**THEA 1307:** Acting 1

Spring 2017

**Instructor**: Katherine Noone

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**Faculty Profile:** <https://mentis.uta.edu/public/#profile/profile/edit/id/22926/category/1>

**Office Hours:** To be posted outside 423

**Section Information: THEA 1307 Section 2**

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Class: FA174 T/TH 9:30-10:50 am

**Description of Course Content: THEA 1307 ACTING 1: Basic Techniques. 3 Hours.**

Study and exercise in fundamentals of the actor's craft utilizing the Stanislavsky Method. Emphasis on the development of basic acting techniques including: characterization, objectives, beats, action, and script analysis. Performance requirements include improvisation, monologues, and scene study. Attendance at productions outside of the classroom may be required.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** This course is designed to enable the student to begin his/her understanding of the basic tenements of acting utilized in the Stanislavski system. Students will study practical and theoretical concepts of the craft of acting. This will occur in a lecture and discussion format as well as a laboratory with instructor and student feedback.

**The Student Will Be Able To:**

* **Create an authentic and believable character through acting**
* **Successfully complete 2 Character Analysis Forms (CAM) to utilize in creating the characters in the required monologues**
* **Successfully perform 2 monologues from memory in class**
* **Strengthen his/her audition package through in–class work and feedback**
* **Enhance his/her Audition Repertoire in scope through assigned materials**
* **Develop movement skills and gesture appropriate to character and play through awareness of self and others**
* **Demonstrate knowledge of correct theatre terminology and concepts as evidenced in class discussion, quizzes, and exams**
* **Effectively complete outside homework relating to in class work that will enhance knowledge and awareness of theatrical concepts**
* **Successfully complete 1 outside theatrical review on a performance approved by the instructor in accordance with the guidelines required**
* **Create a professional acting resume**
* **Demonstrate knowledge of the “Business of Acting”**
* **Learn how to constructively give and receive feedback**
* **Demonstrate an open and willing attitude for the purpose of personal growth as an actor**
* **Continually encourage, support, and inspire self and classmates in their class work**

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Materials necessary **(REQUIRED**) for this course include:

1. *The Actor in You: Sixteen Simple Steps to Understand the Art of Acting* by Robert Benedetti, 6th Edition
2. Monologues to be either purchased or borrowed
3. Notebook to be used solely as an Acting Journal
4. Phone or other device with a method and space to record video available every day in class. If not, points will be deducted for your preparation that day and you will have to “borrow” from your classmate.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

Through active and effective participation in this course a student will address the technique and artistry involved in acting. The assessment tool used for the incorporation of these skills will be the combined result of the requirements outlined in the schedule below.

1. **2 separate Monologue Performances:**

Each student will be required to perform 2 different contemporary monologues. Each performance will be graded and critiqued in a masterclass-type format. Both monologues require a completed *Character Analysis Form (CAM)* be turned in prior to each performance.

1. **Exam 1 (Midterm):**

There will be one written mid-term exam covering concepts learned in class and from the reading in mid March.

1. **Exam 2 (Final):**

There will be one written final exam and performance covering concepts from the beginning of the course (comprehensive).

1. **In-class participation**

In-class participation is paramount. This is a laboratory-type, hands-on course and true realization will come from verbally evaluating and physically experiencing concepts.

1. **Attendance/Positive Participation/Assigned Reading/Quizzes**

As this is a laboratory-type course, attendance is vital an expected. This is true for yourself as well as your fellow actors who learn from and rely upon you. Absences will affect your final grade – see attendance policy below. There will be frequent reading assignments in which students are expected to thoroughly read the assigned material and be able to discuss the content at the next class meeting. Student participation in these discussions is observed and graded each day. There may also be quizzes (both planned and pop) that may be given at any time covering the reading material and/or the lecture in class. Outside homework assignments will be given periodically as further exploration of concepts covered in class and these assignments are expected to be completed fully and turned in on time.

1. **Acting Journal:**

Each student will keep and write in an Acting Journal throughout the semester which will be periodically picked up by the instructor and reviewed. Entries in the journal are expected to be insightful and honest. Journals will not be shared with anyone but the instructor.

1. **Outside Observation paper:**

In this field, it is very important for a performer to continue to learn from those around him or her. Each student will be required to see a play or musical during the semester taking this course and write a 2-page paper on how the concepts learned in this course were or were not adhered to in the musical he/she viewed. See handout for specific requirements.

**Attendance:**

Because of the nature of Acting 1 (being both a lecture and laboratory course), **consistent class attendance is required.** Significant, unexcused absences will result in a drop of the final grade according to the following scale:

0-2 unexcused absences No Change of Final Grade

3 unexcused absences Drop of 50 pts.

4-5 unexcused absences Drop of 100 pts.

6-8 unexcused absences Drop of 300 pts.

9 or more unexcused absences A Failing Grade will be assigned

Three tardies (1-9 minutes) = 1 absence

Tardy more than 10 minutes = 1 absence

**Excused absences** are absences which are either cleared prior to class for significant family or medical reasons accompanied by a legitimate note or for emergency reasons after said missed class accompanied by a legitimate note. The instructor will determine whether the reason and the accompanying note are legitimate. Excused absences will not affect student’s grade.

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, the above attendance policy is in effect for this class. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Other Requirements:**

**Responsibilities of the individual class members**:

1. Arrive for each class session in a timely manner, prepared for each session.

2. Notify the instructor BEFORE the class begins if an emergency or illness precludes the student’s presence in class that day. Unexcused absences will negatively impact the student’s grade beyond 2 missed classes.

3. Be prepared for the day’s discussion by reading the material to be covered **beforehand** and completing all necessary assignments.

4. Bring all notes, materials, and music to each class session beginning with this syllabus. This includes a method and space to video record any activities required by instructor each day.

5. Participate in each class session with 100% of his/her ability with an open and willing spirit.

6. Always support and encourage other class members in-class work inside and outside of class. Negative comments will not be tolerated and may adversely affect your grade.

**Grading**:

Performance 1 Character Analysis Form (CAM): 50 pts.

Share monologue 1: 50 pts.

Monologue Performance 1 Practice: 50 pts.

In-class Monologue Performance 1: 100 pts.

Outside Audition Workshop Attendance (Feb. 24 or Mar. 24): 50 pts.

Performance 2 Character Analysis Form (CAM): 50 pts.

Share monologue 2: 50 pts.

Monologue Performance 2 Practice: 50 pts.

In-class Monologue Performance 2: 100 pts.

Midterm Exam: (Chapters 1-8) 100 pts.

Final Exam: (Comprehensive 1-16) 100 pts.

Class Discussion/Participation/Reading/Outside Homework/Quizzes: 130 pts.

Acting Journal: 20 pts.

Outside observation paper: 100 pts.

Total: 1000 pts.

**GRADING SCALE:**

A: 900-1000 pts.

B: 800-899 pts.

C: 700-799 pts.

D: 600-699 pts.

F: 599 pts. or below

**Make-up Exams**: Make-up Exams are only an option if the reason for the absence of the exam is excused. Please see Excused Absences under Attendance for more information.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 10 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for performances, rehearsing, preparing for exams, etc.

**Grade Grievances**: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>; for graduate courses, see <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#graduatetext>. For student complaints, see <http://www.uta.edu/deanofstudents/student-complaints/index.php>.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/)>.

**Physical Contact:** Due to the nature of this course, there will occasionally be physical contact between teacher and student, student and student, and student and self in class.  This is a traditional and effective pedagogical tool for training students in theatre classes.  The instructor may use physical contact in order to instruct students in:

1. Postural and muscular correction

**b.**     Demonstration of exercises

**c.**      Safe and effective motion

**d.**     Alignment

**e.**      Breathing

**f.**      Identification of habitual tensions and physical patterns

**g.**     Flexibility

**h.**     Mobility

**I.** Relaxation

**j.** Awareness of emotional and behavioral responses

By enrolling in this course, students give the instructor and their classmates permission to make appropriate physical contact.  Should any concerns arise throughout the semester, students are expected to alert the instructor immediately.

