



THEA 1880 Introduction to Acting

Course Syllabus – Spring 2018

Classroom: CSU East Arbor Hall, Room 102

Class Meeting Time: M-W 5pm-6:15pm

Textbook: *Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus* by Marina Caldarone & Maggie Lloyd-Williams

Students are encouraged to use PriceLoch.com to comparison shop for textbooks.

Instructor Information:

Katie Kelly, Music Education Building 213

Office Phone: 678-466-4751

Fax: 678-466-4769

Email: KathleenKelly@clayton.edu

Web Page: <http://faculty.clayton.edu/kkelly12>

Office Hours: MW1:30 – 4:30pm, or by appointment

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, (678)466-5445.

disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu

Course Description:

Number and Title:

THEA 1880 (CRN 20226)

Introduction to Acting

Credit Hours:

3.0 Semester Credit Hours

Catalog Description:

An introduction to basic acting techniques. The course includes an exercise regimen as well as skill development in stage combat, mime, voice production, and role preparation.

Computer Requirement:

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program.

Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to:

<http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy>.

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use Windows operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word word processing

- Able to send and receive email using Outlook or Outlook Express
Only use your CSU e-mail account to communicate academic information to your instructor.
- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a web browser
- Able to use Desire2Learn for submitting assignments, grading, and communication

In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers:

Student notebook computers may be used in the classroom in this course. Students will want to have their computers in class for scene work days and monologue work days. Computers will be required to access course materials, submit assignments via D2L, check grades, and communicate with your instructor.

Desire2Learn (Online Classroom):

On-line activity will take place in Desire2Learn, the virtual classroom for the course. *Posting of your work in D2L is a course requirement.*

You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting "D2L" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name. *PLEASE NOTE: All email communication should be done through Outlook; instructor does not use email in D2L.*

Major Student Activities:

- Active and motivated participation in daily exercises and discussions
- Analyze, rehearse, and perform a monologue and scene
- Complete all assignments, including attending one theatre performance

Program Outcomes

- Demonstrate competence in artistic performance and interpretation

Theatre Concentration Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate competent oral and written communication skills in one or more of the following areas:
acting
- Assess and employ theatrical concepts in decision-making and critical aesthetic judgments
- Recognize and demonstrate practical skills required in professional theatre settings

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Recognize and demonstrate the fundamental principles of acting.
- Identify and demonstrate basic performance styles and concepts.
- Establish a technical foundation for acting.
- Develop an appreciation for theatre through performance observation and analysis.

Health and Safety for Actors

Health and Safety concerns for actors apply to all theatre faculty and staff, to all theatre majors and minors, and to any student enrolled in theatre classes, particularly technique and performance courses. Hearing concerns, vocal health, and muscle injury are an everyday part of the theatre profession. Actors must take an active role in making informed decisions to help maintain their own health and safety.

The Division of Music at Clayton State University provides for the benefit of our students, faculty, and staff information regarding best practices in health and safety for musicians. Much of the information applies to the art of acting, as well. Information and a list of resources are linked from the Division of Music webpage (<http://www.clayton.edu/vpa/music>), and additional information will be presented periodically in this acting course. If you have specific questions or concerns regarding injuries or other acting-related health issues, ask your instructor for assistance and additional resources.

Evaluations:

- Class participation and exercises – 5 points per day 155 pts.
- First Time Up 20 pts.
- Beat Analysis Worksheet 20 pts.
- Blocking Assignment 30 pts.
- Monologue Performance and SGT. Sheet 110 pts.
- Performance Observation and Analysis 50 pts.
- Scene Performance and SGT. Sheet 150 pts.

Total Semester Points: 535 pts.

Grading:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Mid-Term Progress Report:

The mid-term grade in this course will be issued by Monday, February 26th, 2018 and will account for approximately 20% of the total semester grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from this course and receive a grade of “W.” Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of Registrar, or withdraw on-line using the Swan by mid-term, which occurs on October 6th. [Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.](#)

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, March 2nd, 2018.

Course Schedule:

Date:	Lessons/Activities	Assignments
M 1/8/18	Discuss Syllabus, Introductions	
W 1/10/18	Action/Reaction via Improvisation	
M 1/15/18	NO CLASS-MLK DAY!!	
W 1/17/18	Action/Reaction; Slating	First Time Up
M 1/22/18	First Time Up	Shoes with laces, zip-up hoodie
W 1/24/18	Focus (Wear shoes with laces and zip up hoodie)	Bandana in class Monday
M 1/29/18	Goals/Tactics/Obstacles (Bandana)	Actions book in Class Wednesday
W 1/31/18	Goals and Tactics	
M 2/5/18	Finding Beats in Scripts	
W 2/7/18	Improvisational Exercise	
M 2/12/18	Improvisational Exercise	
W 2/14/18	Assign Scenes and Scene Partners (Laptops)	
M 2/19/18	Finding Beats in Script	Beat Analysis Assignment
W 2/21/18	Intro to SGT. Sheet & Scene Partner Analysis (With Directing Students)	Scene Partner Analysis for Objective Check #1
M 2/26/18	Staging and Blocking Scenes	Blocking Assignment
W 2/28/18	Goals, Obstacles, Tactics	Prepare Objective Check #2
M 3/5 – F 3/9	NO CLASS-SPRING BREAK!!	
M 3/12/18	Tactic Portrayal and Beat Breakdowns	Prepare Objective Check #2
W 3/14/18	Obj. Check #2: Perform Rough Run of Scene (On Book!)	Objective Check #3
M 3/19/18	Memorization Techniques	Intro Show Analysis Assignment
W 3/21/18	Perform Rough Run with Blocking (On Book) (With Directing Students)	
M 3/26/18	Work on Scenes (With Directing Students)	
W 3/28/18	Work on Scenes	
M 4/2/18	Work on Scenes (With Directing Students)	Copy of Script w/ Beats & SGT Sheet
W 4/4/18	Perform Scenes	

