THTR 1351 Fall 2026
Acting 1

University of Texas at Tyler
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Tyler, Texas 75799

Instructor Information Name: Michael K. Ward, Master of Arts
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Office: Skype, Facetime, or Zoom by appointment
Office Phone: cell phone (text preferred) 903-504-3881 Text is preferable. You may text me if there is a problem between the hours of 8am and 9pm. IF you text outside these times I will respond the next day. So, please respect this policy.
Office Hours: By appointment only
Classroom: Cowan 1009

Catalogue Information:

THTR 1351 Acting: An Introduction [TCCN: DRAM 1351]

Scene study and the history of acting including basic techniques of performance for experience in preparation and presentation. Intended for the non-major with an interest in obtaining acting skills. Open to all students.

Knowledge Bases

Acting 1 provides practical acting techniques for new actors. While universal acting concepts such as motivation, objective, and commercial techniques are introduced, real-world skills; such as focus, observation, memorization, teamwork and problem-solving, are also learned in this class.

Learner Outcomes

1. Learners will study different styles of Acting and their teachers.
2. Learners will understand the creation of characters for acting.
3. Learners will understand all basics of acting and the process.
4. Learners will perform pieces of modern and classical works
5. Learns will understand and participate in the collaborative nature that is the theatre though assignments and projects.

Text Books – These are found online for free at the link provided in Module Start here. There will be weekly quizzes over readings.

Respect for Acting By Uta Hagen
The Art of Acting By Stella

Class Dress Code
This class will include movement (quite a bit). Students should wear clothes that they can move in. Example – work out clothes with sports shoes or bare feet. Much of acting is physical so you must be prepared. If you are coming from work, there are restrooms to change into across the hall.

Every class will begin with a physical, mental and vocal warm up.

Class meets Tuesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:45 PM

Week 1 –
Class meets
Go over Syllabus
Introduction to acting.
The Basics of the stage – Hierarchy, Stage Geography, Blocking, Business, ect.
Understanding and taking criticism.
Who am I? Activity
Read – Adler Lesson 1
Hagen Chapter 1
Quiz Due by Monday September 2 6pm.

Week 2- Class does not meet due to Labor Day
Comment in Discussion board about both Chapter 1's
Select a contemporary monologue, begin to memorize. See link in module.
Work on Uta Hagen Questions for the character in your monologue
Read – Adler Lesson 2
Hagen Chapter 2
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 3
Discussion over reading
Be ready to discuss Uta Hagen Questions about your character.
Uta Hagen Questions for Due Characters (Upload on Canvas by end of class)
Work on Monologue with Professor
Read – Adler Lesson 3
Hagen Chapter 3
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 4 September
Readings discussion
In class Acting exercises.
Peer tutoring on Monologues.
Monologue performances and notes
Read – Adler Lesson 4
Hagen Chapter 4
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 5
Discuss Readings
Select Classical Monologue – See link in Module
Characterization for Monologue
Work on Monologues with Partner
Read – Adler Lesson 5
Hagen Chapter 5
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 6
Reading Discussion
In class Acting Exercises
Work with Professor on Monologue
Perform Classical Monologue
Upload Uta Hagen Questions on Canvas
Review performances
Read – Adler Lesson 6
Hagen Chapter 6
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 7
Auditions Process
Discussion over reading
Select Duet Scenes
Work Characterization Monologue
Reading Adler Lesson 7
Hagen Chapter 7
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 8
Discussion over Reading
Work on Duet Scenes with Partner
Work on Duet with Professor
Reading Adler Lesson 8
Hagen Chapter 8
Uta Hagen Questions Turn in on Canvas

Week 9
Discussion over Reading
Work on Duets with partner
Perform Duets
Review performances
Read- Adler Lesson 9
Hagen Chapter 9
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 10
Discussion over Reading
Improvisation
How to make it in the Theatre Business
Reading Adler Lesson 10
Hagen Chapter 10
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 11
Reading Quiz 8 Selected Chapters
Discussion over Reading
Select Group Scenes
Critical Conversations The Theatre as a Collective
Reading Adler Lesson 11
Hagen 13
Work Group Scenes
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 12
Discussion over reading
Work on scenes with scene partners
Work on scenes with professor
Reading Adler Lesson 12
Hagen Chapter 14
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 13
Discussion over reading
Work on Scenes with Partners
Work scenes with professor
Uta Hagen Questions due
Perform Scenes
Review performances
Read Adler Lesson 13
Hagen 20
Take Quiz before next class time.

Week 14 No Class have a great Thanksgiving Break

Week 15
Discussion over reading
Decide line up for Acting Open Performance – Each student will select a monologue and a scene to be performed.
Rehearsal for Showcase Performance

Week 16
Dress Rehearsal at start of class
Performance 7:30 open to public.
Reception after Performance.

Classroom Etiquette –
Cell phones should be put away at all times unless professor asks you to use them
Laptops can only be used during reading discussions
Be kind. We are all learning.
This class is a safe space and judgement free zone.
Due to the physicality of the class if a student chooses to conceal carry it must be in a bag and out of sight.

Absences
A student may miss 1 class with no penalty. Every class missed after will be a deduction of 10 points off the final grade. This is a collaborative class so attendance is paramount.

Grading
Quizzes 15%
Duet Scene 15%
Classical Monologue 15%
Modern Monologue 15%
Group Scene 15%
Performance 15% - This is required. If student misses the performance, they will automatically fail the class.
Participation 10 %

All quizzes will be done in Canvas.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:
http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at
http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).
Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student

Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct: Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;

- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;

- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

(ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

(iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

(iv) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Blackboard.

UT Tyler Resources for Students:

Writing Center: The Writing Center provides all undergraduate and graduate students a place to work on their writing projects and skills. There are tutoring options as well as workshops available to support you in your academic writing.

Math Learning Center: The Math Learning Center provides drop-in tutoring for lower-level math courses throughout the week. The MLC also has computer workstations for your use.

PASS Tutoring Center: The PASS Tutoring Center supports a variety of courses. Due to COVID-19, we are asking that you schedule an appointment for your face-to-face tutoring support. Tutoring is also available through Zoom tutoring sessions. Check the website to see the courses supported for the Fall 2020 term.

Supplemental Instruction (SI): SI is a series of weekly peer-assisted study sessions in courses identified by previous students as difficult. Due to COVID-19, SI sessions will be conducted face-to-face and via Zoom this fall. Check the website to see the support courses for the Fall 2020 term.

Upswing (24/7 Online Tutoring): Upswing is a free, confidential, and convenient way to receive help in nearly all of UT Tyler's undergraduate courses.

Robert R. Muntz Library Staff: UT Tyler has an incredible staff of librarians ready to assist you. Discipline/major library liaisons are available to support you and you can also schedule appointments for research consultations. In addition, the Robert R. Muntz library's Head of University Archives and Special Collections can assist you with scholarly communications, primary sources, and archive materials.

Canvas 101: This Canvas course provides you with a wealth of information – including how to navigate in Canvas, use ProctorU (and even take a practice test), tips for being a successful online and hybrid learner, how to use Zoom, and more!

Digital Support Toolkits: Digital Support Toolkits are supplemental materials generated by faculty to help you be successful in targeted courses typically taken by our freshman and sophomore population. Students registered in Digital Support Toolkits supported courses will find these in their Canvas dashboard. You don't have to register – just take advantage of this great resource.

UT Tyler Testing Center: The Testing Center provides securing testing opportunities to meet the needs of students and the community in an environment conducive to student and academic success.

Student Accessibility and Resource (SAR) Office: The SAR Office works to provide students equal access to all educational, social, and co-curriculum programs through the coordination of services and reasonable accommodations, consultation, and advocacy.

Student Counseling Center: The Student Counseling Center supports students in developing balance, resiliency, and overall well-being both academically and personally. They have in person and virtual counseling options. In addition, the Student Counseling Center offers TAO, a self-help, completely private online library of behavioral health resources. Sign in to the TAO website using your UT Tyler credentials.