



DRAM-1351-140CL
Acting 1
Spring 2022, Fine Arts-Bldg #3, Room 117
Mondays and Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-10:50 a.m.

Instructor Information:

Name: Ashley Love
Email: alove2@com.edu
Phone: 409-933-3792

Student hours and location:

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.-11:50 p.m., or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., or by appointment in-person or virtual. To make an appointment with me, please visit <https://calendly.com/ashleylove>



Required Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course. You must have a composition book instead for journaling and course work. Due by the third class day.

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.*

Attendance at representative plays is required.

Course requirements (including description of any special projects or assignments):

Daily Engagement/Attendance	30%	The grading scale is as follows: 90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 65 – 69 = D 64 - below = F
Play Attendance and Discussions (3)	10%	
Performance Exercises (3)	15%	
Monologue	15%	
Journals (4)	10%	
Final Project (scenes)	20%	

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: Your grade is based on your individual participation, engagement, attitude, effort, attendance, growth, and completion of

assignments. It is not based on your “talent” as an actor. Everyone will be challenged according to their current skill level with the understanding that this is a basic, introductory course.

Projects: You will present multiple performance projects (individual and partnered). You will be given class time to rehearse, but it is expected that you will work on these scenes with your partners and on your own outside of class. Be sure to get your partners’ contact information. Specific exercise and performance handouts will be shared later in the semester.

Required Play Attendance: You must see a performance of each of the COM Theatre productions: *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman, *Godspell* by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michel Tebelak, and *Let the Right One In* by Jack Thorne. You may see any preview or regular performance free of charge and you are welcome to bring a guest. There is no need to make a reservation. Your name will be on a list with the Box Office. To get credit for attending you **MUST** say you are in Ashley Love’s Theatre Class and sign next to your name. At the end of the semester, we will discuss the acting.

The Laramie Project: Feb 18- 20th (no box office, just show up)

Godspell: March 24th-April 10th

Let the Right One In : May 12th-29th

All performances run Thursdays – Saturdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 2:30pm.

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

Engagement Clarifications and Grading:

The most important part of this class is showing up to the class. The in-class lectures and activities are the major tool for learning this craft. The student artist’s questions and input are imperative to the learning process.

The student will receive an engagement grade for each class period on a point scale from “0” (lowest) to “5” (highest). These will add up to form the student’s Engagement grade for the semester. If absent, the grade is a “0” for the day. 5=A, 4=B, 3=C, 2=D, 1=F, 0=absent.

Engagement is not about simply going through the motions of “participation,” but requires you to be alert, prepared, and collaborative. To receive a 5 for the day, please offer either 2 questions or statements about the work in class. You can always email your comments or questions to the instructor should you wish to not speak out loud.

Attendance Policy: Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed **two (2)** absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one

absence. Please arrive on time. If you do not feel well, do not come to class. If you have extenuating circumstances that affect your ability to follow these policies, you need to speak with the instructor BEFORE being late or absent. If you are impacted by COVID, communicate with your instructor as soon as you are able, and modifications/accommodations will be worked out.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Satisfactory completion of all graded assignments on the due date—you may not make up a missed or late assignment unless approved in advance of the original date. Performances cannot be made up. Extra Credit-students may attend a rehearsal with the instructor of one of the productions, remain the full time, and write a one-page synopsis over your observations and what you learned about acting due the following week.

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.

Content Disclosure

Courses within COM Theatre deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, value judgements, violence, or blasphemy. As the course is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the course’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course or speak with the instructor immediately.

Class Rules:

1. No food, gum permitted in class. ALL DRINKS must be in capped, plastic bottles.
2. COM policy states that there is no such thing as a “permitted number of absences.” If you aren’t going to be in class, there’s no need to inform me because the reason doesn’t change anything.
3. The Rules of Theatre Etiquette must be observed at ALL TIMES.
4. Cell phones MUST BE OFF for the duration of the class period – NO EXCEPTIONS.

