

THEA 1005 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS

Class Time and Location: TR 11:20a-12:45p, BDA 215



**TRUE BLUE
CORE**

General Education Category: Creativity and Cultural Expression

C1: Students will demonstrate intercultural understanding by building knowledge, self-awareness, and conceptions of global and intercultural perspectives, values, systems, and attitudes.

Course Description

Three credits. A study of the basic principles of acting for the non-theatre major. Emphasis on the understanding and exploration of the actor's tools and the application of basic skills through the creative process.

The objectives for this course:

- 1) The student will explore the creative process through participation in improvisation and theatre games.
- 2) The student will learn the process by which an actor physically, vocally, and psychologically develops a character.
- 3) The student will analyze texts for performance.
- 4) The student will rehearse and perform pieces from theatrical scripts.
- 5) The student will learn basic stage movement and blocking.
- 6) The student will provide oral and written feedback of their own work and the work of their peers.
- 7) The student will provide a critical response to the acting in a live theatrical production.

Text and Materials

There is no text for Acting for Non-Majors, however you will need to access materials on D2L. You may also be required to purchase plays for scene work if you cannot acquire them from the James E. Walker Library, the Department of Theatre and Dance Script Library, personal collections, and other sources.

Course Requirements

Scene Work

Each student will perform a scene from a contemporary play. Limited class time will be devoted to scene rehearsal; you are expected to spend an appropriate amount of time outside of class rehearsing your scene. Students are responsible for obtaining props and any essential costume pieces needed for scene rehearsal and presentation. The scenes will be developed and rehearsed using techniques learned in class in class. Each scene will be presented twice. The first showing will deal primarily with the "mechanics" of the scene, such as blocking, line memorization, text analysis, and characterization, whereupon the scene will be discussed in class and critiqued by the instructor. The final showing will be evaluated on improvement, application of technique, and responsiveness to direction.

Monologue

Each student will write and perform their own monologue. Again, students are expected to spend an appropriate amount of time outside of class writing and rehearsing their monologue. As with the scene work, each monologue will be presented twice. The first showing will deal primarily with the "mechanics" of the monologue, such as blocking, line memorization, text analysis, and characterization, whereupon the scene will be discussed in class and critiqued by the instructor. The final showing will be evaluated on improvement, application of technique, and responsiveness to direction. The final monologue will be presented in a "mock-audition" format.

Character Analysis

You will write a character analysis for the scene assignment. Criteria will be discussed in class.

Acting Critique

You will write a critical analysis of an actor in a MTSU production using concepts discussed in class. You will evaluate the actor’s performance based on physical and vocal choices, how the actor engaged the environment, and your perception of how the actor executed the character’s primary goal/objective. Details on the acting critique will be discussed in class.

*All written assignments must be typed in 12-point font and uploaded to the course drop box on D2L **by the due date and time** for grading. Further details will be provided in class.*

Extra Credit

You may earn up to 5 extra credit points on your final grade by going to a live theatrical performance (other than the one you are assigned for your Acting Critique). You must get the performance approved before hand and criteria will be discussed.

Grading

Participation	30%
Performance Work (1 Scene and 1 Monologue).....	40%
Written Work (1 Acting Critique, 1 Character Analysis	30%
Total.....	<u>100%</u>

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 0-59

Your participation grade is determined by the amount of effort you demonstrate in class, including participation in exercises, discussions, preparation, responsiveness to direction, discipline, attitude, partnering skills, and depth of work throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy:

This is a performance class. Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed three absences with no penalty. Each subsequent absence lowers your final grade by one letter grade (10 points). Three tardies or early departures equal one absence. Late work is not accepted. Additionally, you are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals. If your scene partner misses a rehearsal, notify me immediately. By informing me of a problem with your scene partner, you are protecting yourself from serious potential damage to your grade. Being absent on a day when you are scheduled to perform your scene or monologue will result in an automatic zero for that assignment – no exceptions. A total of six excused or unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Attire

Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing and footwear that will enable you to move freely.

Class Participation and Decorum

Students are expected to be active participants in all class activities, exercises, and discussions. Each student must give his or her undivided attention when other students are showing their work. Entering or exiting the classroom while someone is working will result in a reduction of your grade by 10 points on that assignment. Other forms of disruptive behavior include sleeping, eating, doing assignments for other classes, talking or engaging in disruptive behavior while another individual is speaking, and engaging in other activities that detract

from the classroom learning experience. Cell phones must be put away and turned off for the duration of class. Respect for, and cooperation with others is essential.

Academic Integrity/Misconduct

Please review the [information on Academic Integrity and Misconduct](#). Academic integrity is a hallmark of Middle Tennessee State University. We expect students to complete academic exercises, i.e., assignments turned in for credit, that are original and appropriately credit all sources used.

Hope (Lottery) Scholarship Information

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility.

If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Lottery Statement of Understanding form](#) or contact your [MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor](#).

Students with Disabilities

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center \(DAC\)](#) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu. Also, if you require the use of assistive technology, please make sure to download the documents in order to access the accessibility that I have built into the content for you.

Class Schedule – THEA 1005 AFNM

(Subject to change)

T 8/29	Course Intro/Syllabus; Introductions
R 8/31	Improvisation/Theatre Games
T 9/5	Improvisation/Theatre Games; Scene Partner Selection
R 9/7	Scene Selection Criteria; Meet with Scene Partner
T 9/12	Assign Character Analyses; Meet with Scene Partner
R 9/14	Read scene in class; Objective, Action, Obstacle, State of Being
T 9/19	Assign Acting Critiques; Scene Selection Approval ; Working without a director: blocking/staging your scene
R 9/21	Detail Monologue Assignment
T 9/26	Review Scene Schedule/Monologue guidelines/Assign Acting Critiques
R 9/28	No Class—Spring Auditions
T 10/3	Rehearse Scenes—Group 2
R 10/5	Rehearse Scenes—Group 1

Rabbit Hole, Oct. 5-8, Tucker Theatre

T 10/10	Rehearse Scenes—Group 2
R 10/12	Monologue Checkpoint (First Draft Due) ; Rehearse Scenes—Group 1
T 10/17	FALL BREAK NO CLASS
R 10/19	RABBIT HOLE Acting Critiques Due ; ALL IN CLASS—Run Scenes

Speech & Debate, Oct. 19-22, Deborah K. Anderson Studio Theatre

T 10/24	Rehearse Scenes—Group 2
R 10/26	Rehearse Scenes—Group 1
T 10/31	Rehearse Scenes—Group 2
R 11/2	SPEECH & DEBATE Acting Critiques Due ; Rehearse Scenes—Group 1

Cinderella, Nov. 2-5, Tucker Theatre

T 11/7	Final Showing of Scenes; Character Analysis Due
R 11/9	SPEECH & DEBATE Acting Critiques Due ; Auditioning
T 11/14	Rehearse Monologues
R 11/16	Rehearse Monologues
T 11/21	CINDERELLA Acting Critiques Due ; Rehearse Monologues
R 11/23	THANKSGIVING NO CLASS
T 11/28	Rehearse Monologues; Rehearse Mock Audition
R 11/30	Rehearse Monologues
T 12/5	Final Showing: Monologues (Mock Audition Format)
R 12/7	Study Day—No Classes