

**Introduction to Acting
Theater 121, Fall 2005**

Prof. Mary Lynn Owen

contact: mowen3@learnlink.emory.edu

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to provide you with the tools necessary to live naturally, comfortably, and honestly on stage. The emphasis will be on process rather than product, and the weekly exercises and assignments, fully explored, will lead you towards the creation of "Stage Truth" - living in the actual Here and Now with the imaginary There and Then through the practice of solid acting technique. Generally, class time will consist of a physical/vocal warm up, and the examination of students' weekly assignments.

Grade Breakdown:

Class/Event Attendance 30%

Because of the experiential and collaborative nature of acting training, attendance at all class sessions is required. Your semester grade will not be directly affected by one or two absences, but each absence beyond two will drop your final grade by one step (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.)

If you wish to be accommodated regarding religious observances or other personal commitments that may conflict with class attendance or class work, please make this request as soon as possible in the semester. Even when such absences are approved, you must assume responsibility for making up missed work and learning missed material. It is important to note that, with the sequential, building-block nature of the class exercises, a missed class makes successive exercises even harder to grasp.

Class will begin promptly and it is imperative that you arrive on time. Three tardies will affect your grade in the same way as an absence. (see above).

Participation 10%

Acting training is ACTIVE and experiential, demanding that you "show up" mentally, emotionally, and imaginatively as well as physically.. You are a crucial participant, whether you are taking part in a group exercise, performing solo work, or watching the work of your fellow classmates. Your complete participation ensures a safe, supportive atmosphere for your own and others' work.

Weekly assignments and Journal entries 20%

Each week, you will bring an assigned exercise to class and work through this exercise, individually or in pairs, before the class. This is not a performance! This is an in-the-moment learning experience. Although there will generally be no rehearsal outside of class for these assignments, you will be expected to bring to class a strong, thorough idea of what you're trying to achieve. Bring all necessary props and costumes to class. Be prepared to schlep!

One weekly journal entry, detailing your experience of the week's assignment, will be handed in each Thursday. Use this entry to steep yourself in the assignment, to reflect, to create, to "vent," and also to include any applications I may suggest.

Final 30%

The final will be an "open scene," performed with a partner, and will contain certain applications from the class assignments and exercises. I will outline more clearly as we progress in the term.

Final: December 19, 4:30 - 7:00

Self-evaluation 10%

After attending a professional production (Theater Emory is acceptable), you will submit a two page paper, single-spaced, due on the last day of class, **December 8**. This paper will evaluate your own acting, based on what the rehearsal and production have shown you about your own strengths and areas for improvement, and it will consider the particular lessons we've covered in class.

Additional class information:

Attire: Wear comfortable, casual, non-binding clothes that permit physical flexibility and deep breath work. Wear shoes that permit active movement (no flip-flops, clogs, sandals)

Nature of class exercises and material: Group exercises are, at times, strenuous and aerobic, and often involve close proximity to others. Texts may include adult subject matter.

Material to bring to class: a small notebook for recording class assignments, and for taking notes or recording observations.

I will set up a Learnlink class conference as soon as possible after drop/add.

CLASS SCHEDULE

9/1	Introduction to course
9/6 - 8	Warming up, Physical/Vocal Skills, Working in an Ensemble 9/6 First Rehearsal, <i>Alceste</i> ; Performances 10/6-16
9/13-15	Task Journal entry 1
9/20-22	Task Journal entry 2
9/27-29	Task Journal entry 3
10/4-6	2 Tasks Journal entry 4
Fall Break no class 10/11	10/11 First Rehearsal, <i>King Lear</i> ; Performances 11/10-20
10/13	A Familiar Time and Place Journal entry 5
10/18-20	A Familiar Time and Place/2 Tasks Journal entry 6
10/25-27	Familiar Time and Place/3 Tasks Journal entry 7
11/1-3	Monologue Work Journal entry 8
11/8-10	Monologue Work Journal entry 9
11/15-17	Monologue Work Journal entry 10
11/22-24	Working with a Partner Journal entry 11
11/29-12/1	Working with a Partner Journal entry 12
12/6-12/8	Working with a Partner Journal entry 13 12/8 self-evaluation due
12/19	4:30pm - 7:00pm

Final - Open Scene