

**“The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the object it loves.”**

**Carl Jung**

**DRAMA 202-01: FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING I**

**Spring 2015**

**MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m**

**Room: 117 Performance Studio/Stage**

**Instructor:** Yohance Myles

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**Office:** Room 112 Rose E. McCoy

**Office Hours:** MWF 2-4pm; Tues. & Thurs. 1-3pm.

**Number:** (601) 979-1357 **Main Office:** (601) 979-2426

**Textbook:**

**Acting One** by Robert Cohen

**Suggested Films:** Frankie & Alice; Locke; The Others; and/or films recommended by the professor.

**Materials:** *Students must purchase a journal log to record and keep documentation of assignments and individual growth during progression of class.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Basic training in voice, movement, and improvisation to enhance the beginning actor's understanding and artistic growth.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The fundamental of acting class is based on a series of exercises, improvisation, and assignments structured in order for the student actor to work ***“in the moment”*** and develop spontaneous and imaginative performance skills. The goal is to lead the ensemble toward listening, ***Being***, and action skills. There will be a special focus upon ***“being in the moment”***, reacting, and creating choices based upon partnership with someone in a scene or exercise. The training tools in this class will readily prepare actors in how to read plays, bring truth in action (strong vs. weak actions), and apply actions to obstacles presented in a given moment of truth.

From participating in the course the student will:

- Understand the basic fundamentals of creating, analyzing, comprehending, applying, integrating, and critiquing acting in a theatrical space.
- Learn to focus concentration.
- Develop spontaneous and imaginative performance skills (while learning to build a sense of ensemble);
- Work through a series of exercises designed to establish relationships, strengthen sensory recall and the ability to communicate memories, details and emotions through responses to objects, characters, situations and the environment.
- Improve expressing physically and vocally (and focused) on/off stage.
- Understand what it means to listen to an acting partner and react to them within the confines of a theatrical situation (to react truthfully in the moment).
- Have a basic understanding of character relationships and status.
- Develop creativity, self-confidence and decision-making skills.
- Possess at least one audition monologue.

#### **METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION & GRADING SCALE**

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
<b><u>The Actors Art</u></b>	<u>200</u>	A = 900-1600
<b><u>Body &amp; Voice</u></b>	<u>200</u>	B = 800-889
<b><u>Text &amp; Imagination</u></b>	<u>200</u>	C = 700-799
<b><u>Actors Performance</u></b>	<u>200</u>	D = 600-699
<b><u>Midterm Exam</u> (Monologue/Duo)</b>	100	
<b><u>Play Report</u></b>	150	
<b><u>Departmental Production</u></b>	200	
<b><u>Daily Participation</u></b>	200	
<b><u>Journals &amp; Article Reports</u></b>	200	
<b><u>Final Exam</u> (Auto Drama/Duo scene)</b>	150	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1700</b>	

**Method of Course Evaluation:** Jackson State University Student Instructional Rating System (SIRS) and Instructor evaluations.

**Caveat:** The professor may make additional assignments throughout the course and/or provide an opportunity for the student to earn extra credit points.

**\*\* Grading: Some assignments are based on the following formula.  $100 = (\text{Round } (100/\text{Questions}) * \text{Wrong})$**

<b>DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS</b>
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<b>The Actors Art</b>	
	The students will focus on the awareness, appreciation, and experience of acting through a series of exercises involving Being, Meisner work, Stanislavsky, Hogan and other acting tools that increases knowledge and a sense of professional training skills.
<b>Body &amp; Voice</b>	
	Students will engage in games and exercises that introduce fundamental tools of vocal and physical expression and development with a goal to create a concise physical and vocal preparation/warm up for present and future endeavors.
<b>Text &amp; Imagination</b>	
	Students will engage in games and exercises that introduce fundamental tools for stimulating and developing expressive creative impulses with a goal to create a foundation for enhanced interpersonal communication and basic actor process. This section will also serve as a foundation for understanding, appreciating and exploring the substance of dramatic text. Includes cold reading.
<b>Actors Performance</b>	
	Overall performance of application and explorations of all tools listed above to create a performance of selected monolog and short scene material.
<b>Mid-term Exam</b>	
	The mid-term will be a <i><b>monologue/duo</b></i> in which the student will present their work in front of the class and other spectators. The instructor will evaluate the scene. There will be specific requirements given in advance about the criteria for this <b>mid-term</b> assignment.
<b>Play Report</b>	
	Students are required to attend the departmental production and write a <b>2-3</b> page typed report about the production. The production must include a playbill/program with ticket stub. See guidelines for report details.
<b>Departmental Production</b>	
	Students are required to attend the departmental spring production to mature them as students and art advocates. Must attend to receive points.

