



School of Liberal Arts
THEA 200
Introduction to Acting
Term: Fall 2023
Number of Credits: 3

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Katherine McCallum

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Cell: 867 335 2288

CLASS TIMES:

Thursdays 1pm – 3:50pm, September 7 – December 8, 2023

OFFICE LOCATION:

Mon – Wed 9:30am – 4pm Learning Commons, IT dept. Thurs/Fri – Home Office/Zoom/Teams

Instructor office hours: Kat will be available from 3:50 - 4:50pm after each class for questions, and on Teams and In-Person at other times, if required, for assistance with homework, and further assistance with scene/monologue work (location dependent on availability of space on the day).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"If you're going to be in the spotlight you might as well shine." A gentle, fun-based introduction to acting for stage, the classroom and the requirements of everyday life. This practical course emphasizes awareness of self, relaxation, concentration, observation, sense of memory and justification.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites: None

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at:

<https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the physical, vocal and emotional tools of the actor
- Identify text, subtext, intention, objective and super-objective in performance
- Understand and use centering techniques as a means of self-discipline
- Explain the elements of successful public presentation
- Master the improvisational tools of blocking, yielding, and furthering

COURSE FORMAT - Class format, time commitment, and expectations:

- Each week there will be a 3-hour practical, in-person scene study and monologue lab.
- This class is conducted in the format of a masterclass, where you learn from doing the work and practicing at home, as well as learning from watching your fellow classmates work on their scenes and monologues.
- Some light reading of instructional materials will be required to fully understand the work.

- One-on-one tutorial work with the instructor is available to you if extra time is needed to understand the work.
- Time outside of class will be required to do daily vocal warmups, learn lines, analyze scenes, and work together with scene partners to rehearse scenes & monologues for class. It is expected that this course will require approximately 3 hours/week of homework, rehearsal, and additional reading.
- It is a course expectation that you will see two (2) **live** dramatic performances of at least one hour length (not movies) throughout the semester and write a final reflection paper on one or both of those productions.
- You will be expected to visit the THEA 200 Moodle Classroom each week after class to check instructions for the following week. These should be posted by end of day Friday each week.

DELIVERY FORMAT

This course will be delivered in person, augmented by required activities on the course Moodle site.

EVALUATION

Attendance/Participation – 10% each	20%
Scene Project (partners)	20%
Monologue Writing Project	20 %
Final Monologue Performance	20 %
Final Reflection Paper & attending 2 x live theatrical performances	20 %
Total	100%

- **Attendance:** This is easy! Turn up to class every week for an effortless 10% of your grade!
- **Participation in class looks like...** Giving your attention fully to the actors working on their scenes or monologues; participating in class discussions about the work that is being presented; helping the rest of the class brainstorm great directorial choices; and **ignoring the lure of your phone, and conversation with others** in class while there is work being presented in class. Participation is valued at 10% of your grade.
- **Scene Project with Partners:** You will pair up with another actor in the class and prepare a 1–2-minute scene to present to the class. The scene can be from a movie or a play. You will be evaluated on how well you: Learn your lines, analyse the scene, and apply the skills we have learned in class. This assignment is valued at 20%.
- **Monologue Writing Project:** We will read through some monologues in class and watch some monologues being performed. We'll talk about the structure of monologues. You will then write your own 1-minute monologue, which can be based on real life experience or a completely fictional character you make up. You will be evaluated on the dramatic quality of your writing (as per the elements of a monologue that we cover in class). This assignment is valued at 20%.
- **Final Monologue Performance:** Yes, you can! You can choose to perform your own monologue or a monologue of your choice from a play or a movie. We will learn monologue performance technique and you will learn how to break the monologue down into performable chunks and discover the magic of solo performance. You will be evaluated on how well you: Learn your lines, analyse the scene, apply the skills we have learned in class. You're going to love this assignment! This assignment is valued at 20%.
- **Attend 2 x live performances within the semester and write a final reflection paper based on your experience in class and how that informed your experience of the live performance:** There are many theatre companies in the Yukon and there will be opportunities to attend live theatre. In March, there will be an opportunity to attend the dress rehearsal of Larrikin Entertainment's new musical at the Yukon Arts Centre free of charge. Kat will inform you of the date (probably March 16 during class time). We will discuss other opportunities (some might be online). Your final reflection paper will be between 800-1000 words about how

what you have learned in class informed your experience of watching a live theatre performance. Prompt questions will be provided. This assignment is valued at 20%.

- **There will be no final exam or test for this course.**

TOPIC OUTLINE

In this course we will be learning the acting technique called “Practical Aesthetics” which was created by David Mamet and William H. Macy, based on the work of Sanford Meisner. Most modern acting techniques are an evolution of the Stanislavsky acting techniques “Method Acting” and “Sense Memory” etc. Although this technique was born of those approaches to acting, Practical Aesthetics does not require sense memory or require the actor to “become the character”. PA will have you analysing the scene, discovering what the playwright’s intention was when they wrote the play, and using your imagination to create moment to moment work with your scene partner. Practical Aesthetics works on the principal that everyone can learn to act if they apply their will and imagination (and learn their lines!).

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Please refer to our THEA 200 Moodle Classroom in “The Hub” for all course reading and learning materials. If you would like to order and read “A Practical Handbook for the Actor” by Melissa Bruder, Lee Michael Cohn, Madeleine Olnek, Nathaniel Pollack, Robert Previto, and Scott Zigler, you can find that at Indigo/Chapters, Amazon and probably the Whitehorse Public Library. This is not a mandatory purchase, but is a great tool for anyone who is interested in acting, performing, or presenting in front of other people (audiences, classroom etc.) It is also a clear and concise description of the Practical Aesthetics Acting Technique.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one’s own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student’s responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca.