

Acting I/ Fundamentals of Theatre I
Fall 2013
Instructor: Paul McClain
Class Room Auditorium
Email: mcclainb@fultonschools.org

Course Description:

This course is an exploration of theatre as an artistic form that focuses on the appreciation and value of theatre in society.

Course Objectives:

To understand to different artistic roles of the individuals who create and produce theatre,
To learn the fundamental skills of acting, directing and technical theatre
To become familiar with theatre history and theatrical literature and the aesthetics of live performance, with an emphasis upon its cultural and social influences in America and world societies

Units of Study

- Basics of Performance
- Playwriting, Directing, and Theatre Going
- Elements of Technical Theatre
- Styles of Theatrical Performance
- Execution of a Performance

Grading

In Class Performances 25%
Written Assignments 15%
Design Projects 15%
Class Participation 10%
Quizzes 20%
Final Exam 15%

Rules for Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date. If a student is absent, written work due during their absence may be submitted one day after the student returns to school for each day absent with no grade reduction. Performance work may not be made up unless there is an emergency.
The price of work handed in late: 1 day late 10% reduction of Grade; 2 days late 20% reduction of grade; Three days late 30% reduction of grade.

Classroom Rules

1. Wear clothes you can move in on workshop days.
2. Come prepared to class. Due to the nature of this course preparation work such as memorization and text analysis is crucial to moving ahead.
3. Be respectful at all times this is particularly necessary during presentations and performances by fellow students. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated as it inhibits the creativity of others.

Consequences

1. First offense verbal warning
2. Sit out of Activity
3. Second offense sit out rest of class and email/note or call to Parents
4. Third offense official school write up and leave the class

School Plays

All Students are required to attend all school plays and to submit a response the week after the performance. If the student is unable to attend a performance an alternative assignment will be given. **This must be arranged prior to the week of the performance in question.**

Contacting Mr. McClain

Feel free to email me at any time.
I check my email almost hourly. Send to mcclainb@fultonschools.org

Honor Code

As explained in the student handbook, cheating is defined as “the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience.” Violations of the honor code will result in a zero for the assignment, plus an honor code violation form placed in the student’s disciplinary file. Read the handbook carefully and fully understand what constitutes a violation.

**2013-2014 Daily Schedule
(Subject to Change!)**

**Week One What is Theatre
August 12- 16**

M- Pre-test Go over syllabus, introductions, shh

T- Warm up Names dance.

Terms list, Theatre elements, Non traditional forms.

W- Question, Aristotle's elements Group Outlines of nontraditional forms, Assign elements homework

Present Group outlines.

H- Alphabet game, Origins presentation,

F- Bang! Elements papers due. Complete origins presentation. Share findings as a class.

**Week Two Improv.
August 19-23**

M- Pre- test What am I doing?, rules of Improv, Get the dollar, Breakup phone vs environment, Guessing Improv: Return the object, OLD, Party quirks, Press conference

T- Prince and Princess, Competitive Improv: Categories, ABC group, ABC Scene, Rhyming do run or other

W- What am I doing? Scene Improv: Half Life, Columns, Whose Line, Super Hero, Three rooms, Wheel of Death, Freeze
H- Bang, Each group chooses a game that at least one member can play from each of our three categories. Groups work on individual games Groups will choose most successful games and pair up with other teams
F- Hold competition Each group gets one game and then a team elimination game.

**Week Three Performance
(Text into Action)
August 26-30**

M- Pre-test, Warm up Head to toe, Showing vs. Doing demo, cold read text book with Acting verb objectives. Cookie Apple competition. Discussion of Battle oriented objectives
Discussion of Beats and objectives turning text into action. (monologue due Friday)

T- Warm up, Unconventional poses, double direction, Statue beats game

W- warm up head to toe and vocals Group Monologue distribution, Break into beats as a class. Select objectives.

Volunteer read while doing objectives. Put together into one read. Distribute monologues into small groups.

H- Warm up head to toe, vocals, complete group work with monologues broken into beats and objectives. Read examples of monologues.

F- Share monologue selections. Speaking with different intensities and emotionally motivated volume/energy demonstration. Choose song lyrics for slating

**Week Four
September 2 (labor day)**

Sept 3-6

M Labor Day

T- Warm up with vocals, Slating demonstration

W- warm up, Character analysis, Environmental Guideposts
Group work with new considerations, Layering

H- Memorization quiz Choose a song for slating audition

F- Work monologues in small groups and with class feedback

**Week Five
Sept 9-13**

Sept 14 Wax Museum

M- Warm up- Run monologues with groups and rotations discuss proper dress for auditions. .

