

FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING: Fall 2021

University of Alaska Fairbanks Theatre & Film Department

Course: FLPA F121 F01

CRN: 73119, 3 credits

Location: Fine Arts Building, Lab/ Salisbury Theatre, in-person course

Dates: August 23 – December 11, 2021

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:45-11:15AM

CARRIE BAKER, Professor of Theatre & Film, Associate Dean: College of Liberal Arts

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Office Phone: 907-474-7754

Office: THEA 104 (bottom of stairs)

Office Hours: I will be holding office hours *only* via Zoom this semester. Email me to set up an appointment time.

I. Course Description:

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the basics of acting for stage and screen. Students will study acting theory and explore core elements of performance through exercises, improvisation, monologues, scene study, and script/character analysis.

II. Student Learning Outcomes:

You will acquire basic acting techniques and methods while developing your creative tools vocally, emotionally, and physically. By the end of the semester, you will be able to apply performance theory to improvisation exercises, monologues, scenes, and character analysis. The semester will culminate with a final public performance.

III. Instructional Methods:

This class is very active! You will be up on your feet acting in exercises and watching your classmates act. The class will include class discussions, in-class critiques of all your performances, a midterm exam, and several writing assignments including journal writing and character analysis. Your final project will be a public performance of a scene with a partner.

IV. Required Reading:

You will have weekly readings from the following books. Your midterm exam is on these two books, so keep up with the reading. I will give periodic pop quizzes to ensure you are reading. The following books are available in the bookstore, the online bookstore, and there are also copies of Acting One on 2-hour/ overnight reserve in the library.

- Acting One, Robert Cohen, fifth edition, McGraw-Hill Higher Education, ISBN: 9780073514161
- Acting Stanislavski, John Gillett, Methuen Drama, ISBN: 9781408184981

V. Required Equipment:

- MASK: Each student must wear a mask to class every day.
- All course materials will be posted in Canvas.
- Class sessions may be recorded via Zoom and shared with only other enrolled students via Canvas.
- If we must move to online at any point in the semester due to COVID-19 you will need:
 - computer (with camera, mic)
 - space to work/ move
 - space to make noise and act with emotion and volume
 - Fast, reliable internet connectivity to:
 - Zoom bi-weekly synchronous class meetings
 - Zoom scene rehearsals with partner
 - create/upload/share video final performances
 - use Blackboard and Google drive shared (and individual) folders

VI. Required Safety Procedures:

The following safety procedures will be followed each class.

- Wear a mask upon building entry and keep it on for the duration of your time in the building.
- Enter the space through the Salisbury Theatre, using the stairs stage right.
- Sanitize hands upon entry to the theatre and before you leave class.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others.
- Touch as few surfaces as possible. (I will be using some handouts in this class, so if you prefer not to touch handouts, please bring a laptop to class so you can follow along electronically via Canvas documents.)
- Do not touch your face.
- Do not attend class if you have a fever, cough, or any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If you are sick but feel able, attend class via Zoom:
<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/85150937012?pwd=RU92SkJ6YnZnOFNJQytuWFERSEoxdz09>
- Please think of safety first in all circumstances: make personal choices that protect your community.

VII. COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website:

<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf?authuser=0>

Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

VIII. Auditions (optional):

All *Fundamentals of Acting* students are encouraged to attend auditions throughout the semester as they come up. Find more information about this and the Theatre/Film season at www.uaf.edu/theatrefilm/. The department will be producing a play this

semester; you can get performance practicum credit if cast in this production. Audition information is posted at www.uaf.edu/theatrefilm/auditions/

IX. Attendance & Lateness Policy:

****COVID-19 POLICY: Do NOT come to class if you have a fever, cough, or any other COVID-19 symptoms. You can Zoom into class if you feel well enough. Please communicate with me if you are ill or will be absent. Below are my expectations during a normal semester; I will be flexible this semester.**

Attendance to all classes is mandatory. Exercises, improvisations, discussions, and scene work cannot be made up for the simple reason that they happen in class. If you miss classes, you are missing the course.

Students are permitted two unexcused absences. Please communicate with me in order to receive an excused absence. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade. Missing a class in which you are scheduled to perform is unacceptable and will further reduce your grade. All handouts and assignments will be given in class; if you miss a class, you are responsible for getting all handouts and assignments. All course paperwork (syllabus, assignments) will also be posted in Canvas (online).