<b>Journals &amp; Article Reports.</b>	
	<p>Students will be required to keep a written journal of discoveries/explorations during the progression of the class this semester. This journal must include copies all materials presented and any vital sources of information that is either presented or given to you by the professor. All entries must be hand written and legible for the professor to read and understand. ** Note. Please make a folder or some sort of file to keep up with progress. Work given to the professor at the end of the semester must be presentable in evaluating your grade. <b><i>This journal is very important so please keep up with accurate work. The instructor will do a random check with students throughout the semester to see the progress of students' journals. Do not take this assignment lightly.</i></b></p>
<b>Daily Participation</b>	
	<p>Students will be expected to participate in all class discussions and ensemble exercises with a positive and empathetic energy towards individual and team building. Attendance is very crucial in passing this course. <b>You will fail this class if you fail your partner or group members.</b> The professor will adhere to enforcing the University attendance policy. Do not take lightly. Majority of your understanding and wisdom of knowledge in this class comes from attending all class lectures. There will be no class make-up assignments if you have consistently missed class or repeatedly late. <b>No exceptions! No excuses! Plan accordingly.</b></p>
<b>Final (Auto drama/Duo)</b>	
	<p>The final will be a <b><i>partner scene</i></b> in which the student will present their work in front of the class and other spectators. The instructor will evaluate the scene. There will be specific requirements given in advance about the criteria for this final project.</p>

**FUNDAMENTAL OF ACTING I DR 202-01**  
**GRADING EVALUATION FORM**

<b>The Actors Art .....</b>	<b>100 points – participation</b> <b>50 points – level of skill</b> <b>50 points – focus &amp; completion</b>
<b>Body &amp; Voice .....</b>	<b>100 points – participation</b> <b>50 points – level of skill</b> <b>50 points – focus &amp; completion</b>
<b>Text &amp; Imagination.....</b>	<b>100 points – participation</b> <b>50 points – level of skill</b> <b>50 points – focus &amp; completion</b>
<b>Actors Performance.....</b>	<b>100 points – participation</b> <b>50 points – level of skill</b> <b>50 points – focus &amp; completion</b>
<b>Mid-Term Monologue/Duo.....</b>	<b>20 points – memorization</b> <b>20 points – focus &amp; completion</b> <b>20 points – connection with character</b> <b>10 points – props and costume</b> <b>10 points – rehearsal time</b> <b>20 points – truth and precision</b>
<b>Play Report.....</b>	<b>50 points – clarity &amp; writing structure</b> <b>50 points – meeting deadline</b>
<b>Departmental Production.....</b>	<b>50 points -- attendance</b>
<b>Daily Participation.....</b>	<b>100 points – attendance</b> <b>50 points – participation in class exercises</b>
<b>Journal &amp; Articles .....</b>	<b>30 points – class handouts &amp; materials</b> <b>70 points – individual assessments/growth</b> <b>30 points – handwritten material concise.</b> <b>20 points – presentation of journal.</b>
<b>Final Scene (Auto Drama/Duo).....</b>	<b>20 points – memorization</b> <b>20 points – focus &amp; completion</b> <b>20 points – connection with character</b> <b>20 points – props &amp; costume</b> <b>10 points – truth &amp; precision</b> <b>30 points – rehearsal time</b>

30 points – script, clarity of message, flow, & structure  
Excessive lateness/tardiness.....10 points deducted daily.

