



# TAPS 10200 1 - Acting Fundamentals - Instructor(s) - Shade Murray

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **12**

Number of Responses: **8**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

## What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
We learned a lot about the different processes an actor goes through when crafting a performance, how to rehearse, how to memorize a monologue, etc.
I learned how to leave shame and fear of failing at the door. This course is excellent to take take, especially as a first year, if you want to restructure how you view education in a positive way.
What acting is, as an art form, how to do it well, how to do it yourself
How to perform my acting lines infront of a class.
The fundamentals of acting
All aspects of acting from an amazing professor
My approach to humanity and the self–concept was more or less rewritten in one quarter—in a good way. I learned practical acting skills, like how to rehearse, how to memorize lines, how to incorporate actions into my scene work, how to think about actions (i.e. always have a goal in mind), etc. But, the most important things I learned were not specific to learning. For example, I learned how to shelve my fear and embarrassment with performance and to leave judgment at the door. I learned to let go of my own pride and do my performance not for myself but for the people around me. And, I learned how to be more comfortable with my many self–aspects; I may not like all of what I see in myself, but I accept that every self is true and none more so than any other. By learning to look at others the same way, I've gained a much deeper appreciation for what people share vs. what distinguishes them. Part of the standards for success in the course were basically being transparent, active, and honest. I've never had a class judged this way before, and it taught me to think about course work in a whole new way.
Getting over the fear of embarrassment or judgment. Appreciating theater with a deeper understanding. Better awareness and engagement in my interactions.

## Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
The class only met once a week for about 3 hours and attendance was mandatory, but I did have to rehearse maybe once or twice outside of class with my scene partner for 20–30 min.
Discussions were important for solidifying what we read/acted that day, and our scene assignments were important tin practicing what we were reading and getting rid of inhibitions.
Respect for acting is a fantastic work. Shade is so incredibly helpful, he always knows what to say to push you to unlock something new and make you feel empowered to take a creatively bold move
In class excercises
The instructions and great teacher
all aspects of class are made for learning but in an engaging way
I think the readings, in–class rehearsals/games, discussions, and performances were the most insightful aspects. Because the point of this class was to take an academic view of acting, the readings really helped me grasp what was going on. Actually, the first few chapters from Hagen's Respect for Acting already started to change my opinion that acting was the "art of being fake." The in–class rehearsals/games allowed me to be more free and to let go of all the expectations I had for myself and who I wanted others to see; I learned from acting with others that "silliness" and shame really just exist in one's own mind. Lastly, practicing for every performance (monologue and 2 partnered scenes) taught me something new, either about working with people, my own self, the nature of rehearsal, etc. I think the discussions were also very good because they gave me a chance to not only look at my own work but also learn from other people and improve my own technique with their ideas. Overall, I think the discussions really helped us all grow, and I think they fostered a sense of unity as we complimented one another or commented on whose ideas were most likely to use.
The classes were super fun and I learned a lot. The assignments weren't bad, more were fairly interesting – you could be brutally honest in assignments. The professor was awesome.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
It's very easy to get an A if you put in the work.
Second half > first half
This was an amazing class. Not too hard but the best taps teacher I have had.
Amazing Professor
100% take this course. It required a lot of work, was really fun, and was generally life-altering.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	12.50%	87.50%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
I think Shade gave a lot of constructive feedback and always challenged us to think more about how the way people acted out scenes impacted the ways in which we thought of acting
Shade's openness and ability to create a non-judgemental atmosphere for us novice actors to learn how to act.
his feedback, the environment he fostered, precision of opinion and communication of aforementioned opinion
In class games.
The inclusive nature the professor possessed.
Passion of instructor
I think Shade's willingness to get into the mix of everything with us contributed the most to our learning. When we held discussions, he was part of them, offering his own insights from years of experience in the field. When we did games, he was as much a participant as any of us. I think the way that he did this was crucial though: I never felt like any of us were sub-equal to Shade. Even when he was offering advice for our rehearsal groups, it felt like everything was coming from the same level. The clearest representation of this was probably the games: we could call on him or get him out of the competitive ones just like for anyone else. The high level of respect that Shade showed us contributed to my learning because it increased the effectiveness of his communication and the lessons he wanted to teach us.
He was very open, paid attention to everyone and gave specific feedback, knew how to help everyone grow.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Maybe making less of an emphasis on singling out like a certain mood
Nothing! Everything was perfect.
N/A
n/a
Nothing
I really wish the class was held more than once per week. Every session felt too short, and I often had days from Tuesday–Sunday where I would think about what joys our next 3 hour session would bring.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%

