

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

DRAM 8 - Principles of Acting I

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level III; English Level II

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course prepares a student to apply basic acting theory to performance and develops the skills of interpretation of drama through acting. Special attention is paid to skills for performance: memorization, stage movement, vocal production, and interpretation of text. (C-ID THTR 151).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate basic skills of acting, including physical, vocal, imaginative, analytical, and emotional elements.
- B. Compose a character analysis.
- C. Analyze dramatic textual components as they pertain to performance.
- D. Critique a scene from an observer's point of view, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation.
- E. Utilize appropriate theatrical terminology and jargon.
- F. Use and apply a basic craft of acting in performance.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Application of acting methods; theoretical approaches to acting	6.00
2. Concentration and focus	6.00
3. Basic vocal and physical technique	6.00
4. Principals of stage movement and blocking	6.00
5. Opportunities to apply basic craft approaches for acting	6.00
6. Introduction to script analysis	6.00
7. Improvisation	6.00
8. Basic acting and theatre terminology and vocabulary	6.00
9. Performance and evaluation processes and techniques	3.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Discussion
- D. Improvisation

E. Workshop Student Projects

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Class participation
- B. Final Examination
- C. Written critique of projects and scenes
- D. Minimum 1500 word writing requirement
- E. Final Project

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read *The Actor's Job* by Cynthia Lammell. Be prepared to discuss creating, contextualizing and charting action.
 - 2. Read *Acting Tips* by Jon Jury and relate the real-life lessons in Jury's tips to the ongoing application of the actor's craft.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Write a play critique. Discuss an actor's physical, vocal and sub-textual performance.
 - 2. Chart scenic structure (beats) and character action (objective, obstacle, tactic and subtext) by writing a scenic score for a selected contemporary play.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Observe the physical and psychological behavior of people in various settings. Journal your observations for reference in class discussions.
 - 2. Memorize text and rehearse assigned scenes and monologues in preparation for in-class performances.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Benedetti, Robert. *The Actor in You*. 5th Edition. Allyn & Bacon, 2011.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Scripts or articles to be assigned by instructor

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