Lack of participation..... – 5 points deducted each ensemble/individual assignment

**\*\* Points are deducted from each graded area if said criteria's are not to its maximum potential. Please put forth all efforts in completing all assignments with dedication, clarity, and professionalism. No Exceptions. Stay focus!**

***\*\*Please be advised that there are no mid- term grades given. Some materials are subject to change throughout the course of the semester. It is impossible for any student to make speedy progress in a class based upon one/two completed assignments or attendance. The professor will give individual conferences throughout the semester so that students can keep track of their growth and matriculation. Also be reminded that your final grade is a total grading of all completed work and assignments.***

### COURSE POLICIES

Attendance is important to achieving your best work in this class. Teamwork is the basis of any theatrical endeavor. That fact and the performative aspect of this class mean that attendance is **VITAL**. You need to be present to learn and practice skills introduced in class. A student's final grade will be reduced by **one letter grade** after three absences; the student will receive a grade of "F" after seven absences. **"Remember you are allowed three absences. It is wise to save these for emergencies."**

This course will involve a combination of lecture and group participation sessions. In order to foster a exciting, smooth, and intellectual course, I expect each member of the class to come to class ready to constructively support your colleagues (if an individual does not show up, the ensemble suffers and cannot reach its full potential), to read and study all assignments, to fully commit to participating in all discussions, and to contribute a positive energy in promoting a safe environment where all members are free to express ideas and thoughts. The choice not to actively participate in discussions will have a negative impact on your grading throughout the course. You will be deducted points for non participation in class activities.

Please arrive to class on time. Tardiness is unprofessional and is not fair to yourself and the class. **FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE LASTING IMPRESSIONS**. And, constantly coming in 5-10 minutes late does not mean that you have been attending class. If you come in after roll has been called, it is your responsibility to immediately bring it to the instructor's attention at the end of that class session. **REMEMBER 3 LATE TARDIES = 1 ABSENCE.**

*"This class requires participation and occasionally outside rehearsal/research hour times. This may include visiting a nearby elementary/middle/high school for further training within the semester. The outside class time will be a segment of the original scheduled class time but may extend in length of time depending on the class assignment/session. If your current workload is too heavy, you are welcome to take this class when you have adequate time. Do*

*not take this statement lightly! Failure to adhere to this will eventually result in a student failing the class.”* **Professor Myles.**

If you are involved in any extra-curriculum activities, group organizations, or student productions it is your responsibility to turn in all approved University excused absences forms to the professor. Please remember to plan accordingly. Be mindful that regardless to the outside obligations one might have it is not the professor’s responsibility to make accommodations for any activities that interfere with said class time or class work. We are all responsible adults so let’s make sure we approach our work and responsibilities with a focused mind and integrity. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**LATE WORK POLICY** – All work is due indicated on the course schedule. If a class presentation, discussion, quiz or exam is missed, students are allowed to make it up. The work must be made up within a reasonable time (within a week). If late work is turned in after the one-week grace period, there will be an automatic 10% reduction of grade. All arrangements for missing work must be made prior to the time the assignment is scheduled. If such arrangements are not made, then no make-up options will be given and you will receive a zero for that assignment. Having a computer or printer problem at the last minute, having a paper due in another class, being involved in production, or wanting to leave early for breaks for whatever reason are not legitimate reasons for late work. **PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.**

**\*\* Make-up and late work is not allowed in this course training.** Due to the fact that this is a hands-on training and participatory lecture/exercise course it is in the full understanding of all students who are enrolled to adhere to this written documentation that there will be no make-up, or late work accepted by the professor. This course is designed to function at a rate that is comprehensive and complementary towards time and individual growth. Failure to complete work/tasks assigned by the professor will be determined by the prioritizing, focusing, and commitment of all students enrolled. Please be advised that with all group related assignments it is up to each individual to establish a understanding of trust and dedication with their assigned partners to meet ALL deadlines for assignments in order to receive a grade. **REMEMBER:** If you fail your partner in any manner that reflects their grade you will automatically fail this class. **DO NOT TAKE THIS LIGHTLY.**

