

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
ADULT EVENING & ONLINE PROGRAM
COURSE SYLLABUS – FALL EVENING 2014
PAR 205 – ACTING I (3.0 CREDITS)
THURSDAYS 5:30- 9:40 P.M.
PEARL HARBOR

Instructor: Ashley DeMoville
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Course Description

The course aims to develop an appreciation of theater and the acting process. The student will develop a basic understanding of the acting process through improvisation, exercises, various reading and writing assignments—all given practical exploration when applied to scene and monologue work. Acting skills of relaxation and concentration are combined with script analysis, line interpretation and character development to produce short performances that are worthy of the craft of acting.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able:

1. To possess fundamental knowledge and practice of the vocal and physical tools required for acting
2. To introduce the acting student to some of the basic skills used in the creation of character, and the choices that lead characters to action.
3. Through the use of oral interpretation, neutral scenes, individual monologues, and scene study students will leave the class with an understanding of objectives, obstacles, character analysis, blocking, movement, and transitions.
4. To recognize connections between life and acting and build acting technique upon those connections.
5. To understand and to competently use the terminology and vocabulary of the art of acting
6. To become more focused and informed as a theater audience.
7. To develop the ability to evaluate performance skills.
8. To respond actively and imaginatively in classroom by engaging in active participation in exercises and activities, discussion, interpreting, analyzing and critical thinking.
9. To present monologues, readings or scenes/short plays in front of an audience with confidence and evidence of proper preparation and rehearsal.
10. To become comfortable and competent with Improvisational Acting

Texts [recommended]

The Actor in You 6th Edition, by Robert Benedetti

Other Supplemental Materials

Play scripts, articles and other materials and resources will be made available by the professor. Students may also be required to access at least one play script of their own choosing.

Expectations and Policies

1. Attendance ON TIME and participation at all class sessions. This is very important, as group work on scenes demands that all be present and participating.
2. Reading all assigned materials and being prepared for classroom activities, rehearsals and performances.
3. Memorizing all selections/scenes by specified dates.
4. Writing two reflective essays. (One on your midterm performance and another on your final performance.)
5. Attend **and** review two live theatrical productions (the fall CUH production and one community-based production)
6. Maintaining a detailed and efficient acting journal (one half page entry for each class). The journal entries should be reflections about your experience in the acting class that day—what you learned about yourself or the craft of acting or being a good audience, difficulties or obstacles, interesting or unique things that happened, were discussed or viewed in class, or your insights about a class assignment. Journals will be submitted twice for credit (at the midterm and on the last day of class).
7. All cell phones, iPods, electronic games, etc. are to remain OFF AND IN BACKPACKS, BOOKBAGS OR PURSES.
8. Student MUST check their Chaminade.edu email addresses at least TWICE per week.

Extra Credit

The following are extra credit options for the class:

- Seeing and reviewing an additional live theatre performance; up to 5 points E.C.
- Presenting an additional memorized and staged monologue or scene; up to 5 points E.C.

Grading:

The class grade is determined through a point system with a total of 100 possible points. Points are earned on the preparation and presentation of exploratory exercises (six total worth 5pts each), the written work [play attendance/review (worth 10pts), short reflection papers (two total worth 8pts each) and acting journal (nine entries total worth 1pt each)], Midterm Performance (worth 8pts) and Final Performance (worth 12pts), class participation and attendance (ten days worth 1.5pts each); and any extra credit submitted.

Please note:

Completion of midterm and final exams are mandatory. If you miss class for any reason on the day of an exam, you MUST immediately contact the professor. You MAY be able to schedule a make up exam at the discretion of the professor.

The following scale of the total points will be used to determine grades:

A = 90-100
 B = 80-89
 C = 70-79
 D = 60-69
 F = 59 and below

Grade Value Assignments:	Exploratory Exercises	30%
	Written work	35%
	Midterm & Final Performances	20%
	Class Participation	15%

Writing Requirements

All written assignments handed in to the professor for this class must meet the following criteria:

- The papers must be typed, double-spaced, in black ink, using appropriate paper, fonts and standard margins. (With the exception of the journals which may be hand-written in black ink as long as they are clear and legible)
- All written work must meet the standard writing requirements set forth by CUH and will be evaluated using a template designed to meet these requirements.
- All writing assignments must be handed in during the class on the assigned dates unless permission from the professor to hand in a tardy assignment is given in advance. Email submission will NOT be accepted unless specified by the professor.
- Production Reviews (with ticket stubs attached) are due the week following the attendance at the production. Late reviews will not be accepted.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is taken at every class session. Contribution to and participation in classroom activities are expected. Attendance is extremely important in this class. Because of the compression of the class schedule, work missed due to absence may not be made up. Because of the ensemble nature of the class, one student's absence can severely hamper other student's ability to fully participate. We will be relying on each other to be prepared and present. The final grade will be lowered by 5% for each unexcused absence. Absences are only deemed excused by the teacher, and in advance (except with a doctor's note for sickness).

*It is the student's responsibility to notify the professor **by email** concerning absences.

Class Structure

We will approach our learning of basic acting skills in three parts, although we will be working on each part concurrently:

Part I: Developing the Actor's Instrument

Observation, Concentration, Sensory Awareness, Emotional Awareness, Imagination, Listening, Relaxation, Voice

Part II: The Actor as Detective

Given Circumstances, Environment, Objectives, Actions, Obstacles, Structure, Characterization.

Part III: Putting It All Together

- Applying what we've learned to text.
- You will be assigned individual and ensemble exercises throughout all three parts. Rehearsal outside of class is mandatory.