5. 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.
6. GYM APPROPRIATE SHOES ONLY - NO Street Shoes, Flip Flops, House Shoes or Open-Toed Shoes are permitted in class.
7. NO Restrictive Clothing is permitted in class. You must be free to move and free of self-consciousness in your clothing.

Civility in the Classroom

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Higher Education is challenging, and new to many of you. We are also in an unprecedented time, and many of you are facing difficult circumstances. We will discuss subjective works of art and the contexts in which they are created. Differences of opinion are welcomed and encouraged, but respect towards everyone in the classroom at all times is the expectation.

In the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting. In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department head who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class. If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Office of Student Conduct.

Children in the Classroom

I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. Please know that your parenthood status is also protected by Title IX. While I maintain the same high expectations for all students in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem-solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom.

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.

TRIGGER WARNINGS: The job of the theatre artist is to truthfully poeticize life. Often the content of the material in the theatre artist's work deals with life issues that may reflect personal experiences similar to that of the artist. Learning to maintain a professional attitude and instill self-care are essential tools to develop to maintain a healthy balance with the work and life. If the work in class feels activating and/or triggering, the following is some vocabulary to help you in those moments:

- Please say, "Button" or Double-Clap
- Please say, "I feel activated, please give me a moment."
- In the moment, please check in with yourself, if it works for your boundaries to use what you are feeling that is up to you.
- If you need support beyond the instructor abilities, the instructor will support you in receiving support.

The student is encouraged to seek out the appropriate support when subjects in the classroom, rehearsal, or performance feel difficult to balance. The student actor is encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor when and if the student is having this experience. The instructor will guide you to the appropriate resources on campus. The instructor will also consider making assignment accommodations if needed.

To make an appointment at the Counseling Center: counseling@com.edu

COM ULifeline Mental Health resources for students: <http://www.ulifeline.org/com>

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 Blackboard or other LMS). DO NOT USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO MESSAGE ME ABOUT CLASS.

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 H. Russ Brown, Director of Theatre, at 409-933-8544 or hussbrown@com.edu. If you do not feel comfortable with speaking with the head of our program, you can then contact the Chair of Fine Arts, Dr. Paul Boyd, at 409-933-8342 or pboyd@com.edu.

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!

Course Outline:

This outline is subject to change during the semester. Students will be notified immediately of any changes and will be given the appropriate time and accommodations in the event of those changes.

Week 1-Introductions, What is Acting

- Preparing to Act and discuss 2-minute exercise

Week 2-Physical sense memory and immediacy, composition book due

- Blocking using the 4th wall

Week 3-2 Minute Exercise Performances

- Acting the with “other” and discuss Endowment Exercise, Journal #1 due in class

Week 4- Goals and Obstacles

- Tactics and Expectations

Week 5- Discuss Monologues and Monologue assignment

- Intimacy Choreography

Week 6- Conditioning Forces

- Endowment Exercise Performances

Week 7- Movement and Discuss 3 Entrances Exercise, Journal #2 due in class

- The actor’s voice, Monologue Selection on BB

Week 8-Walking, Talking, and Thinking

- 3 Entrances Exercise and discuss GOTE

Spring Break March 13-18th

Week 9-Monologue In-class guided rehearsals round 1, *Everyone must be off-book**Week 10-**Monologue In-class guided rehearsals round 2**Week 11-**Monologue Performances, GOTE sheet for monologues due in class or on BB

- Discuss Final Project Scenes and rehearsal etiquette, Journal #3 due

Week 12- script scoring

- In class final scene rehearsals with partner

Week 13- In class guided rehearsals round 1**Week 14-** In class guided rehearsals round 2, *Everyone must be off-book**Week 15-** In class scene rehearsal, Final Evening of Scenes-call time is 6PM

- Discussion about final scenes

Week 16- Improv Acting, Journal #4 due

- Stage Combat

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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.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. https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement: Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

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 March 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 25. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 4.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N 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 F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N 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.

COVID-19 Statement: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland’s Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with [Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order](#), face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.