**Classroom Decorum.** There are certain basic standards of classroom decorum/conduct that should be adhered to by the members of this class. Good decorum/conduct does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment or other features of a comfortable and pleasant classroom. Classroom decorum does, however, include the following:

- Display of respect for all members of the classroom, both your instructor and fellow students.
- Your professor is expected to give you constructive feedback for the assignments. If you are not in agreement with the feedback or would like to further discuss any comments, you do so at the instructor’s assigned office hours or by appointment.
  - Any disagreement expressed outside of office hours that may appear disrespectful and/or threatening to your professor and classmates will

be immediately reported to campus security and appropriate action(s) will be taken.

- Attentiveness to and participation in lectures, group activities, workshops, and other classroom exercises.
- Avoidance of unnecessary disruptions during class sessions, such as private conversations, passing around gossip notes, sharing of food or candy, reading of magazines or newspapers, and doing work for other classes. Please place phones on vibrate at the beginning of class, as it can be disruptive to the rest of the class. Please do not respond to or initiate a text. **Due to the disruptive nature of cell phones and other technology use in the classroom, the professor will give no more than one warning to discontinue texting or any related activity. Excessive use of cell phone use will result in student(s) being asked to exit from the classroom. If problem continues will be asked to either drop class or appropriate actions will be take in having student removed for disruptive conduct and insubordination towards professor.**
- Avoidance of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom community.
- These features of classroom decorum do not comprise an exhaustive list. Rather, they represent the minimal sort of behaviors that help to make the classroom a pleasant place for all concerned.
- **DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE ROOM WHEN OTHERS ARE PRESENTING.**

**Dress Attire:** This class is physical in nature. Please wear clothes that will allow you to breathe and move freely. Tight clothes and dangling jewelry may restrict movement. Guys, no hats, and please make sure your pants fit you. Ladies suggested clothes like jeans, shorts, or pants are required due to ample amounts of movement. IF POSSIBLE PLEASE NO SKIRTS. NO FLIP-FLOPS.

**Physical Inter “Action”:** Physical touch by acting instructor is quite common; often it is the only way to convey information to you. If you find yourself in a uncomfortable situation with any fellow classmates while working please meet with the professor at once. I cannot fix a problem unless I know about it.

**Adult Situations:** As we work to free our imaginations, there will be times when out of the ordinary we will explore ideas that may create harsh language/adult situations during class. These situations will be allowed as long as the class as a whole is comfortable. If situations or language becomes offensive, please let me know immediately so we can discuss the matter or switch the focus.



## DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Jackson State University is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographic area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others.

## SPECIAL NEEDS LEARNERS

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator and Compliance Officer, P.O. Box 17999, Jackson, MS 39217, telephone (601) 979-3704 as early as possible in the term.

## GREVIANCES

Any student who has a grievance and/or complaint must first discuss the grievance and/or complaint with the professor. If there is no resolution at the student/professor level, the student can then address his/her complaints through the appropriate channels of administration:

**Coordinator of Theatre Studies:** Dr. Nadia Bodie (Rose McCoy Building)  
**Department Chair:** Dr. Mark Henderson (Rose McCoy Building)  
**Dean of College of Liberal Arts** Dr. Mario Azavedo (Liberal Arts Building)

**\*\*Please note that documentation of a meeting at each level is required before the student may request a meeting at the next level.**

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

All acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarizing or presenting another person's work as one's own, having another person write one's paper, fabricating research data, presenting excuses which are untrue for failing to meet academic and professional standards) are a violation of University Policy, which will entail appropriate penalties.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Benedetti, Jean. Stanislavsky An Introduction. Taylor and Francis. 2004  
Brahmavanmso, Ajahn. The Basic Method of Meditation. Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. #306.  
The Theatre and its Double. Gallimard. 1938  
Hornby, Richard. The End of Acting. 1992