**THEA 1307-002:** Acting I: Basic Techniques

Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Dr. Julienne A. Greer, Assistant Professor; Social Robotics and Performance. Director, Emotional Robotics Living Lab. BFA, MA, PhD and AEA, SAG/AFTRA.

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**Faculty Profile:** Dr. Julienne A. Greer has B.F.A. in Drama from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts; a Master of Arts in Media Arts, emphasis Film Production from TCU’s Bob Schieffer College of Communication; and a PhD from University of Texas at Dallas in Humanities – Aesthetic Studies. Dr. Greer has performed, directed, written, and produced in the theatre arts, robotics, cinema, and game studies disciplines. Current research interests include social robotics and performance.@juliennegreer, #juliennegreer, [www.linkedin.com/in/juliennegreer](http://www.linkedin.com/in/juliennegreer) <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/julienne-greer>

**Office Hours:** Mon. and Wed., 11:00-1:00. Please email for availability. I will respond usually within the same day.

**Section Information:** THEA 1307-002

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Fine Arts Building North, Mainstage, Room 174

**Description of Course Content:** Acting I: Basic Techniques. Study and exercise in fundamentals of the actor's craft utilizing the Stanislavski 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. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor**.**

**Student Learning Outcomes: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course the student will:**

* Reflect on the role of imagination and the role of the audience in relation to acting.
* Effectively complete four (4) character analyses worksheets (CAW), meant to demonstrate understanding of the requirements and challenges related to researching a character, play, and playwright.
* Effectively perform two (2) monologues based on research, class discussion, and personal goals.
* Effectively perform (1) scene based on research, class discussion, and personal goals.
* Demonstrate knowledge of theatre terminology, including, but not limited to terms such as: characterization, objectives, beats, action, and script analysis concepts, and how participation affects collaboration.
* Acquire a basic, personal methodology for character development, research, and role preparation.
* Learn work-ready protocol for performance work in the DFW area.

**Class Format:** Students will be asked to participate in exercises and activities designed to inspire creative awareness, play, and professional discipline. The common threads are cultivation of creative process, collaboration, imagination, and artistic discipline, amongst others.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

* Textbook:*The Actor in You: Sixteen Simple Steps to Understanding the Art of Acting* 6th Edition (or any edition) by Robert L. Benedetti (ISBN-13 is 9780133809497).
* Course syllabus and calendar in any format desired.
* UTA email and Blackboard access - check frequently.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:** The student will be assigned to rehearse, stage, and perform memorized monologues/scene. The student will be required to locate and supply scripts for their performances. The student will have photocopy costs to make copies of monologues/scene for themselves and the instructor. The instructor must have a copy of the monologue/scene to write notes in order for the monologue/scene to be graded. The monologue/scene must have the units/beats marked, the turning point/climax of the monologue/scene, and objectives clearly marked. We will be working through sample monologues and discussing all of the above terms so that the student may complete the assignments. In addition, a Character Analysis Worksheet is due PRIOR to your first performance of each monologue/scene. In order to complete the worksheet, the student will be responsible for reading the entire source script. Assignments turned in or performed late (after the class in which it is due), and which the instructor accepts, will be reduced by one full letter grade.

**Performance assignment #1 and #2– Monologues**:

* This is a one (1) to three (3) minute monologue. The monologue should be contemporary from a major, known playwright. Monologues 1 and 2 must be contrasting – one comedy and one drama. The monologue should **not** be from a "monologue book" - your piece MUST come from a published play.
* It is imperative that all monologues and scenes are **completely memorized**. It is impossible to work in depth if you are struggling for lines.
* Approved authors for scenes and monologues are: Sam Shepard, Lanford Wilson, Tennessee Williams, Beth Henley, Neil Simon, Dorothy Parker (novelist), John Guare, Anton Chekhov, Arthur Miller, Clifford Odets, Christopher Durang, Henrik Ibsen, Eugene O’Neill, August Wilson, David Mamet, Tony Kushner, Tom Stoppard, John Patrick Shanley, Conor McPherson, and Terrance McNally. You may include others at the discretion of instructor. Also see back of *The Actor in You* text. NO FILM SCRIPTS

**Performance assignment #3– Scene**:

* This will be a short 2-person scene. You will be responsible for picking your partner and finding and reading the entire play from which your scene comes. Use the above approved authors for selection. Good authors help make good acting. NO FILM SCRIPTS. 3 – 5 min. in duration.