M 4/9/18	Perform Scenes	Bandanas in Class Wednesday!
W 4/11/18	Mental Projection	
M 4/16/18	Monologue Selection Day	
W 4/18/18	NO CLASS-WORK ON MONOLOGUES Show Analysis Assignment Due	Laptops in Class Monday & Objective Check
M 4/23/18	Work on Monologues	Laptops in Class Wednesday & Objective Check
W 4/25/18	Work on Monologues	Laptops in Class Monday & Objective Check
M 4/30/18	Work on Monologues	
M 5/7/18 5pm	Final Exam Period: Perform Monologues	

****Please note this schedule is subject to change.***

****All assignments are due the next class meeting unless otherwise noted.***

Course Policies:

General Policy:

Students must abide by policies in the Clayton State University Student Handbook, and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#). The Student Handbook is part of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

University Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

Course Attendance Policy:

Attendance is **mandatory** for all class periods. If you are late three times, that equals an unexcused absence. Absence from 20% (6) or more of class meetings may result in administrative withdrawal. An 'excused absence' must be accompanied by a written excuse from a doctor or other competent authority on dated, company letterhead and is subject to approval by the instructor.

*****Class Participation: Active participation in class exercises and activities is paramount to reaching the desired learning outcomes of this course. Therefore, each unexcused absence will result in a 5 point deduction from the class participation grade.***

Assignment Due Dates/Missed Work or Exams:

If a student does not turn in an assignment on the due date, the following deduction will apply for each **class period** it's past due with the lowest possible points being 5:

Assignments worth 25 points or less: 3 point deduction

Assignments worth more than 25 points: 5 point deduction

If a student has been excused from class, the assignment will be due the next class meeting. Assignments will not be accepted after Monday, April 30th without instructor consent. ***Missed work, without an excuse, will receive a grade of zero points.***

Only an emergency will excuse a missed monologue or scene performance and must be documented on dated company letterhead by a medical professional or other competent authority, as well as approved by the instructor. Emergency situations are those that cannot be planned for such as hospital stays, severe illnesses requiring medical treatment, disabled vehicles, court summons, and others at the instructor's discretion. Make-up performances will take place the next class meeting after the absence or at the convenience of the instructor.

Course Requirements:

Dress Code: This class includes a daily warm-up regimen of physical and vocal exercises. Students should dress in clothing which fosters freedom of movement and balance i.e. jeans, sneakers, cotton shirts. Skirts and heels are discouraged. ***Outdoor wear and hats must be removed for class. Gum is not allowed in class.***

Course Material: Students must obtain a bandana and have it in class on required days. Students must also purchase the required textbook, *Actions! The Actors' Thesaurus*, and have it in class daily beginning January 31st, 2018. The instructor will check for books and if students do not have a personal copy of the textbook, a deduction of five points will be taken for each day the textbook is not in class up to 20 points.

Out-of-Class Rehearsals: Students must meet with their collaborative directing students for a minimum of three hours outside of scheduled class times to create the blocking for their scene. Students will log their rehearsal hours, which will be figured into their grade for the blocking assignment. Further instructions will be given in class.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the section of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#) titled, Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions.

Plagiarism Detection Software.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. ***You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.***

Disruption of the Learning Environment:

Behavior which disrupts the teaching-learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom

activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF. More detailed descriptions of examples of disruptive behavior are provided in the Clayton State University [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

Out of respect for your instructor and fellow students, all cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away at the beginning of class.

Weapons on Campus:

Clayton State University is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Information on laws and policies regulating weapons on campus are available at <http://www.clayton.edu/public-safety/Safety-Security/Weapons>.

Writing Assistance:

The Writers' Studio 224 is located in the A&S building, room 224. There you can talk with trained writing consultants about your writing projects. They are available to work with you at any stage of your paper, from generating ideas to organizing your paper to understanding how to format it correctly. The service is free; you may drop in and wait for a consultant or sign up for a regular appointment. But remember: you, not your consultant, are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the papers you submit.

Aside from meeting with consultants one-with-one, you can also participate in consultant-led writing workshops. In these workshops, consultants will guide you in discussions and activities important to academic writing topics. Consultants and student-writers will collaborate on ways to apply writing concepts and strategies to specific writing situations. You will identify, analyze, integrate, and synthesize writing principles through a series of writing exercises. Remember that we are here to collaborate with you as you develop your own experience as a student-writer.

Visit our website for more information: <http://clayton.edu/writersstudio>. There you will find a link to register for appointments online: <http://clayton.mywconline.com>.

You will need to do a one-time registration. Simply click on the "Click here to register" link once at MYWCONLINE.

Other Policies:

*Food and drink are not allowed in the theatre. Water bottles are acceptable.

*All performances will be video recorded by the instructor for grading purposes. Once grades are administered, all video footage will be deleted. Students may request to see their performance on video and stop by during office hours for viewing with the instructor.