

Acting I

THEA 1351-001

Fall 2021

Class Meeting time: T/Th 11-12:15pm

Class Location: Marshall Auditorium (in Morelock Bldg.)

Instructor: Eva Gil

Office: Fine Arts Building, 203B

Email: eva.gil@sulross.edu

Cell: 917-331-9273 Office: 432-837-8372

Office Hours: Drop-in between 11am-12pm MWF. Or by appointment (send an email to set up a time).

Course Catalog Description:

A practical laboratory of the principles and technique of acting for the stage.

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO 1 Students will develop the ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance and/or design.

SLO 2 The student will develop the ability to employ analytical and critical thinking skills through directing, playwriting, theatre history and script analysis, so that they will work creatively and concretely with actors and technicians in mounting laboratory theatrical productions.

SLO 3 The student will develop the ability to demonstrate and apply standard industry requirements to all aspects of technical production.

Additional Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Learn and apply principles of the Stanislavki system to analyze dramatic text.
2. Learn tools for approaching text and creating character.
3. Expand awareness of your acting instrument, ensemble, scene partners.
4. Learn tools for rehearsing and self-assessment of your own process.

Marketable Skills:

1. Strong oral and written communication skills.
2. Strong analytical skills.
3. Strong teamwork and collaboration skills.

Texts:

Assigned readings, viewings, etc will be made available via Blackboard. Students must have daily access to zoom, Blackboard and Sul Ross email.

Course Assignments:

All written assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard by start of class on the date due. Every day an assignment is late it's 10% off grade (for up to one week, after which work is no longer accepted).

Participation

The bulk of the work we will do is going to be exploratory during class. Your attendance is mandatory as much of the class is based on learning and applying a variety of acting tools.

Text Analysis

Worksheets will be provided for the analysis character work in scenes and monologues. Due dates and further info on Blackboard.

Self-Assessments

You will answer questions about your process on sharings, scene and monologue work. Due dates and further info will be on Blackboard.

Scenes and Monologues

You will be assigned one scene and you will pick your own monologue to work on as a final project. Both pieces will need to be memorized.

Sharings

The first portion of the semester will be heavily based on in-class Sharings.

Play Analysis

You will read and analyze 4 additional plays outside of class this semester. Two are due by Midterm and two towards the end of the semester. Further info and due dates on Blackboard. I am happy to help you find plays, I have a collection you may borrow from, as does the Theatre Department library.

Final Exam

The Final Sharing of your monologue will take place during our Final Exam Period which is Monday 12/6 from 10:15am-12:15pm.

Course Grading per Assignments:

Attendance/Participation/Discussion: 30 pts

Sharings 5 @ 20=100 pts

Text Analysis (Scene and Monologue): 2 @ 30= 60 pts

Self-Assessment: 3 @ 10 = 30 pts

Scene and Monologue Sharings: 2 @ 100 = 200 pts

Play Analysis: 4 @ 20 = 80 pts

=500 pts

Course Grading:

A= 450-500 pts

B= 400-449 pts

C= 350-399 pts

D= 300-349 pts

F= 0-299 pts

Important Fall Semester dates:

8/23 Start of Fall Semester classes
8/26 Last day to register/change classes
9/6 Labor Day, no classes
9/8 Last day to drop 16 wk class without being on Academic Record
10/18 Mid-term
11/24-26 Thanksgiving Break, no classes
12/1 Last Day of classes
12/2 Dead Day
12/3, 6-8 Final Exam Period
12/9 Grades due for Graduating Seniors
12/10 Commencement
12/13 Grades due for all other students

Course Policies:

1. Phones are put away and ringers off for the duration of class. (If there's a reason you need to be contacted in class, please let me know).
2. Wear clothes and shoes you can move freely in (think: gym clothes). Some of the work we'll be doing will be physical and you need to be comfortably dressed.
3. No food or beverages consumed during class (water ok and encouraged).
4. Please be respectful of each other in regard to constructive criticism; receive and give feedback in a professional, courteous manner.
5. There should be no aggression, micro, or macro toward each other. We cannot be vulnerable in this art form or in a learning space if we are working in a negative environment. Please bring me any issues.
6. Leave your day at the door, come into class with "clean feet." Be ready to work with joy, curiosity, and discipline.
7. Written work must be proofed/spell checked. Points will be taken off for errors. Take your written work to the Tutoring Center if you need assistance with your writing skills.
8. If you are absent on the day of a presentation you will receive a zero unless there is an emergency and a plan has been established and I have been contacted PRIOR to class as well as your scene partner.
9. Attendance: this class is participation heavy. You cannot experience the work if you are absent. Most of the points are based on your being in class and participating! It will be very difficult to make up missed classes. I allow 2 absences per semester with no penalty on your Attendance grade. After that, it is 2 pts off per absence from Attendance point allotment. Per Sul Ross policy at: 9 absences for MWF or 6 for T/TH, a student may be dropped from the course. That being said, if you are ill please do not come to class, notify me in advance and we can make arrangements.
10. There might be material presented that you find challenging; please be open-minded. As actors we will be asked to play many different roles with different moral codes, behaviors, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, etc. sometimes far from our own experiences and points of view. If you are to explore this work deeply, you must allow yourself the creative freedom to explore vantage points that are different than your own. Please bring me your concerns.
11. I will be wearing and encourage you to wear a mask to keep our community safe.

12. If you have questions about Covid protocols or need to Self-Report if you have a positive test, please go to this site: <https://srinfo.sulross.edu/covid-19/> Also, inform your professors so that accommodations can be established. You must self-report! Free testing will be Mondays and Thursdays this fall.
13. Grades (with feedback on assignments) will be posted on Blackboard where you can also see your Cumulative grade. Attendance/Participation points will be assessed at Mid-term and at Finals.

Student Resources and Policy Statements:

Tutoring/Writing Center

Students who would like assistance with classwork and writing skills: Phone: 432-837-8865.

Email: tutoring@sulross.edu. More info: <https://www.sulross.edu/TLC>

Libraries

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine, offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123). The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass. Offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

Office of Information Tech Help Desk:

Phone: 432-837-8888 Email: techassist@sulross.edu

Blackboard Help Desk 24/7:

Phone: 888-837-6055. Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

Student Mental Health Services

To get Mental Health Counseling, call 432-837-8203 or stop by the Counseling Center, Ferguson Hall, Room 112 <https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/mental-health-counseling-services/>

Sexual Misconduct Resources

Student Counseling Services: Phone: 432-837-8203. Ferguson Hall Room 112

<https://www.sulross.edu/title-ix/sexual-misconduct-resources/>

SRSU Disability Services

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203

(please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement

"I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you."

Kognito Training

Kognito At-Risk for Students is an online, 45-minute training program designed to help you recognize signs of emotional distress, effectively discuss your concerns, and refer students to mental health counseling. If you complete this training program, take a screenshot of the certification screen and email it to me and I'll give you 10 pts of extra credit:

<https://blogs.sulross.edu/counseling/kognito-training-mobile-friendly/>

*Please see Student Academic Regulations for additional SRSU

policies: <https://www.sulross.edu/catalog/undergraduate-academic-regulations-2/>

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change):

Readings, due dates, and other assignments posted on Blackboard.

Week 1

Tues 8/24: Classes Begin: Syllabus, Intro. What is acting?

Thurs 8/26: Ensemble building, Crossing the Threshold, Assign: Slice of Life

Week 2

Tues 8/31: Sharing #1 Slice of Life. Staccato/Legato, Centers.

Assign: Centers Observation

Thurs 9/2: Sharing #2 Centers. A/B Scenes. Objectives, Obstacles, Actions.

Assign: Animal Essence

Week 3 (No classes-Mon Sept 6- Labor Day)

Tues 9/7: Sharing #3 Animal Essence. A/B Scenes. Laban.

Assign: Laban Observation.

Thurs 9/9: Sharing #4 Laban. A/B Scenes.

Week 4

Tues 9/14: Qualities of Movement. A/B Scenes.

Assign: Qualities of Movement Observations.

Thurs 9/16: Sharing #5 Qualities of Movement. Atmosphere.

Assign: Atmosphere Observations

Week 5

Tues 9/21: Discuss Atmosphere Observations. Archetypes.

Thurs 9/23: Review tools.

Assign: Reading on Objectives.

Week 6

Tues 9/28: Text Analysis with A/B scenes. Self Assessment #1 due uploaded to Blackboard.

Assign: Play to read for Scene study and scenes.

Thurs 9/30: TBD

Week 7

Tues 10/5: Begin table work for Scene study.

Thurs 10/7: Scene work

Week 8

Tues 10/12: Scene work

Thurs 10/14: Scene work

Week 9

Tues 10/19:(Mid-term) Scene work *scene memorized*

Thurs 10/21: Scene work. Play Analysis 1&2 due uploaded to Blackboard
Assign: Monologue Selection

Week 10

Tues 10/26: Scene work

Thurs 10/28: Scene work

Week 11

Tues 11/2: Scene work

Thurs 11/4: Scene work

Week 12

Tues 11/9: Scene work. Monologue Work Sessions begin

Thurs 11/11: Final Scene work Presentations (graded). Text Analysis #1 due on Blackboard

Week 13

Tues 11/16: Self-assessment due #2 uploaded to Blackboard. Monologue Work Sessions begin

Thurs 11/18: Monologue work

Week 14

Tues 11/23: Monologue work *memorized* Play Analysis 3&4 due uploaded.
(No classes Wed Nov 24- Fri 26 -Thanksgiving)

Week 15

Tues 11/30: Text Analysis #2 due uploaded. Last Class.

Week 16 (Dec 3, 6-8 Finals Week)

Our Exam Period is Monday 10:15am-12:15pm.

Final Monologue Presentation (graded). Semester debrief. Self-assessment #3 due uploaded.