**Performance assignment #4– Final Exam**: **Monologue** – use the requirements above.

**4 Character Analysis written assignments –** Template and discussion will be given and held before the first is due.

**Electronic Device Policy Use: STRICT.** Cell phone use during student performances in class is disallowed. Students who choose to ignore this policy will be given one verbal and written warning to document the incident. After the one warning, the matter will be forwarded to the office of student conduct.

**Attendance: STRICT.** 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 course and section, I have established following attendance policy: **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. SIGN-IN OCCURS BETWEEN 11:00 AND 11:10 AM AND HOMEWORK IS DUE BY 11:10AM. THE SIGN-IN SHEET WILL BE COLLECTED AT 11:10AM.** What does this mean in real terms?

* Each student may accrue 2 absences without grade deduction. There are no ‘excused’ absences; all absences are counted, with or without documentation.
* Upon the 3rd absence, a full letter grade will be deducted from the student’s final grade. Each subsequent absence accrues another full letter grade deduction. Upon 6th absence, the student has failed the course.
* Three tardy sign-ins equal an absence.

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.

**GRADING:**

**Written**: Four (4) Character Analysis Worksheets 25 points x4 100 Points

**Quizzes:**

Two (2) Quizzes covering reading/activities 25 points x2 50 Points

**Performance:** Two contrasting monologues 50 points x2 100 Points

One short scene 50 Points

**Final Exam** monologue 100 Points

**Participation:** 0-3 points per day 100 Points

**TOTAL 500 Points**

**Scale: 500-450 pts.= A Excellent**

**449-400 pts.= B Good**

**399-350 pts.= C Fair**

**349-300 pts.= D Passing**

**299 & below= F Failure**

**Required Attendance at your choice of one (1) performance by The UTA Maverick Theatre Company**

Each student is required to attend one performance of one production offered this semester by the UTA Theatre Arts Department’s company, Maverick Theatre Company, if they wish to pass the course. A playbill and a ticket stub must be submitted to the instructor. Exact dates and times for each are provided on the department website <http://www.uta.edu/theatre/>, and on posters and postcards near the Theatre Arts department office FA144. Tickets are available online <http://utatickets.com/>. Practicum students are not exempt from this requirement. If you are cast in or crewing a show, it is strongly encouraged to attend a *different show*.

**Dress:** It is expected that you dress appropriately for class work. **Come to class prepared to move, to lie on the floor, and to participate in all class exercises.** We will discuss appropriate rehearsal clothing in class.

**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 **3 additional hours per week** of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, or rehearsing, 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.

**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/>).

**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\hannabas\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\697W32M3\jmhood@uta.edu).

**Academic Integrity:** Faculty are encouraged to discuss the Honor Code and the consequences of cheating, including plagiarism with their students.

*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/>. Students are encouraged to review these guides on plagiarism: [http://libguides.uta.edu/researchprocess/plagiarism](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flibguides.uta.edu%2Fresearchprocess%2Fplagiarism&data=02%7C01%7Cteik.lim%40uta.edu%7C196da9f1a3a040158cbb08d5e4d38701%7C5cdc5b43d7be4caa8173729e3b0a62d9%7C0%7C0%7C636666519504536062&sdata=JtmboLEGpBAFS8Hy%2Bd%2BtiQ%2FcEmgi2yrfsk9FijWRqJQ%3D&reserved=0), [http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flibguides.uta.edu%2Fcopyright%2Fplagiarism&data=02%7C01%7Cteik.lim%40uta.edu%7C196da9f1a3a040158cbb08d5e4d38701%7C5cdc5b43d7be4caa8173729e3b0a62d9%7C0%7C0%7C636666519504546076&sdata=k9dZFTsjHZk8VVjA3dyLLdK2ysRmHkMidviCAPGgLkI%3D&reserved=0)

**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/>. For more information on active threat:  [police.uta.edu/activeshooter](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpolice.uta.edu%2Fcrime-prevention%2Factive-shooter-resources.php&data=02%7C01%7Cjgreer%40uta.edu%7C0b33c05fda8c4ec024ea08d603b69a0d%7C5cdc5b43d7be4caa8173729e3b0a62d9%7C0%7C0%7C636700480198618882&sdata=0FG2Jqgd2Sq6e%2BcjFVmbfgqHMpBbEaXsKZK7VvrPT44%3D&reserved=0)

**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>. Please make every effort to respond to the email requests. Thank you.

