



Course Syllabi

Course Title: Fundamentals of Performance

Course Number: THTR 13400

Instructor Name:

Instructor Email:

Last Updated: Fall 6

Course Description:

Students enrolled in Fundamentals of Performance research, create, and perform characters through script analysis, observation, collaboration and rehearsal. These activities incorporate elements of theatre history, culture, analysis, response, creative process, and integrated studies. Additionally, students explore career opportunities in the theatre by attending plays, meeting actors and discussing their work, and becoming theatre patrons in their community.

Course Prerequisites:

None

Course Access:

Assignments will be posted on Google Classroom and FACTS. If you need to submit an assignment electronically, please submit it on Google Classroom.

Course Goal:

This course is an introduction to the discipline of performance. Throughout the semester students will learn the fundamental aspects of how an actor begins to approach his or her craft by exploring some basic skills of movement, voice, and acting. While this course serves as preparation for all other performance courses in the department of theatre, students will also learn concepts that can be applied across many disciplines as it addresses such topics as stage fright (speaking in front of people), discipline and preparation, collaboration, and creativity.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Train and develop acting skills, cultivating the creative talent of each student so they can create, embody and play a wide range of characters.
- Instill confidence to participate in theatre activities with confidence.
- Develop interpersonal communication skills and experience performing before an audience.
- Critique other students' work with appropriate terminology.
- Develop the ability to work as a supportive member of an ensemble.

Learning Resources & Texts

- *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* by Melissa Bruder
- *A Challenge for the Actor* by Uta Hagen
- *Doubt: A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley
- *The McGraw-Hill Theatergoer's Guide* by Alvin Goldfarb, et. al.
- *The Drama Classroom Companion* by Lindsay Price and Kerry Hishon
- *Meisner for Teens: A Life of True Acting* by Larry Silverberg
- Drama Teacher Academy Curriculum

Assignments

- *Homework:* THREE hours of stage work are required each quarter. This can be set crew work, costume or prop work, actual acting in a play or other time spent in behind-the-scenes work. Some daily work will be assigned. Written work is graded on the clarity of work, as well as expectations of assignment being met.
- *Papers:* TWO play critiques are due per semester. Criteria for critiques will be discussed in class. One is due in the third quarter, one is due in the fourth quarter. Shows must be seen in person. A list of potential shows will be distributed at the start of the semester.
- *Participation:* This class is interactive. You earn points for positive cooperation in class activities and for the willingness to try, ask questions, and volunteer. You will also be asked to grade your performances, as well as those of your classmates. Your journal is part of your participation grade.
- *Presentations:* You will prepare monologues and partner scenes that will be performed for the class. Criteria for these will be discussed in class.

Grading Scale:

GRADING SCALE: The following scale will be used to calculate total grades:

94-100 - A	80-82 - B-	67-69 - D+
90-93 - A-	77-79 - C+	63-66 - D
87-89 - B+	73-76 - C	60-62 - D-
83-86 - B	70-72 - C-	Below 60 - F

Homework - 20%, Papers - 20%, Journals - 20%, Presentations - 40%

Semester grades - First Quarter Grade - 42.5%, Second Quarter Grade - 42.5%, Semester Performance - 15%

Course Evaluation:

Students will be provided with an opportunity to evaluate the course at the end of the semester. This will be presented as a Google Form.

Academic Misconduct / Plagiarism / AI:

Academic Misconduct, including plagiarism (using other people's ideas/words and not giving them credit thus implying the work is your own original work) or using your own work from a previous course without the express permission of the instructor, is taken very seriously at any learning institution. It is taken very seriously in this class. Please be aware of what behaviors constitute academic misconduct ([See Bulletin, Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct Part II. A.](#)) If caught cheating or plagiarizing, a student may receive no credit on the assignment and may result in an F for the course. Any instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Care and your Department Chair and may result in expulsion from the University. Additional potential consequences can be found under: potential consequences (See Bulletin, [Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct, Part III. A.](#): i.e., failure of the assignment, failure of the course and/or dismissal from the university) of such behavior.

Student Support Services

Purdue University Fort Wayne is committed to your academic and personal success. Visit the [Student Support Services](#) page for a list of student support services, including academic services, technology services, health and wellness, and support from administrative offices. For help with technology, including Brightspace, visit the [IT Services Student Technology Support](#) page.

If you observe and/or are made aware of student behavior that leaves you feeling concerned, worried, and/or alarmed, trust your instincts and say something. The CARE Team can assist with the student of concern, whether that's you or someone you are referring. Report the concern through the online CARE referral form. Please note that this form is not for emergencies. If you know of a student who is injured, is injuring themselves or others, or is threatening injuries to themselves or others, please call 911 immediately.

Your emotional wellness and mental health are important. If you have a mental health disorder, are struggling with your mental health, your stress overwhelms your ability to cope with it, or you find yourself needing emotional support, please talk to someone. If you or someone you know is in a mental health crisis situation, call 911 or go to the local emergency room. Otherwise, please reach out to our Center for Student Counseling (CSC). All currently enrolled PFW and IUFW students have access to free counseling at the center. To make an appointment to talk with a counselor call 260-481-6200 or email csc@pfw.edu.

Course Schedule

Week One:

- Ensemble Building Unit
 - Introduction, Activities, one minute scenes

Week Two:

- Monologue Activities
- Stage Activities

- Stage directions, projection, etc.

Week Three:

- Physical Warmup activities
 - Teacher led and student led
- Theater Games
- More Monologue Activities

Week Four:

- Script Analysis Unit
 - Knowing character, characters in a scene, Stanislavski method, Applying Analysis to Performance

Week Five:

- Begin Theatre Production Unit
 - Activities and script for FINAL performance

Week Six:

- Improv activities
- Begin work on partner scenes
- Tools of Scene Work Unit (DTA)
 - Characterization, Staging, Performance, Conflict, and Stage Business

Week Seven:

- Research Project: Acting Teachers (DTA)
 - Students research acting teachers, prepare a presentation and teach an exercise

Week Eight

- Actor in Transition unit (DTA)
 - Objective/Obstacle/Action, Scores and Beats, Power Plays

Week Nine

- VOICE unit (DTA)
 - Articulation, Vocal Variety, Character and Puppet Design, Vocal Characterization and Accent

Week Ten

- Playwriting Unit

Week Eleven

- Commedia Dell'Arte Unit
 - Stock Characters, Walks, Lazzi, Project

Week Twelve

- Analysis, Study, Viewing of Theatrical Performance.
- Theatre Etiquette and Types of Stages

NOTE: This unit will be dependent upon which show we attend at the Indianapolis Repertory Theatre and when we attend this show.

Week Thirteen

- Critical Thinking: Character Development Skills Unit
 - Specific voices, character profile, character wants vs need, reflection in role

Week Fourteen

- Readers Theatre Unit

Week Fifteen

- Mock Audition Unit (DTA)
 - Introduction to audition process, creating a resume, headshots (working with Photography class), audition etiquette, monologue work, mock audition

Week Sixteen

- Script Analysis Part Two - using Aristotle's Six Elements of Drama

Week Seventeen

- Final rehearsals for FINALS project - run whole show - offer final critiques

Week Eighteen

Review, activities, reflect on FINALS performance, watch [*Noises Off*](#)

Additional Information: