

INTRODUCTION TO ACTING

TA-20-01 – 5 Units Summer 2020

Tues / Thurs

1:00-3:30 p.m.

Class Meetings via Zoom

Dor Cosby Atkinson

Meetings by appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to the craft of acting for the stage. Our work / play aims to develop your skills in imagination, relaxation, observation, and concentration - engaging your voice, mind, and body. This includes solo work, working with the whole class ensemble via Zoom, and working with a scene partner. The class introduces analysis of text, character development, and scene study. Activities include acting games, physical and vocal warm-ups, discussions, improvisations, reading assignments, writing assignments, rehearsals via Zoom, and in-class performances. This is an experiential class in which your success depends greatly on your attendance and class participation. Show up on time and be prepared! By fully engaging in the class, you will gain access to skills and concepts that can be applied throughout your life and career in any field.

REQUIRED TEXTS

READER: Our class reader is available at the Bay Tree Bookstore and can be ordered via phone / online and mailed to you. E-readers may also be available – ask the Bookstore. I will send info on this as soon as I have it!

PLAYS: You will be required to read one play assigned to you. You will memorize one 2 minute scene, rehearse with a partner, and present the scene in class. Plan on several Zoom rehearsals outside of class.

EXPECTATIONS IN CLASS

Participation/ Attendance – Theatre is one of the most collaborative of the arts. Actors must be able to rely on each other or there is no performance. If you are late to class, you will lose points for lateness. If you are absent you will lose that day's participation points. Don't be late or absent on a day that you are scheduled to perform!

Clothing – Dress comfortably to move, like you would for sports, yoga, or dance. Have a water bottle on hand.

Space – If possible, clear a space in the largest room you have available, so you have the freedom to move around. If possible, try to be in a room free of distractions, such as pets or other people.

Respect each other – We are here to help each other learn and grow as actors, so please endeavor to make compassionate and helpful observations. One person speaks at a time. Listen fully to your fellow actors. When giving actor feedback, you can make statement such as: “I observed...” “I felt...” “I noticed...” Avoid judgment or assumptions. My goal is to create a safe space for us to take artistic risks and be creative together, so please be mindful of your words and actions. Insulting, sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, or derogatory language of any kind will not be tolerated. Please email me at any time if you are experiencing anything in class or outside rehearsal that is making it difficult for you to learn and/or feel safe.

Honor System

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited either from a published source or from another student. Any assignment that includes plagiarized material from another source will receive a zero and academic sanctions may result.

Summer Session Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Day 1 – Tues June 23 – Welcome, Syllabus, Get to Know Each Other, Games

HMWK: The written part of the Personal Narrative due on Canvas by Wednesday at 12 noon.

Day 2 – Thurs June 25

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Personal Narratives – in class

HMWK: Reader Response #1: Read *An Actor Prepares* by Constantin Stanislavski. Due Monday at 12 noon.

Also: Choose ONE Act Without Words Scene to perform on Tues, with props.

Day 3 – Tues June 30

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Act Without Words – in class

HMWK: Reader Response #2: Read *Objectives* essay by William Ball. Due Thursday at 12 noon.

Day 4 – Thurs July 2

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Act Without Words (continued) – in class

HMWK: Reader Response #3: Read *Sanford Meisner* chapters. Due Monday at 12 noon.

I will email you your scene/ play assignment and partner. Read the whole play and scene before Tuesday's class.

Day 5 – Tues July 7

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Rough Scenes – in class

HMWK: Reader Response #4: Read *A Director Prepares* by Anne Bogart - Terror Essay. Due Thursday at 12 noon.

Rehearse scenes

Day 6 – Thurs July 9

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Rough Scenes – in class

HMWK: Scene Score – Due Monday at 12 noon.

Rehearse scenes

Day 7 – Tues July 14

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Rough Scenes – in class

HMWK: Rehearse scenes

Day 8 – Thurs July 16

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Final Scenes & Review of Terminology – in class

HMWK: Rehearse scenes

Day 9 – Tuesday July 21

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Final Scenes – in class

HMWK: Final Papers Due on Thursday at 12 noon; Rehearse scenes

Day 10 – Thurs July 23

15 minute Walking Exercise – Journal Entry due on Canvas by 1 p.m.