**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, which is located at the east and west sides of the building. 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. <https://mavalert.uta.edu/> or <https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php>

**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>.

**University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction** (Ransom Hall 205): UTSI offers a variety of academic support services for undergraduate students, including: 60 minute one-on-one [tutoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/learning-center/tutoring/index.php) sessions, [Start Strong](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/learning-center/tutoring/start-strong.php) Freshman tutoring program, and [Supplemental Instruction](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/learning-center/si/index.php). Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information visit [www.uta.edu/utsi](http://www.uta.edu/utsi) or call 817-272-2617.

**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. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**: The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at https://uta.mywconline.com. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty 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>

**Department of Theatre Arts Attendance/Production Duty Policy:** Students who fail to meet class attendance requirements may be removed from acting, directing, design, stage management, and/or other major production positions for the current semester's productions at the discretion of the department chair. (Refer to the Theatre Arts Student Handbook for all updated policies.)  
**Conferences/Auditions:** Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and auditions. However, students are expected to complete assigned coursework in a timely manner and to notify instructors prior to their absence. Such notification must be in writing. At the discretion of each instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, students are advised to consult with their instructors prior to engaging in such activities.

**Course Schedule for Acting I**

**Quizzes will not be announced. Keep up with the reading.**

**Week 1**: **Aug. 23**: Syllabus, Introductions, Homework, tour – choose first monologue to bring to next class.

**Week 2**: **Aug. 28**: Understanding the Actor’s Job. Exercises. Monologue 1 is due for approval. Read pg. xi – 14. *The Actor in You*.

**Aug. 30**: The Tradition of the Actor. Exercises. Sign-up for monologue #1.

**Week 3**: **Sept. 4**: Relaxing and Centering. Exercises. Rehearsal for monologues. Read pg. 15 - 20

**Sept. 6:** **Monologues #1**. 1 – 3

**Week 4: Sept. 11**: **Monologues #1**. 4 - 6. Breathing, Sounding and Moving from the center. Read pg. 21 – 27.

**Sept. 13 Monologues** **#1.** 7 - 9.

**Week 5: Sept. 18: Monologues #1**. 10 - 12. Collaboration. Read pg. 28 - 37

**Sept. 20: Monologues #1.** 13 – 15. Sign-up for Monologue #2.

**Week 6:** **Sept. 25:** **Monologue #1**. 16. Discovering Action. Actions and Objectives. Read pg. 39 – 48. Monologue #2 due. Refined explanations of characterization, intention, beat, action, and script analysis.

**Sept. 27:** **Monologues #2.** 1 – 3.

**Week 7:** **Oct. 2: Monologues** **#2.** 4 – 6. Action, Emotion, and Character: The Magic If. Read pg. 49 - 56

**Oct. 4: Monologues #2.**  7 – 9.

**Week 8**: **Oct. 9: Monologues #2.**  10 – 12. Defining Objectives and Actions. Read pg. 57 – 63.

**Oct. 11:** **Monologues #2.** 13 – 15. Scene Sign-up.

**Week 9**: **Oct. 16:** **Monologues #2.** 16. The Flow and Shape of Drama. Read pg. 64 – 71. Expectations of scene work.

**Oct. 18:** **Scene.** 1 – 2.

**Week 10: Oct. 23:** **Scene.** 3 – 4. Exploring Scene Structure and the Given Circumstances. Read pg. 72 - 81

**Oct. 25: Scene.** 5-6. Script Analysis

**Week 11: Oct. 30**: **Scene.** 6 - 7. Developing the Character. Read pg. 83 – 90.

**Nov. 1: Scene.** 8 – 9. Character Analysis. Preparing for Final Exam Monologue.

**Week 12:** **Nov. 6**: **Scene.** 10 – 11. Exercises. Getting into the Character’s Mind. Read pg. 91 – 99.

**Nov. 8:** **Scene.** 12 – 13. Making choices for the monologue.

**Week 13:** **Nov. 13: Scene.** 14 – 15. Exploring the Character’s Language. Read pg. 100 – 107.

**Nov. 15: Scene.** 16. The audition monologue. Preparing for final, preparing for outside work.

**Week 14**: **Nov. 20:** Final Rehearsals and Performance. Read pg. 109 – 116.

**Week 15**: **Nov. 27:** Staging. Characterization, beat, action, intention, script analysis. Read pg. 117 – 123.

**Nov. 29:** Rehearse Final Monologue. Costume/props.

**Week 16**: **Dec. 4:** Performing. Read pg. 124 – 130. Work readiness day.

**FINAL EXAM: Thurs. Dec. 6th, 11:00 – 1:30 p.m. Final Monologue Performance**

*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. J. Greer*

**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