T- Auditions

W- Pretest (Playwright unit)

Cedric, One word story, Story story die Plot structure

H-Story Story dies, 30 sec.

Playwright Power Point.

Character Monologues

F Wax Museum

**Week Six
Sept 16-20**

M- Prince and Princess, Discussion of Wax Museum, Basic critical analysis

Go over assignment for group. Each group will write a five scene play with a clear

exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, and resolution. The play must contain at least five characters and five scenes. The play must be comprised of dramatic dialogue, characters and plot

T-Warm up Improv

Captain stage directions-

Break into groups and continue work on plays. Select the genre and outline. By the end of the day the complete outline of what must happen in the play must be presented Then groups are to improv and write out dialogue

W- go to library

Explain the format of the readthru

Divide the labor and type out scenes. Once scenes are typed out the students should practice the readthru

H- Physical and vocal warm up
Have groups read thru their plays on their own and give self notes.

Collect the ballots and choose a class winner

F- Directing

Warm up – Human Knot in small groups

First with no talking then with a single leader

Discuss parallels of play production and emerging leaders

Notes on Directing

**Week Seven
Sept 23-27**

M-composition and stage picture

Directorial game. Possibly remote control or other genre game

Demonstrate the positions onstage. Demonstrate these of levels and planes for composition and picturization.

Picturization frozen stage picture exercise

T- Distribute open scenes to class
Break students into groups of three
Each group must stage and perform three different versions of the same scene with different directorial concepts. Each student participates as a director
Each of the directorial concepts and blocking will be turned in

W- Warm up
Continue work on staging open scenes. Choose a favorite and rehearse it.
Present favorite open scene to the class

H- Greek Theatre
Purpose of the Greek Myth - Family name
-Arachni
-Draw out the format of the Greek universe
-Helios Discuss the parts of the myth
-Manos Katrakis (Why we study Classical Literature)

F- Quiz on Playwrights and Directors
Go over Answers

Begin Greek Theatre Notes

Week Eight Sept 30- Oct 5

M choral movement and statues
Finish Greek PowerPoint lecture

T Medea aloud

(Preferably in library) Assign temporary roles and cold read class version of Medea.

W finish Medea (Homework: Bring set material and box.)

H-Complete Medea

F- Scenic Design
Collect boxes and Begin Scenic Design Lecture

Week Nine Oct 7-11

M- Take Quiz Tour theatre
Begin work on Designs
T- Design concepts due Work on Boxes
W- Work on Boxes
H- Present Designs
F- Critics and reviewers.

Week Ten Oct 14 teacher/Student teacher Holiday

Oct 15 Teacher Workday
T- Teacher Workday
W- Chinese theatre

Warm up Maos
Go over notes for Chinese theatre Discuss with class

H-Maos Watch Examples of Beijing Opera and discuss, Watch clips from Propaganda Ballet and discuss.
Chinese Pole/Walking Globe
F- Lighting tour/Setting cues and hanging a light

Week Eleven Oct 21-25

M- Makeup Demonstration
T- Japanese theatre
W- Throne of Blood
H- Throne of Blood
F- Throne of Blood (Bunraku)

Week Twelve Oct 28-Nov. 1

M- Bunraku
T- Bunraku (pretest Medieval and Shakespeare)
W- Medieval theatre notes
H Halloween Show
F- Outdoor theatre physicality and presentation of Morality plays

Week Thirteen

November 4- 8

M- Finish Morality Plays
T- China and Japan Quiz
W- Witches - notes, history, and insults
H- Petruchio, and Edmond How to read Shakespeare
F- Sonnet Writing

Week Fourteen November 11-15

M- Fix Sonnets and create final drafts
T- Read Sonnets and Shakespeare DVD Excerpts
W- Early Realism Notes

H- Quiz on Shakespeare and Medieval theatre , Clips from Early realist Plays
F- Realism Famous actors and The Group Theatre

Week Fifteen November 18-22

M-Melodrama, Minstrel shows, and Early Musicals
T- Film examples of Melodramatic acting styles
W- The American musical thru Film
H-Watch Musical, (Look for elements of Melodrama)
F-Watch Musical, (Look for elements of Melodrama)

Week Sixteen Thanksgiving Break

Week Seventeen (last week of instruction prior to final projects)

December 3-7

December 6 Macbeth
M- African American theatre Notes
T- Feminist theatre notes
W- Introduce Final Project
H-Begin work on final project in class. Select scenes and develop design plan
F Comedy of Errors

Week Eighteen (Final Projects and Reviews)

December 9-13

M- Work on final project
T- Work on final Projects
W Present final projects
H- review for Exams
F- Review for Exams

Week Nineteen (Exams)