

Oxford College of Emory University
THEA 121
Introduction to Acting
Tu/Thur 11:50-1:30
Tarbutton Theater

Maia Knispel, Instructor
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Office hours Tu/Thurs 10:30-11:30
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Attendance at occasional evening performances and outside of class rehearsals required

Note: Syllabus subject to change based on the instructor's assessment of class needs.

Course Description:

Theater 121 is a theoretical and practical initiation to the craft of acting. This course will provide the student with a strong foundational knowledge of the acting process and the job of the actor. The student will study and practice warm-ups, physical and vocal awareness and expression, improvisation, scene study and analysis, and performance process. Student assessment will be rooted in hard work, improvement, risk taking, and skill development.

Course Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of basic acting techniques.
- To develop concentration skills, focus, confidence, and clear communication techniques.
- To cultivate an awareness of the actor's instrument(s) — body, mind, and voice.
- To develop a critical awareness of performance
- To explore human expression.
- To develop an appreciation for the Theater and the 'work' of the actor.

Particulars:

This is an experiential course. Participation in all classroom exercises and activities is essential. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. More than three absences will reduce your grade by one letter. Participation and performance are big elements of this course. You cannot participate or perform if you are not in class.

Text: None

Occasional assigned readings will be posted, emailed and/or distributed in class.

Students are required to attend 2 theatrical performances during the semester. One assigned (AS YOU LIKE IT at Theater Emory in the MGM March 31-April 10), and one of your choosing. Some possibilities are: Arcadia (February 25, 26, 27), Oxford One Act Play Festival (third week of April), The Vagina Monologues (Oxford some time in the spring), Brave New Works (Emory Campus Schwartz Theater Lab Jan. 26-Feb. 14), OR any professional theatrical production you wish that is pre-approved by the instructor.

Grading:

Attendance and

In class participation and discussion	28% (280 points; 10 points per class)
Lip Synch	7.5% (75 points)
Play attendance and written reports(2)	4% (40 points; 20 per each)
Open Scene	7.5% (75 points)
Monologue	10% (100 points)
Scripted Scene	10% (100 points)
Improv	3% (30 points)
Final Scene	20% (200 points)

Total points possible = 1000

A	=	930 - 1000	C+	=	770 - 799
A-	=	900 - 929	C	=	730 - 769
B+	=	870 - 899	C-	=	700 - 729
B	=	830 - 869	D+	=	670 - 699
B-	=	800 - 829	D	=	600 - 669
			F	=	0 - 599

Honor Code:

The Emory Honor Code is in force in this class. Students requiring accommodation of special needs must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assignments
Week 1	Jan. 12, 14	Introduction/Body, Voice, Mind	
Week 2	Jan. 19, 21	Physical work, gestural work, making choices	
Week 3	Jan. 26, 28	Physical improvisations	Lip Synchs 1/28
Week 4	Feb. 2, 4	Communication and Meaning making	Lip Synchs 2/2 Read THE LEVEE for 2/2 Open scenes assigned
Week 5	Feb. 9, 11	Communication; Partnering; Listening and Responding	Outside of class rehearsals for open scenes
Week 6	Feb. 16, 18	Character and Intention; scene analysis	Perform Open Scene 2/16 Scripted Scenes chosen
Week 7	Feb. 23, 25	Vocal work; text work; builds	Outside of class rehearsals for Scripted Scenes
Week 8	March 1, 3	Character - voice and body	Scripted Scenes Performed 3/1 and 3/3

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assignments
Week 9	SPRING BREAK		
Week 10	March 15, 17	Improv: Focus, impulse, energy,	Choose Monologues Turn in a copy 3/17
Week 11	March 22, 24	Improv Solo performance	Outside of class rehearsals for monologues Improv Monologue work
Week 12	March 29, 31	Discovery in Rehearsal	In class performances: Monologues 3/29
Week 13	April 5, 7	Rehearsal/Partner work	Final Scenes Chosen 4/5
Week 14	April 12, 14	Notes and Feedback	AYLI reports due 4/12 Outside of class rehearsals for final scenes
Week 15	April 19, 21	Final Scenes	Last day to turn in written reports 4/19 Final Scenes Performed 4/21
Week 16		Final Exam Week	

