

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
THEA 1351 ACTING I**

FALL 2022 Studio Theater 6:30-9:30p, Mon-Fri thru Oct 27, then: M/W 11:00pm – 12:50pm Studio Theater	Bret Scott, Assoc. Professor Office: FAB 208 432/837-8794 bscott@sulross.edu 11am-12pm T/TH @ FAB 208 and 1-1:45pm M/W@ Mocap Soundstage on a walk-in basis. Or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

All acting is reacting. In order to react, you must listen.

But for a scene to take place, something has to happen, right? Otherwise you've just got a bunch of actors on the stage all *listening* to... a bunch of nothing. In most cases, the playwright takes care of this by writing objectives and dialogue for the actors to follow – the action of the scene is known before you ever enter the scene, and you (ideally) have rehearsed your dialogue, blocking, and action.

The goal of this class is to place you, the actor, so squarely “in the moment” that you’ll always know exactly how to react to your scene partner, whether you are working with a script or improvising.

The basic skills of acting are *listening*, *reacting*, and *expressing your character’s wants and needs physically and vocally*. In this course, we will explore and heighten our understanding of each of these skills.

THEATRE PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to meet one or more of the student learning outcomes applied to all Theatre majors. The graduating theatre student will demonstrate:

1. A knowledge of the eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History.

Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

2. The ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance.
3. The ability to analyze script.
4. The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
5. The ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production.

Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:

6. The ability to apply all approaches to theatrical design and rendering of the design.
7. The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

REQUIRED TEXT

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Your positive attitude is the difference between success and failure in art, in life, and in this class.
- 2) You will be on time. Which means, at minimum, five minutes before start of class.
- 3) You will be on your feet EVERY class. Dress to move in clothes you're willing to sacrifice – you'll be on the floor, in the air, carrying each other, etc. What this means, practically:
 - a. Men: No shorts. Take a shower.
 - b. Women: if you wear a skirt or dress, wear bike shorts underneath.
 - c. BOTH: NO flipflops, NO open toes, NO high heels. No loose jewelry. Tie your hair back and get it out of your face.
- 4) Come to class ready to play. If that means getting up an hour before and guzzling coffee, do that.
- 5) Refer to Mick Napier's "Advice and Guidelines for improvisers" *Improvise*, Napier, pp 88-97.
- 6) **YOU CANNOT PASS THIS CLASS WITHOUT REGULAR ATTENDANCE. IF YOU ARE ABSENT SIX TIMES, I WILL DROP YOU WITH AN "F."**

MARKETABLE SKILLS

- 1) Public Speaking
- 2) Textual Analysis
- 3) Collaborative Group Techniques

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this class, students will:

- Demonstrate a working vocabulary of terminology of acting
- Demonstrate beginning mastery of acting – *listening, reacting, and expression*
- Articulate the skills needed for a successful stage scene.
- Evaluate and critique acting work from the standpoints of both art and craft.
- Synthesize the elements of scripted acting.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) Terminology / Definitions Quiz
- 2) Mid-Term Paper
- 3) Full participation in class discussion / critique
- 4) Final Performance

Materials Required:

None

CLASS DATES: Assignments and Deadlines

Note that these dates and the details of each class are subject to change at the instructor's discretion, as class progress warrants.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change according to the needs of the class, at the instructor's discretion.

WEEK	DATE	SCHEDULE
1	8/22	What is acting? (Read <i>Stanislavsky</i> handout)
2	8/29	Listening exercises
3	9/5	Reacting exercises
4	9/12	Physical expression exercises
5	9/19	Combining listening and reacting (ASSIGN MIDTERM PAPER)
6	9/26	Combining listening and reacting
7	10/3	Listening with the body
8	10/10	Intro to textual analysis
9	10/17	Objectives (MID TERM PAPER DUE)
10	10/24	Obstacles
11	10/31	Physicalizing Objectives and Obstacles
12	11/7	Applying given circumstances to Objectives and Obstacles
13	11/14	Rehearse Final Monologue
14	11/21	Rehearse Final Monologue
15	11/28	Preview Final Monologue and notes
16	12/2 + 12/5- 12/7	FINAL EXAMS – Final for this class will be a submitted paper and a final monologue performance

GRADING

Assignments are valued as follows:

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| 1) Quiz | 5% |
| 2) Midterm Paper | 25% |
| 3) Participation and attendance | 40% |
| 4) Final Performance | 30% |

Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship.

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

LATE PAPERS

Deadlines are an inescapable part of responsible, professional, adult life. Late papers will lose a letter grade for each day that the paper is late.

If you discover, *a week or more in advance*, that you have multiple deadlines converging on the same day, you may request a change in deadline> Such a change may be granted at the instructor’s discretion. Once the deadline has passed, it’s too late to ask for exceptions. Manage your time and deadlines wisely.

TARDINESS / ABSENCE POLICY

Attendance is 40% of your grade. That’s the difference between an “A” and a “D”...or a really easy way to earn an “F.”

TARDINESS

Class **BEGINS EXACTLY AT THE APPOINTED TIME**. It is your responsibility to be prepared to begin **BEFORE** the class starts.

Three instances of tardiness is equivalent to one absence. See below for the class absence policy.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ENTRY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT PRESENT AT THE START OF CLASS* – ON THE HOUR. PLAN ACCORDINGLY. ON-TIME is EARLY!

*Exceptions will be made only for those with classes located in RAS whose end time makes on-time arrival impossible.

Punctuality is essential in this business. Tardiness will not be tolerated.

Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University 2012-2014 Course Catalogue:

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.

The instructors will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 LobolD 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.

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.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT

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. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, 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 mschwartz@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.