Please arrive to class on time. You are graded each day on attendance (including lateness) and participation. Each unexcused absence will reduce your Participation grade by 1 point. Being late will also reduce your grade. Three lates will equal one unexcused absence and reduce your grade accordingly. Come to class every day and be on time. I expect the highest level of professionalism and responsibility from each of you.

X. Grading Policy:

Please note: Grading will be based on a +/- system this semester. A minimum grade of C- is required for all prerequisites and major courses in the 2021-22 catalog. Your grades for each assignment are posted in Canvas and you can check your grade in the "Grades."

Attendance & Participation.....	15 points
Pop Quizzes.....	5 points
Midterm Exam.....	25 points
Performance Attendance.....	5 points
Performance & Written Work.....	50 points
Personal Monologue.....	10 points
Open Scene Presentation.....	10 points
Final Scene and Written Work.....	30 points
TOTAL possible points: 100	

Grading System:				
97-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	Below 60: F
93-96: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D	
90-92: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	60-62: D-	

A. Class Attendance & Participation: 15 points

Your level of participation, enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to risk in this class is of the utmost importance. Your effort and growth are as important as the finished product of your scene work. Extensive preparation and rehearsal outside of class is expected. I expect each of you to be committed to creating a positive, supportive, respectful atmosphere. Because of the personal nature of acting, you will all be stepping into uncharted territory which can be exciting and challenging. You must support one another during this process. I have zero tolerance for mocking, ridiculing, or in any way insulting or harassing a classmate. This classroom is a safe and respectful space. You are graded each class for participation and attitude.

What to Wear:

Please wear clothes that you can easily move in, such as sweatpants, T-shirts, and sneakers. No clothes that will inhibit movement. Shut off cell phones. No video recording of performances or classes is allowed. Arrive to class on time, dressed properly, and ready to work, armed with an open mind and spirit.

B. Pop Quizzes: 5 points

I will give periodic pop quizzes to ensure you are reading the Cohen and Gillett texts. Weekly Reading should be done by Tuesday's class each week; pop quizzes will happen on Tuesdays.

C. Midterm Exam: 25 points

The midterm exam will be on the readings in Cohen and Gillett and will consist of short answer, identification, and essay questions. EXAM: Tuesday October 19, 2021.

D. Performance Attendance: 5 points

You will attend a production this semester produced by Theatre UAF. You receive one free ticket for the show because you are in this class. Simply give your name to the box office when reserving your ticket and inform them that you are in this class.

E. Performance and Written Work: 50 points

• **Personal Monologue: 10 points**

You will present a one-minute personal monologue written by you that must be memorized for performance. I will pass out the Personal Monologue Assignment next class.

• **Open Scene Presentation: 10 points**

You will present one Open Scene this semester. The Open Scene will consist of pre-set dialogue for which you and your partner will create the characters and given circumstances. I will assign scene partners for the Open Scene. You will perform this scene once and we will workshop it in class. I will hand out Open Scene Guidelines later in the semester.

- **Final Scene Presentation & Written Work: 30 points**

You will present one contemporary naturalistic scene this semester. You will choose your own partners for this scene. For the first showing, you will present the scene and we will workshop it in class. For the second showing you will present the improved scene and I will give you notes. For the final showing you will present the further improved scene in front of a public audience on Sunday December 5, 2021: 1-3pm. *This final showing and accompanying written work will count as your final exam.*

When you present the scene in class for the first showing, you need to come in with the scene REHEARSED (at least four hours), BLOCKED (movement decided), and OFF-BOOK (lines learned). Also, you should dress appropriately for your character in the scene and have necessary props and set pieces (furniture, etc.). I will hand out Scene Work Guidelines later in the semester. For the final showing of the scene, you will turn in written work which I will explain on the handout.

XI. Important selections from the UAF Student Code of Conduct:

“UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the rights of others is prohibited.... Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

- Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
- Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
- No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.”

If you cheat or plagiarize in this class, you will FAIL the assignment and possibly the entire class.

XII. Support Services:

Student Academic Support:

- Speaking Center (907-474-5470, uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu, Gruening 507)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu, Gruening 8th floor)
- UAF Math Services, uafmathstatlab@gmail.com, Chapman Building (for math fee paying students only)
- Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room

120, <https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/>)

- For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List (https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM_364e19011717281.pdf)

Student Resources:

- Disability Services (907-474-5655, uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu, Whitaker 208). *I will work with the Office of Disability Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.*
- Student Health & Counseling [**6 free counseling sessions**] (907-474-7043, <https://www.uaf.edu/chc/appointments.php>, Whitaker 203)
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (907-474-7317, uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu, Eielson 110)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, asuaf.office@alaska.edu, Wood Center 119)
- Student Support Services <https://uaf.edu/sss/>
- Rural Student Services <https://uaf.edu/ruralss/>
- Military and Veteran Services: <https://uaf.edu/veterans/>

XIII. Nondiscrimination statement:

The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination. For more information, contact: UAF Department of Equity and Compliance, 1760 Tanana Loop, 355 Duckering Building, Fairbanks, AK 99775 907-474-7300/ uaf-deo@alaska.edu

XIV. Tentative Semester Overview (subject to change):

NOTE: "Weekly Reading" should be done by Tuesday's class each week. We will have periodic pop quizzes on Tuesdays.