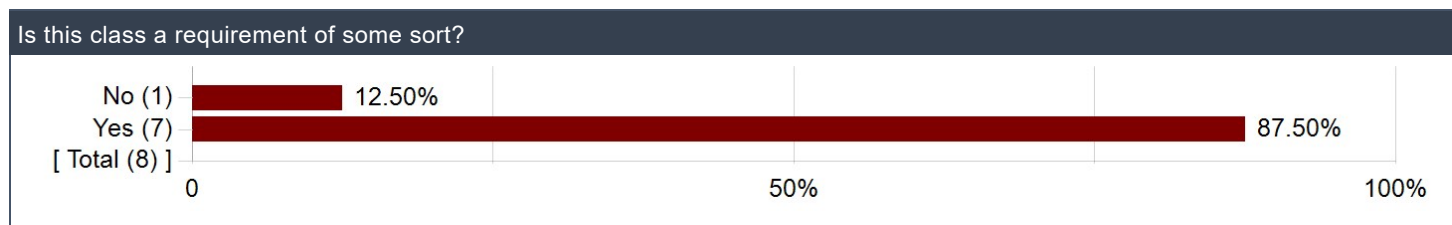
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

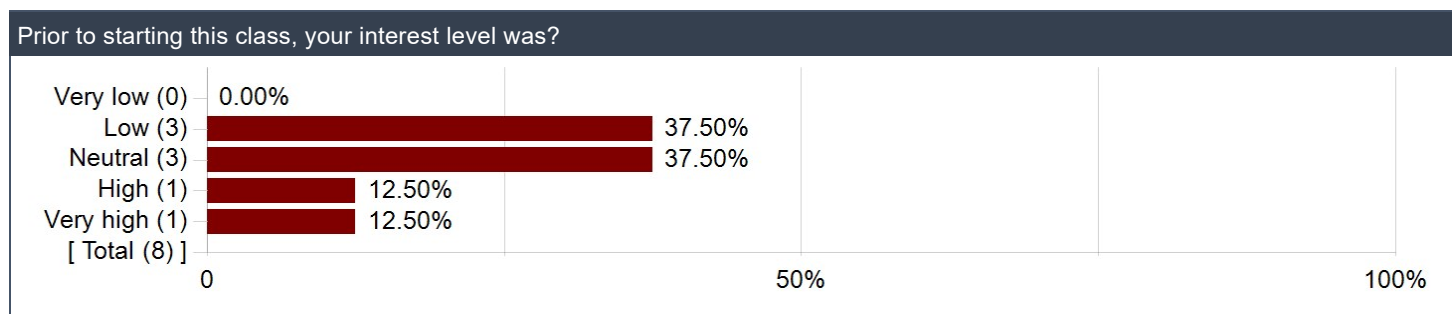
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
You have to set up rehearsal times with your scene partner (2x starting from week 6) to practice
Viewing of a Live Theatrical Performance: I watched a performance of the Court Theater's <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> . While I was lost for most of the play, I realized while writing the reflection that the play's value was actually highlighting that aspect of being: when asked to question what it means to be something, it's hard to provide a straight answer.

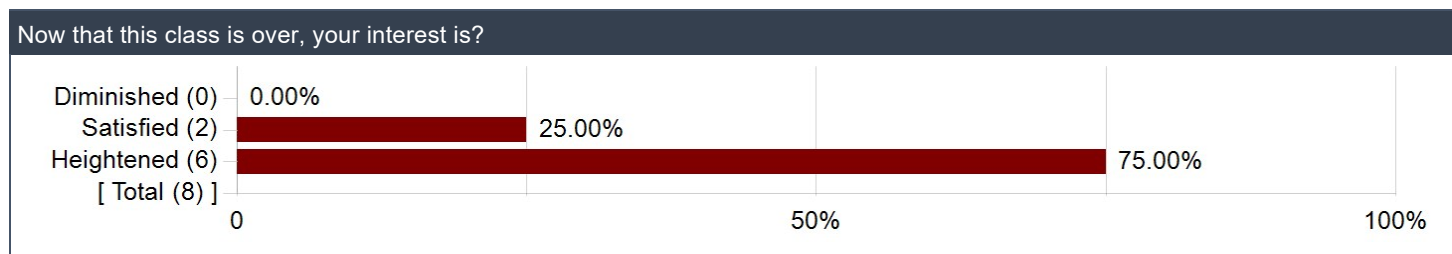
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



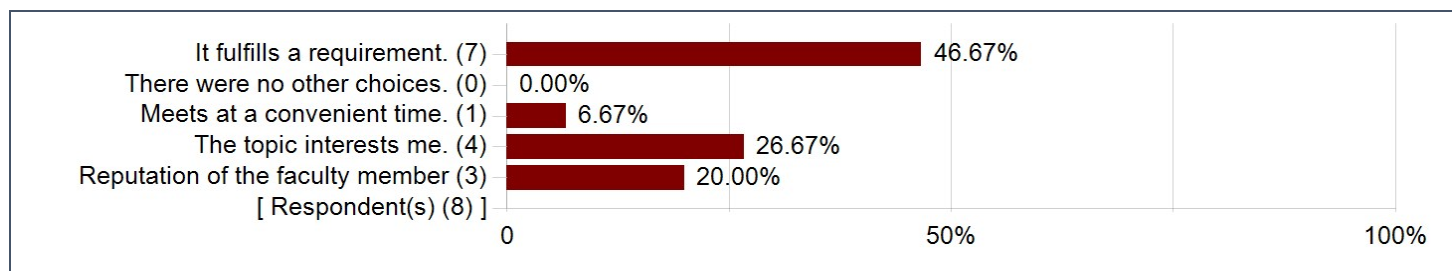
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