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Save Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated.*For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](file:///C:\Users\Katherine\Desktop\jmhood@uta.edu).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** for semester-long courses**,** a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/learning-center/tutoring/index.php), [major-based learning centers](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/college-based-clinics-labs.php), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/advising.php), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/mcnair/index.php). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**The IDEAS Center (**2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email [IDEAS@uta.edu](mailto:IDEAS@uta.edu) or call (817) 272-6593.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**: The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at http://uta.mywconline.com. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

**Course Outline** (Subject to revision)

“*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Katherine L. Noone.”*

**Week 1: Jan. 17, 19**

Welcome and Introduction

Theatre Terminology

**Week 2: Jan. 24, 26**

Step 1: Understanding the Actor’s Job

Step 2: The Tradition of the Actor

**Week 3: Jan. 31, Feb. 2**

Chapter 1-3 cont.

A and B Scenes

Step 3: Relaxing and Centering

Choose Monologue 1

**Week 4: Feb. 7, 9**

Step 4: Breathing Sounding, and Moving from the Center

Share Monologue 1

**Week 5: Feb. 14, 16**

Step 5: Collaboration

Perform Monologue 1 Practice

**Week 6: Feb. 21, 23**

Step 6: Actions and Objectives

Rehearse Monologue 1

**\* Attend Audition Workshop – Friday, Feb. 21 3:00-5:00pm**

**Week 7: Feb. 28, Mar. 2**

Step 7: Action, Emotion, and Character: The Magic IF

Perform Monologue 1

**Week 8: Mar. 7, 9**

Step 8: Defining Objectives and Actions

**Midterm Exam**

**Week 9: Mar. 14, 16**

No class – spring break

**Week 10: Mar. 21-23**

Step 9: The Flow and Shape of Drama

Choose Monologue 2

Business of Acting - Resume

**\* Attend Audition Workshop – Friday, Mar. 21 3:00-5:00pm**

**Week 11: Mar. 28, 30**

Step 10: Exploring Scene Structure and the Given Circumstances

Share Mono 2

**Week 12: Apr. 4, 6**

Step 11: The Character’s Traits and Needs

Business of Acting – Auditioning/Your Performance Package

**Week 13: Apr. 11, 13**

Step 12: Getting into the Character’s Mind

Perform Monologue 2 Practice

**Week 14: Apr. 18, 20**

Step 13: Exploring the Character’s Language

Rehearse Mono 2

**Week 15: Apr. 25, 27**

Step 14: Finding the Scenario, Score, Through-Line, and Super-Objective

**Week 16: May 2, 4**

Step 15: Staging

Step 16: Performing

Perform Monologue 2

**Week 17: FINALS WEEK**

Final: Thursday, May 11, 8 am-10:30 am (Comprehensive)

* Only one Workshop is required to attend

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

**Resources for Students**/**Academic Help**

**Library Home Page**[**library.uta.edu**](http://library.uta.edu/)

Academic Plaza Consultation Services [library.uta.edu/academic-plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)

Ask Us [ask.uta.edu/](http://ask.uta.edu/)

Library Tutorials [library.uta.edu/how-to](http://library.uta.edu/how-to)

Subject and Course Research Guides [libguides.uta.edu](http://libguides.uta.edu/)

Subject Librarians [library.uta.edu/subject-librarians](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)

**Resources**

A to Z List of Library Databases [libguides.uta.edu/az.php](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php)

Course Reserves [pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do](http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do)

FabLab [fablab.uta.edu/](http://fablab.uta.edu/)

Special Collections [library.uta.edu/special-collections](http://library.uta.edu/special-collections)

Study Room Reservations [openroom.uta.edu/](http://openroom.uta.edu/)