FTA 4330/5330 Acting Styles

Summer, 2017

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Undergraduate Course Objectives/SLOs

By the end of the summer term, undergraduate students in this course will be able to: Further enhance the acting process as an advancement of previous work; explore and develop the self/actor/character roles in the actor’s creative process; enhance performance skills necessary to sustain scenic moment-to-moment reality; comprehend and use the terminology of the artistic process; address physical and vocal blocks to the freedom of expression; develop the tools to undertake roles in a variety of styles; enhance the actor’s ability to assist in the collaborative process crucial to the development of new works for the stage.

Graduate Student Course Objectives/SLOs

By the end of the summer term, in addition to the above learning outcomes, graduate students in this course will be able to: Lead their peers in a number of actor-training exercises designed to prepare performers for work on both stage and screen; both understand and effectively use advanced film and stage acting terminology; understand the nuances and differences between acting for the camera and acting for a live audience; demonstrate how to effectively build a newly-developed character that has never been played before.

Required Texts

There are no required texts for this course, but I highly recommend you seek out one or both of the texts I have listed below.

For those new to acting:

Act One; Scene One by James Winter, available at:

For more experienced actors:

A Practical Handbook for the Actor, by Bruder, Cohn, Olnek, etc. Available through Amazon.com and other online book retailers.

Grading Considerations

Written Character Analysis. Prior to the semester’s end, you will be asked to turn in a typed character analysis for one of the characters you have helped to develop this semester. Analysis should contain your approach toward developing this character for the
playwright as well as your approach to bringing this character to life as an actor. For 4330 students, a minimum of 1000 words and for graduate students a minimum of 1500 words.

**Participation.** In a performance course, participation is vital. While you may not be actors by nature/training, I need you to give 150% of yourselves to each and every warm-up, exercise and reading/performance. You will also be expected to work directly with the playwrights and any other theatre artists contributing their time to the development of these new works. All comments, interactions and responses are expected to be thorough and constructive.

**Ensemble and skill-building exercises.** Participation, enthusiasm and open-mindedness in any and all exercises involved to improve your skill set as an actor.

**Public readings/performances.** For the writers’ work to truly be served, you will need to put your best foot forward as an actor giving any public readings/showings of scripted material.

**Developmental improvisations, cold readings, etc.** In my opinion, this is the most important aspect of this course. You must give your energy, talents, intellect and enthusiasm each time we work on the development of a new scene, act, play or moment.

**Grade Values.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public readings/performances</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental improvisations, cold readings, etc.</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensemble and skill-building exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written character analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Point System.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>F</td>
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**FINAL EXAMINATION.**

There will not be a final examination for this course. Your participation in multiple public readings/performances of an original script (or portions thereof) will serve as your final.

**ADDITIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS.**

Any students taking this as the FTA 5330 graduate course will be required to lead the undergraduate actors in class, rehearsal and performance warm-ups. They will also lead the undergraduate actors through a number of skill-building exercises and may be called upon to serve as acting coaches during rehearsals.
UNIVERSITY EMAIL POLICY.

Please note: Regardless of the email policy of the University of New Orleans, I would prefer you to email me at james.winter@selu.edu. Since most of my emails to you will be sent via Moodle, my default contact information for you will be whatever email your Moodle is tied to.

SPECIAL NEEDS.

If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services. No accommodations will be granted without documentation from the Office of Disability Services.

DROPPING THE COURSE.

All students wishing to drop the course must go through the official procedure with the Registrar’s Office. Since students are not required to get the instructor’s signature when dropping a course, the instructor may not know if a student has dropped the course, is ill, or has just stopped coming to class. To merely stop going to class does not remove one from the roll. Such non-attendance will likely result in that student receiving an “F” on the final grade report.

Check the University calendar for the last day to withdraw date.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Behavior that violates these standards is not acceptable. Examples are the use of unauthorized material, communication with fellow students during an examination, attempting to benefit from the work of another student and similar behavior that defeats the intent of an examination or other class work. Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, improper acknowledgement of sources in essays and the use of a single essay or paper in more than one course without permission are considered very serious offenses and shall be grounds for disciplinary action as outlined in the current General Catalogue.

CLASSROOM DECORUM:

You will be expected to warm up physically, vocally and mentally at the start of each class. The key to a good acting class is a balance of enthusiasm/positive energy and professionalism/focus. Stay sharp, listen and remain open. All criticisms and other artistic interactions are expected to be balanced, constructive and, ideally, supported.

Course Schedule will be forthcoming. Check your email soon for an updated syllabus and a tentative course schedule for the summer residency in Cork.