ZOOM LINK (only to be used if you cannot attend in person):

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/85150937012?pwd=RU92SkJ6YnZnOFNJQytuWFErSEoxdz09>

WEEK 1:

Assignments Due:

- Write, memorize, rehearse Personal Monologue
- 8/24 Enrollment, Business, Course Objectives, Grading Policy, Warm-ups
8/26 Warm-ups/ Group Exercises/ Personal Monologue Assignment

WEEK 2:**Reading:**

- Cohen: Lessons 1-3
- Gillett: Part One

Assignments Due:

- Write, memorize, rehearse Personal Monologue
- 8/31 Warm-ups/ Group Exercises/ Improvisation
9/2 Warm-ups/ GOTE Exercises/ Improvisation

WEEK 3:**Reading:**

- Cohen: Lessons 4-8
- Gillett: Part Two

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Personal Monologues
- 9/7 Personal Monologues (3)
9/9 Personal Monologues (3)

WEEK 4:**Reading:**

- Cohen: Lessons 9-14
- Gillett: Part Three

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Personal Monologues
- 9/14 Personal Monologues (4)
9/16 Personal Monologues (4)

WEEK 5:**Reading:**

- Cohen: Lessons 15-19
- Gillett: Part Four

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Personal Monologues
- 9/21 Personal Monologues (4)
9/23 Personal Monologues (4)

WEEK 6:**Reading:**

- Cohen: Lessons 20-23
- Gillett: Part Five

Assignments Due:

- Rehearse: Open Scene
- Performance: Open Scenes

9/28 Discussion/ Open Scene Exercise, Assignment
9/30 Open Scene Performances (3)

WEEK 7:

Reading:

- Cohen: Lessons 24-28
- Gillett: Part Six

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Open Scenes

10/5 Open Scene Performances (3)

10/7 Open Scene Performances (3)

WEEK 8:

Assignments Due:

- Prepare assigned sections for Midterm Review 10/12
- Final Scene Partners due in class Thursday 10/14

10/12 Open Scene Performances (2) / Stanislavski, Cohen Discussion & Midterm Review

10/14 Stanislavski, Cohen Discussion & Midterm Review

WEEK 9:

Assignments Due:

- Midterm Exam Tuesday 10/19
- READ Plays Summary Sheet for 10/21
- Choose Scene in class 10/21

10/19 MIDTERM EXAM

10/21 Scene selections in class

WEEK 10:

Assignments Due:

- Memorize, block, rehearse scene
- Read FULL PLAY for selected scene
- Performance: First Showings
- Schedule outside of class rehearsal with Carrie

10/26 Performance Schedule/ Discussion: Rehearsal Techniques/ Rehearsals in class

10/28 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

WEEK 11:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: First Showings
- Schedule outside of class rehearsal with Carrie

11/2 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

11/4 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

WEEK 12:

Assignments Due:

- Attend Theatre UAF performance
- Performance: First Showings
- Schedule outside of class rehearsal with Carrie

11/9 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

11/11 Scene Presentations First Showing (2)

WEEK 13:

Assignments Due:

- Attend Theatre UAF performance
- Performance: First Showings, Second Showings

11/16 Scene Presentations First Showing (1)

11/18 Scene Presentations Second Showing (4)

WEEK 14:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Second Showings

11/23 Scene Presentations Second Showing (4)

11/25 THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS

WEEK 15:

Assignments Due:

- Performance: Second Showings
- Prepare for final Performance

11/30 Scene Presentations Second Showing (3)

12/2 Final Dress Rehearsal/ Spike Furniture

Sunday 12/5 EXAM:

Final Exam Performance:

Sunday December 5, 2021, in the Lab Theatre

1pm Actor call

1:30pm Performance

ZOOM LINK for FINAL: (only if needed)

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/84990184052?pwd=Qks3dzFDZ0wwWUxCLzhwUVdFZ3FiUT09>

- Written work for scene due at performance.