

The University of Alabama, Department of Theatre and Dance
Teaching Acting, TH 642, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:15, RJ 236
Spring 2016

Allison Hetzel, M.F.A

Associate Professor of Voice and Acting

Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework

Master Teacher of Archetypes for Actors

Office 247

Office Phone (205) 348-3127

Email: ahetzel@ua.edu – This is the best way to reach me!

Office Hours: Mondays 11:00 – 11:50 appointments preferred; I am also available by appointment; please contact me before any issues escalate.

Required Text: *The Great Acting Teachers and Their Methods*, by Richard Brestoff, ISBN# 1-57525-012-8

Recommended Reading: *Actor Training* by Alison Hodge and *Observations on Teaching Theatre by Nine American Masters* Edited by Burnet M. Hobgood

Course Description: **TH-642 Teaching Acting (3 hours):** A course to provide practical experience in teaching and coaching actors and developing methods and various approaches in teaching acting.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory! After **one** unexcused absences. *Each additional absence will lower your final letter grade, by half a letter grade.* Absences will not be excused without documentation and verifiable cause. My preference as an instructor is to be contacted **prior** to any absence, via phone or 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.

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

Tardiness: Three instances of lateness equal one absence.

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.

Class Guidelines

- Please dress in attire that is comfortable and will not constrict your movement
- 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, any attempts to make or receive a phone call or text message during the class will result in one tardy.
- 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

All written assignments should be typed: double spaced with 12 pt. Times New Roman font

Course Objectives: To become familiar with various approaches and methods for teaching acting; through in-class discussions, exercises, reading/ writing assignments, teacher observation and in class presentations.

At the conclusion of the course the student will learn:

- How to approach and prepare teaching an acting class. (Please prep for this while in graduate school if you think you want to teach later in life.)
- How to prepare an acting syllabus.
- To work with and study various approaches to acting to develop their own teaching style.
- Will work to develop an acting curriculum.
- Will observe and discuss teaching styles.

Campus Performances:

Attendance is required to show your support to the Department as well as your colleagues.

Departmental Theatre and Dance Productions:

Bakkahi, February 11 – 17, Allen Bales Theatre (AB)

The Drowsy Chaperone, February 18-23, Gallaway Theatre (GT)

Alabama Dance Repertory Theatre (ARDT), February 26 – March 2, Morgan Auditorium

Dance Alabama (DA) March 26 – 30, Morgan Auditorium

Gnit, April 8 – 14, (AB)

Sense and Sensibility, April 16 – 21(GT)

ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE HANDED IN or SUBMITTED ON BLACKBOARD

Course Requirements:

- In class participation, attendance, and professionalism **200 pts**
- **WRITTEN:** Prepare a written, paper 2 – 3 page, on how you would approach grading the acting student, to share and discuss with class. This may include grading sheets or rubrics. **75 Pts**
- **WRITTEN:** Prepare a paper that assesses your strengths and weaknesses as an actor. **75 Pts**
- **WRITTEN:** Teaching Observation Paper Due **75 Pts** (2 – 3 pages) Go observe a teacher that you do not usually have –be creative contact Professors plenty of time in advance. DUE May 1st.
- **WRITTEN:** Prepare and Present an Acting Syllabus **75 Pts**
- **WRITTEN:** Prepare and Present an Acting Curriculum/ Degree Plan **75 Pts**
- **ASSIGNMENT:** Bring an article, book, or resource for acting teachers to share and discuss in class. **25 Pts**

- **ASSIGNMENT:** Coaching, work with a member of the class or a theatre student **100 Pts**
- **ASSIGNMENT:** Lead the class and guest students, in an acting exercise/experience. **150 Pts**
- **ASSIGNMENT:** Workshop/Presentation 20 to 25 minutes in length on the theatre practitioner that you have researched (from text book or another listed). **150 Pts**
- **Set up an appointment for your Final Exam Assessment**
- **Please keep copies of all written work in a folder for this class**

Grade scale:

A 1000 - 900 Points
 B 899 – 800 Points
 C 799 – 600 Points
 D 599 – 400 Points
 F 399 – 0 Points

Class Schedule - Subject to Change

Week 1 - January

1/10 Orientation to Course/Why teach acting?

Week 2

1/15 Discussion of Stanislavski System and Chapters

ASSIGNMENT: Bring in a piece of research, history or any information about this training system/philosophy (Stanislavski) to share with class.

1/17 Continue and Discuss ***Reading Chapters 1 – 4 (Pages 1 – 94)***

Week 3

1/22 How to grade the Acting Student

WRITTEN: Prepare a written, paper 2 – 3 page, on how you would approach grading the acting student fairly, to share and discuss with class.

1/24 Resources for the acting teachers.

Assignment: Bring in articles, books, or any resources on this topic to share and discuss in class.

Week 4

1/29 Nuts & Bolts of a beginning Acting Class (scenes, monologues, audition prep, acting and character exercises, helping the student open-up)

1/31 Prepare and Share an Acting Syllabus (Short Description)

Week 5 - February

2/5 Lead an acting exercise to class and guest acting students (4 – 5 per day – 10 minutes each)

2/7 Lead an acting exercise to class and guest acting students (4 – 5 per day – 10 minutes each)

Week 6

2/12 Lead acting exercise to class and guest acting students (4 – 5 per day – 10 minutes each)

2/14 **WRITTEN:** Prepare a paper that assesses your strengths and weaknesses as an actor.

Discussion

Week 7

2/19 Lee Strassberg (Chapter 5 Discussion) Workshop/Presentation _____

2/21 Stella Adler (Chapter 6 Discussion) Workshop/Presentation _____

Week 8

2/26 Stanford Meisner (Chapter 7 Discussion) Workshop/Presentation _____

2/28 SETC & Workshop Day

Week 9 – March

3/5 Viola Spolin (Chapter 8 Discussion) Workshop/Presentation _____

3/7 Bertold Brecht (Chapter 9 Discussion) Workshop/Presentation _____

Week 10: Spring Break & NYC Showcase 3/12 No Class and 3/14 No Class

Week 11

3/19 Jerzy Grotowski (Chapter 10 Discussion) Workshop/Presentation _____

3/21 Tadashi Suzuki (Chapter 11) Workshop/Presentation _____

Week 12

3/26 Michael Chekhov Discussion, Workshop/Presentation _____

3/28 Uta Hagen Discussion, Workshop/Presentation _____

Week 13 – April

4/2 Coaching Projects, 3 to 4 showings

4/4 Coaching Projects, 3 to 4 showings

Week 14

4/9 Coaching Projects, 3 to 4 showings

4/11 How will you teach acting? Approaches and Teaching Style Discussion

Week 15

4/16 Open Coaching Week – Guests actors welcome

4/18 Continue and Discuss

Week 16

4/23 Prepare and Share an Acting Curriculum/ Degree Plan

4/25 Group Activity – Last day of Class

Finals Week April 29 – May 3

Please schedule your final assessment meeting during finals week or before.

All written work for the class due by May 1st at noon.