

The University of Alabama, Department of Theatre and Dance  
**Advanced Scene Study: TH 441, Tuesday/Thursday: 2:00 – 3:15**  
**Room 236 Rowand – Johnson, Spring 2020**

**Allison Hetzel, Associate Professor of Acting and Voice**

**Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework**

**Master Teacher of Archetypes for Actors**

**Office 247 – UA Safe Zone and UA Safe Harbor**

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**Email:** [ahetzel@ua.edu](mailto:ahetzel@ua.edu) - This is the best way to reach me!

**Office Hours:** Monday 11:00 – 11:50 appointments preferred, also by appointment; please contact me before any issues escalate.

**Required Texts:** *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* by Bruder, Cohn, Olnek, Pollack, Previto and Ziegler. Additionally, there will be three scripts needed for the class, *The Glass Menagerie* or *Eccentricities of a Nightingale*, *The Children's Hour* or *Little Foxes*. These scripts will be available at the University Bookstore, I also recommend checking the library.

**Course Description:** TH-441: (3 hours) thorough exploration of character study.

**Attendance policy:** Attendance is mandatory! After **two** unexcused absences. ***Each additional absence will lower your final letter grade, by half of a letter grade (50 points).*** Absences will not be excused without documentation and verifiable cause. My preference as an instructor is to be contacted **prior** to any absence by email. You must also contact your acting partner if you must be absent. Please consider the penalties of absences in relation to the class grade, before missing class. In this acting class your attendance and participation is mandatory, class exercises and projects are essential for your artistic enrichment. Remember if you are an absent actor in the professional world you will be replaced with another actor.

What this means is:

- After four absences total you cannot earn a grade higher than a B after 100 points are deducted from your total final points. (If you were working at an A level)
- After six absences total you cannot earn a grade higher than a C after 200 points are deducted from your total final points. (If you were working at an A level)
- To earn the total 100 points for attendance you must attend all classes, participate and be fully present.
- Each student is given two absences to be ill, have car trouble, and oversleep or to be somewhere else – I do not excuse these items.
- Please contact me about your own hospitalization, a death in the family or religious holidays these must be verifiable for an excused absence. As well as any University documented absences.
- **I will contact you if you are failing the class (this is often a result of too many absences or poor class work and conduct) and you will not be able to successfully complete the semester without a failing grade.**

**Tardiness:** Three instances of lateness equal one absence. Please be on time this is crucial! Very Crucial!

**Late or Missed work** will not be accepted without prior notification and arrangements.

Performances are an important part of this class if you are not prepared to perform on a date that you are scheduled to perform, your final grade for late paper and performances will be lessened by 5 points each class period until completed or handed in.

**Disabilities:** To request disability accommodations, please contact Disabilities Services at phone Number 348 – 4285. After initial arrangements are made with this office, please set up an appointment to see me.

**Academic Misconduct:** All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of the above. The Academic Misconduct Policy will be followed in any such case. This policy is outlined in the student affairs handbook, which can be obtained from the Student Life office in the Ferguson Center.

**Course Objectives:** To explore styles in acting through scene study, script analysis and character development.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of TH 441 the student will be able to:

- Approach stylized scene work with a scene partner
- Create and develop a character
- Use the rehearsal process and time effectively
- Make active bold choices as an actor
- Explore the physical and vocal life of the character in the world of the play
- Be familiar with at least three more plays
- Give and receive constructive feedback on the craft of acting
- Discuss and analyze scripts
- Breakdown a scene into beats and units

**Personal Items needed for the course:**

- Dress shoes for period work, slight heel for men and women
- Skirts and Slacks – no jeans for period acting projects
- Collared shirts and tops – no t-shirts for this period

Greek Speeches: Fabric

- sandals, cord or rope

Classroom

- A folder/notebook to keep handouts and take notes in for this class as well as blank paper for in class journaling.
- Please bring something to write with and write on to each class
- Clothing that will not constrict your movement for working days, no jeans for floorwork
- Exercise mat for floorwork

**Class Guidelines**

- **Treat fellow classmates with respect.**
- **Embrace a positive attitude along with positive energy this will strengthen your acting work in and out of this class.**
- **Please dress in attire that is comfortable and will not constrict your movement**
- **Please wear flexible soled footwear or work in socks or bare feet. No high heels or flip flops.**
- **NO eating in class**
- **Bringing a water bottle to class is HIGHLY recommended**
- **Cell phones should be turned off and put away when you enter the classroom, any phone ringing/beeping/vibrating and, any attempts to make or receive a phone call or text message during the class will result in one tardy. I do NOT want to see your phones during class time! I really, really do not want to see your cell phones in class!**
- **Hats and or sunglasses should not be worn during class, while costume pieces are welcomed**
- **Gum chewing is NOT permitted, this will hinder vocal quality**
- **Tongue and lip jewelry will need to be removed when performing**
- **A friendly reminder that this IS NOT a good semester to get a piercing in the tongue, nose, or lip**
- **This is a great semester to QUIT Smoking**
- **Touch will be an element of this class as part of the semester; actor alignment and partner work will be explored during the semester.**