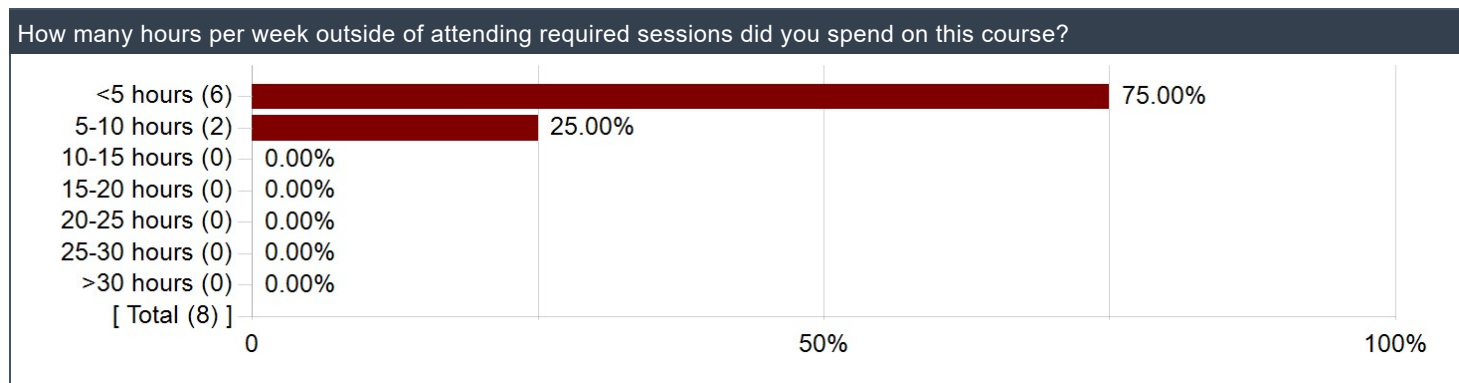
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



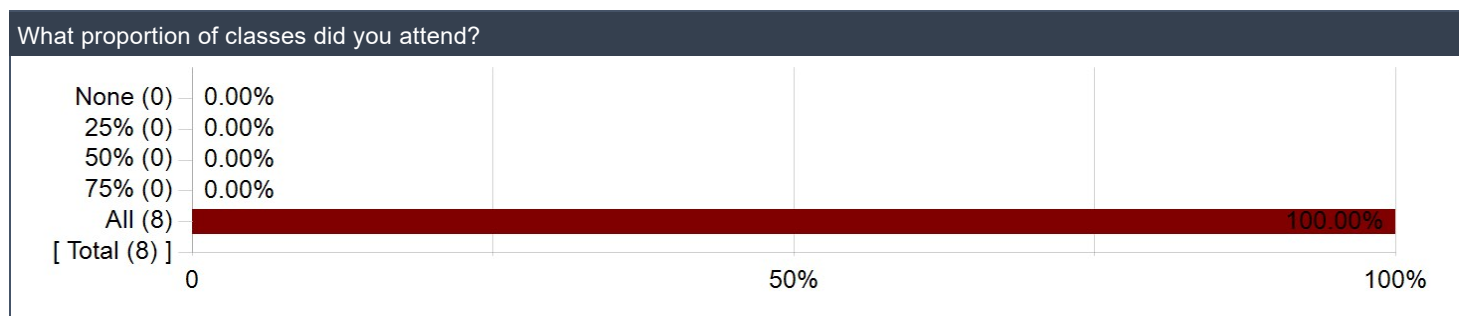
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



## What proportion of classes did you attend?



## Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
It's not difficult at all, very beginner friendly
The most difficult thing was learning how to overcome yourself you have to try
Greatest taps teacher in the school.
I had no experience with acting previously, but I don't think it was the acting concepts or actions that were hard to grasp; we all have experience talking to one another, being influenced by our emotions, gesticulating with our bodies, etc. The hardest part was the fact that I initially found it difficult to let go of my own embarrassment and expectations and work toward the good of others vs. myself. I think that the more worried a person is about how they appear to others, the more difficult this class will be. However, I definitely think it's possible for anyone to overcome these feelings and grow in the process.
It was a small number of students, so the professor could give everyone enough attention to keep everyone challenged irrespective of previous experience. I had done acting before but I still learned a lot and felt engaged.