Final Scenes, Reflection – in class

GRADING (100 points total)

Performance Work (45%):

Attendance (10 points = 1 pts per class)	10%
Personal Narrative (5 pts = 2 pts written, 3 points performance)	5%
Act Without Words (7 pts)	7%
Rough Scenes – Memorized (10 pts)	10%
Final Scenes – Memorized (15 points)	15%

Written Work (55%):

Walking Exercise – Journal Entries (18 points = 2 pts per entry)	18%
4 Reader Responses (20 points = 5 pts per entry)	20%
Scene Score (5 points)	5%
Final Paper (10 points)	10%

Performance Work points are based on commitment, effort, and focus; a demonstration that one has rehearsed outside of class time with full engagement; willingness/ openness to trying new approaches; and the gradual application of acting tools learned in class.

The Assignments*: All assignments will be submitted on Canvas. Please refer to the Class Schedule for due dates.

Personal Narrative – a written / performance assignment in which you share a moment in your life when everything changed. It must be something you are comfortable making public. These written submissions will be anonymously shared with your peers and read aloud as if they were the ones who had the experience. You will receive this via email prior to class, to briefly read over and practice.

Act Without Words – These are short performance pieces – without words – written by playwright Samuel Beckett. They are meant to provide new actors opportunities to act and invest in the moment without the extra added burden of speaking words.

Rough Scenes – A 2-person, 2 minute scene selection from the play assigned to you by the instructor. The whole play must be read and researched. Scene must be rehearsed, researched, and memorized.

Final Scenes – The same scene, taking feedback from the previous presentation, and applying it for a final performance.

Walking Exercise – Please select one audio recording to use prior to class for each class (not counting Day One). You will need your phone and headphones to go walking outdoors. Once you get familiar with the recording prompts, you may be able to do the exercise on your own. After doing the 15 minute walking exercise, come back and journal on Canvas prior to the start of class at 1 p.m. The purpose of the walk is to become aware of habitual movement behaviors and expand your range of motion, to develop mind-body connectedness, awareness, relaxation, release of tension, focus, openness to stimuli, responsiveness, and developing the ability to follow impulse in the moment. Journaling – Reflect back on what you experienced. What did you notice? What happened to you physically and emotionally? When did your mind wander off? Talk about what happened in terms of awareness, relaxation, focus, etc. (please see above list.)

4 Reader Responses – Please read the assigned section and submit your response on Canvas. Summarize what the article or chapter reveals about the acting process. What exercises or methods were discussed? What connections can you draw with activities and exercises we are doing in class? Please reference specific quotes, events, or observations made by the author that stand out to you. (200-300 words per response)

Scene Score – A series of questions to help you research your play, scene, and character, to get to know them more deeply.

Final Paper – A 3 page paper reflecting on what you learned in class and your own development from Day One to Day 10.

* The instructor reserves the right to adjust assignments / grading as needed.

Information from UCSC Summer Session:

Important Summer Session Remote 2020 Deadlines:

Session 1:

Drop: Monday, June 29

Request for "W": Friday, July 10

Session 2:

Drop: Monday, August 3

Request for "W": Friday, August 14

8-Week:

Drop: Monday, July 6

Request for "W": Friday, July 24

10-Week:

Drop: Monday, July 6

Request for "W": Friday, July 24

Summer is unique. **You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment.** You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full-tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including 'change of grade option' (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: <https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html>

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.

DRC Remote Accommodations:

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at drc@ucsc.edu for an appointment.

Small Group Tutoring

Small Group Tutoring (SGT) supports students academically to advance educational equity by designing inclusive learning environments outside of the classroom. In SGT, you can expect the Tutor to facilitate cooperative group activities designed to have students work together on the course content and develop study skills for the course. SGT is offered at least three times each week for the entire quarter. The Tutor is an undergraduate student who took the class, did well, and is trained to facilitate group sessions to focus on students' needs to succeed in the course. SGT is open to all students enrolled in the class and they must sign up on our online system: TutorTrac. When students sign up for SGT, they are committing to attend every week. For Summer 2020, students can begin signing up for tutoring on **Monday, June 22rd** and tutoring will begin **Wednesday, June 24th**. Students only have to sign up once for tutoring and their appointments will repeat weekly. Sign-ups will close on **Friday, August 14th** for all Summer Session Sign-Ups. This means that after **August 14th**, no new students can sign up for tutoring.

Want SGT to be successful for you? Bring your books, lecture notes, questions, and be open to working collaboratively with your peers. You can sign up using this link: <https://ucsc.go-redrock.com/tracweb40/NoAccess.4sp?errText=insufficient%20credentials%20to%20view%20content>

You can also find the link on our website: <https://lss.ucsc.edu/index.html>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Title IX:

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#), and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our [online reporting link](#).

For more information please visit the [Title IX Operations under Covid-19](#) page.