**Written Assignment Guidelines:**

- **All written assignments should be typed: double spaced with 12 pt. Times New Roman font**
- **I will NOT accept emailed written assignments**
- **I will NOT accept unstapled written assignments**

## Course Requirements:

Scene I from a Lillian Hellman Play (4 – 6 minutes in length) **100pts**

Scene II from a Tennessee William's Play (4 – 6 minutes in length) **100 Pts**

Scene III short contemporary showcase style scene (2 – 3 minutes in length) **100 Pts**

Written Response to Play I with character analysis **50 Pts**

**(One page play response and one page character analysis-this is a minimum of two pages total, written work is due on or before your scene presentation)**

Written Response to Play II with character analysis **50 Pts**

Written Response to Play III character analysis **50 Pts**

Written review of the text book **100 pts DUE January 30<sup>st</sup>**

**Best Scenes of the Semester Response Paper DUE April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Greek Messenger Speech Workshop and Showing 100 Pts**

Attendance, class participation, and professionalism **200 pts**

**Final Showings: A Minimum of One Scene During the Last Week of Classes Scene Showcase 150 pts**

**1000 Total Points Possible**

**Grade Scale:** 1000 – 900 = A, 899 – 800 = B, 799 – 700 = C, 699 – 600 = D, 599 – 0 = F

**Departmental Productions:** Theatre Majors are expected to attend the UA performances! Please show your support to the Department as well as your colleagues.

### **Departmental Theatre and Dance Productions:**

- **Freshman Showcase**, January 11 & 12, Allen Bales Theatre (AB)
- *Mr. Universe*, February 10 – 16, Allen Bales Theatre (AB)
- *A Servant of Two Masters*, February 18 – 23, Gallaway Theatre (GT)
- **Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre**, February 25 - 29, Morgan Hall (MH)
- *Hand to God*, April 6 – 12 AB
- **Dance Alabama**, March 29 – April 2, MH
- *Legally Blonde*, April 14 – 19, GT

## **Class Schedule – Subject to Change**

### **January**

TH 1/9 Orientation to Course /Conflict: Chaos and Order What Makes a Scene?

TU 1/14 Intro/Review to Fitzmaurice Voicework Dress for Floorwork, Body & Voice Connection, Explore Sounds, Speech, and Gibberish.

TH 1/16 Discuss Play I by Lillian Hellman

TU 1/21 Begin Partner Work First Scene from Play I by Lillian Hellman

TH 1/23 **READ & Discuss Part One of the Handbook** (introduction – page 66)

TU 1/28 Continue Partner Work/Physical and Vocal Work and Workshop Scenes

TH 1/30 **READ & Discuss Part Two of the Handbook** (pages 67 – 86)

**Written Response to the Text Book DUE, 2 – 3 pages in length, workshop scenes**

### **February**

TU 2/4 **Present Scene I**

TH 2/6 **Continue and Conclude**

TU 2/11 **READ & Discuss Play II by Tennessee Williams**

TH 2/13 Prepare for Scene II with your Partner/ Character Development Day (Circle Work)

TU 2/18 Partner work on Scene  
TH 2/20 Blocking and Work on Scene

TU 2/25 Character Development Day (Lessac Energy Work)  
TH 2/27 Work and show short sections of scenes

### **March**

TU 3/3 Present Scene II by Tennessee Williams (4 to 5 scenes per day)  
TH 3/5 Continue and Conclude Scene II (4 to 5 scenes per day) Begin Looking for Scene III

TU 3/10 Reading of Short Contemporary/Showcase Style Scenes Workshop  
TH 3/12 Continue and Begin Partner Work for Scene III

TU 3/17 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES**  
TH 3/19 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES**

TU 3/24 Workshop Scenes and Partner Work  
TH 3/26 Continue Workshop Scenes

TU 3/31 Present Scene III and Discuss

### **April**

TH 4/2 Continue and Conclude

TU 4/7 Greek Messenger Speeches Workshop Week (Some work will take place outside)  
TH 4/9 Share Speeches

TU 4/14 Refresh Scenes for Showcase Open House Week  
TH 4/16 Partner Work and Planning

TU 4/21 Show Scenes (Best Scenes of the Semester Paper DUE)  
TH 4/23 Show Scenes and Last Day of Class

**Finals Week: April 29 – May 3**