

ACTING II THEA 1430 Section A

Class meeting: 2--4:40pm MW

January 14-March 28

Instructor : Lenig

Preferred email: slenig@columbiastate.edu

Office: Hickman- 149

Office phone: 931.540.2877

Office Hours: 8-12 noon MWF; 9:30-11am T/R

Texts: THERE IS NO PURCHASED TEXT

HOWEVER THERE ARE REQUIRED (FREE!!!!) ONLINE READINGS

Other materials/online data/reserve may be assigned at the instructor's discretion

Other information concerning this course is found on line: Go to: www.webct.columbiastate.edu for full details on course requirements and grading.

This part of the syllabus only PARTIALLY describes course requirements and events.

The Basics:

Assignments:

400 points: 4 exams

100 Critical response to acting

400 points: Acting assignments in four mini productions

100 attendance at a performance and critical paper on voice, body, and intellectual performance

1000 points total

a. Improvisational comedy performance

b. Classical performance

c. solo performance

d. contemporary performance

1000 points possible (1000-900:A; 899-800: B; 799-700: C; 699-600: D; 599-below: F)

POLICIES: 1.Attend regular class hours. 2 absences are the maximum. 3 absences: grade dropped 10%; 4 absences: grade dropped 20%;5 absences grade dropped 30%

2. Students MUST RESPOND to oral discussions in class by being prepared and contributing to discussions. The students shall lead many class discussions!!!

3. Perform all assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor.

4. Students must have a WEBCT account and check and respond to assignments /messages.

5. Students must have internet access and be able to use internet resources and websites to complete assignments.

6. Students must be competent in word processing and must be able to complete and submit essays/outlines for communication assignments. All assignments in MLA format.

7. No tardy, early leaving, or disruptive behavior will be tolerated. No warnings. Students not complying will be banned from class.

8. All assignments must be in the instructor's hands by the due date. No late papers.

9. Students who miss two consecutive assignments (two discussions, two quizzes, two essays, two performances) or any combination or other assignments will automatically fail the course.

10. Students must be able to view, read, or pick up materials left on reserve in the LRC or online.

11. SOME ASSIGNMENTS MAY REQUIRE GROUP WORK, rehearsal, DRIVING TO MEET OTHER STUDENTS, TIME AWAY FROM HOME, RESEARCH AT A LIBRARY OR OTHER TIME, TRAVEL, OR MEETING

ARRANGEMENTS. Plan ahead for meetings and group assignments. LEARNING IS ACTIVE AND YOU WILL NEED TO BE MOBILE FOR SOME ASSIGNMENTS.

12. Evaluation of all writing:

Mechanical error (for EACH error)

Spell, punctuation, proofing, minor sentence

5 points

Construction error (EACH error)

Sentence sense, frag, run-on, paragraphing

10 points

Struc/works cited/text notes (EACH error)	
Complexity/thesis/exemplification	10/20 points
Shallowness/hyperbole/generalization	
Immaturity/off topic/incoherent (EACH error)	auto failure
13. Evaluation of Performance: (see independent study requirements)	
Improper rehearsal	10/20 points off
Breaking character/laughing	20/40 points off
Memory loss	10/20 points off
Immaturity	20/40 points off
Failure to take direction	20/40 points off
No improvement in skills	20/40 points off
Erratic work methods/skill	20/40 points off
Complicated/advanced work	10/20 points added
Long memory passages	10/20 points added
Sustained concentration	10/20 points added
Genuine emotion/humor/drama	10/20 points added
Failure to perform	F: no makeup
Insincere/winging it/attitude	F: no make-up

THEA1430 : Tentative Class Schedule: Subject to Change

This is a project based class. There are at present: 3 projects planned for the semester
Student groups may plan additional projects but these are the basic projects

student horror film 1/14-1/25 (production)
radio plays: holmes, Brooks, Flash, subbasement: 2/20,21,22
great gatsby: 3/19,20,21
Film presentations: 4/18 and 4/25

How well the students perform and produce these projects will determine ultimate grades. It is a lot of work to do three separate shows, but it is also a lot of fun and very empowering. There will be required online readings for each unit: Readings on film production, readings on radio production and history, and readings on Gatsby. There will be short quizzes to test you on your knowledge of these areas BEFORE that unit begins rehearsal. Most of the readings are short and easy EXCEPT two long readings: 30 page on Greta Garbo and the Jazz Age (for Gatsby) and

A long history of British Radio production (because they do more radio show to this day!!!)

Please go to the elearn campus site and read the material. Exams will be at that site as well.

Otherwise, most student work will be

- 1. attending rehearsals REGULARLY and**
- 2. memorization of scripts and**
- 3. help creating sets and play materials.**

THEA 1430: Acting II (Independent study requirements, supersedes the regular class requirements)

Tentative Class Schedule:

Revised 1/16: Subject to Change

Starred Assignments are GRADED

I. Three Exams covering videos and texts/articles and h/os selected by the students and the instructor.

II. Three comprehensive acting projects

- 1. Tom Sawyer Mainstage production**
- 2. A second theatre/stage production (to be chosen with the instructor)**
- 3. A video project (may include work with Ian Disch filming campus events for new media)
Or may be independent (to be chosen with the instructor)**

III. Technical elements: Editing the digital video i

IV. Dates: Tom Sawyer Feb. 26/27

Production Two: April 9/10 (TBA)

Video: Weekly videos (with Disch)

V. Working with other students on theatre and video projects.

Outcomes:

I. Produce a minimum of three acting projects

II. Succeed in three examinations

III. Learn the technology of recent stage and videowebcasting production.

IV. Produce a DVD portfolio of works that you can add to your resume

Weekly Schedule:

- 1. Conference with Lenig Weekly.**
- 2. Perform in Tom Sawyer**
- 3. Have completed one performance at least by midterm**
- 4. Dates for the exams will be 2/18, 3/25, 4/22**
- 5. Exam reviews for each exam will be provided by Mr. Lenig at least one week before the exam.**

I Agree to these terms and in return for this process, I plan to complete all assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor, or I will not receive credit.

Signature of student _____

Signature of instructor _____

1/14-1/25: Module 1: Film Production

1/14: Pass out film scripts, begin rehearsing and acting for film

Readings:

Module 1: Acting History: The Greeks and Romans

Watch: The Orestia/Medea/Drums and Choreography/Musical theatre in ancient times

Read: Halpern: What is Improv?/Cole: 3-34: Romans and Greeks

Assignments: All assignments due by the due date

Module 2: Middle ages/Renaissance Acting

Read: Halpern: C. 2 But Seriously folks/Cole: 34-92: Middle ages and Renaissance Acting

Assignment:

**2/3 Public Improvisation performance

**2/11: exam #1:

Module 3: 18th c./19thth century melodrama

Read: Halpern c3: Trust/Cole: 92-187; 254-282: English, German, French acting

Watch: Black Adder/Restoration/Ridicule/Les Laisons

Read: Halpern c. 4: Agreement

**2/20: Point/counterpoint on a media issue

Module 4:Realism: Late 19th century acting

Stanislavsky/Otto Brahm/Theatre Libre

Read: Halpern c. 5/Games/Initiations/Cole: 284-299; 475-536: German and Soviet Acting

Watch: Ibsen/Sense And Sensibility

Read: Halpern: c. 6: moment to moment

Watch: Whose Line Episodes/SNL

**3/6: Critical Essay on an Acting Experience with Sources

Module 5: Early 20th century/rejecting realism

Read: Halpern: c. 7: Building a Scene/Cole: 299-321

Watch: Sweeney Todd/Into the Woods

**3/18: Public Solo Performance

**3/20:Exam II

Module 6: Mid Century Revisions/Movie Style Naturalism

Read: Halpern: c. 8 One Mind, many bodies/Cole: 591-623 American Method and Realism

Watch: Citizen Kane/Talk Radio/Kevin Spacey

Read: Halpern c. 9: Environmentally Aware

Watch: Gone with the Wind/30s style comedy/drama

4/8: Web Assignment due

Module 7: Neo-Naturalism: Neo-Expressionism

Read Halpern: c. 10/11: Harold Players/Doing a Harold/Cole: 529-536;641-670

Read: Halpern: c.12:Harold as a team sport

Watch: Four wedding and a funeral (Hugh Grant)/You can Count on Me (Laura Linney)/

Remains of the Day (Sir. Anthony Hopkins)/Donnie Brasco (Depp/Pacino)

**4/22: Public Contemporary Performance

4/29:2-4pm: Final Exam

Description of the performances

WARNING: Bad actors need never fear. I will never want to put bad acting before an audience. I'd rather watch repeats of Jerry Springer. If you are awful, I will do everything in my power to hide your dreadful work. If there is any value to your work. If it is creative, emotional, sincere, notable, or viewable by others I will encourage you to progress and grow. Sadly, a lot of young people can't take acting seriously. That usually means an F for them and a boring time for me and the rest of the class.

a. Improvisational comedy performance 2-5 minutes

We've all seen Jerry Seinfeld or SNL or Chris Farley or Adam Sandler do a schtick (bit or routine) on stage. Many of us watch stand up or comedy central and we receive a regular dose of comedy. (If you don't this is a mandatory assignment for this class. Watch some other actors especially comedians carefully!)

b. Classical performance

c. solo performance

d. contemporary performance