-5 minute scene from a published stage play (not from a movie, television show, or an unvetted script found online.) The scene must be memorized, rehearsed, and staged with clear objectives, actions, and given circumstances. Both partners must bring a printed copy of the approved scene to class with their own lines and cues clearly marked. All scenes must be approved by the instructor before rehearsal begins. *Additional requirements will be given in class.*

Scene 2:

Each student will work with a partner to prepare and perform a 5-7 minute scene from a published stage play (not from a movie, television show, or an unvetted script found online.) The scene must be memorized, rehearsed, and staged with clear objectives, actions, and given circumstances. Both partners must bring a printed copy of the approved scene to class with their own lines and cues clearly marked. All scenes must be approved by the instructor before rehearsal begins. *Additional requirements will be given in class.*

Audition Monologue

A 60 second, fully memorized speech from a published stage play that fits your age range, personality, and casting type, and is appropriate for professional theatre auditions. *Additional requirements will be given in class.*

Headshot & Resume Requirements:

Submit a recent, high-quality 8"x10" headshot with your name printed on the front. Attach a one-page resume in current professional theatre format, suitable for professional auditions. *Additional requirements will be given in class.*

Responses to COM productions:

Requirements will be discussed in class

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/student-handbook.html> *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 accommodation(s) is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14.

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.

FN grade may be issued if a student has missed more than 25% of classes or has failed to complete major assignments without withdrawal.

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement: The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.