

ACTING IV: SCENE STUDY Fall 2021

University of Alaska Fairbanks Theatre & Film Department

Course: FLPA F423 F01

CRN: 74881, 3 credits

**Prerequisites: FLPA 121 Fundamentals of Acting, FLPA 320 Acting II: Voice and Speech
for the Actor, FLPA 321 Acting III: Movement**

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

Dates: August 23 - December 11, 2021

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30AM- 1PM

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:

This course will focus on the refinement of physical, vocal, emotional, and imaginative awareness. This is a scene study and monologue study class which will include audition technique and preparation for the professional world of acting. This course is intended for students who are junior or senior Film & Performing Arts Theatre Concentration majors at UAF.

II. Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will become familiar with advanced acting techniques and methods while developing their creative tools. Students will have a deeper understanding of character development and will be more fully prepared for auditioning and the professional acting world. The semester will culminate with a final public performance.

III. Instructional Methods:

This is a scene study class that will require extensive memorization and rehearsal outside of class. You will present 2 monologues and 2 scenes this semester. The class will also include three acting theory texts, class discussions, a midterm exam, critical writing, journal writing, and character analysis.

IV. Required Reading:

You will have weekly readings from the following books. Your midterm exam is on the Cohen and Shurtleff readings, so keep up with the reading. You will write a response paper on the Lockett text. The following books are available in the bookstore and online bookstore. Please make sure you purchase the 8th edition of the Cohen book and the updated version of the Shurtleff book (yellow cover).

Acting Professionally: Raw Facts About Careers in Acting, Robert Cohen, 8th Edition,
McGraw-Hill Publishing Company ISBN: 978-1137605863
Audition, Michael Shurtleff, Walker & Co. ISBN: 978-0802772404
Black Acting Methods: Critical Approaches, Sharrell D. Lockett and Tia M. Shaffer,
Routledge ISBN: 978-1138907621

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/86069442749?pwd=SVp3TWYvSkprTDQ0akYxY2FIWUw1Zz09>
- 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. Audition:

All *Acting IV* 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. Absence & 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" tool in Canvas.

Attendance & Class Participation.....10 points				
Midterm Exam.....20 points				
Response Paper.....10 points				
Monologue/Scene Work (presentation & written work).....50 points				
Final Public Performance/ Written Assessment.....10 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. Attendance & Class Participation (10 points):

Your level of participation, enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to work in this class is of the utmost importance. Extensive reading, preparation, and rehearsal outside of class is expected. Watching others work is a huge part of what you will do in this class. Your participation as a watcher, listener, and responder is extremely important. Watching others working on a scene and responding to their work in class discussions can be tremendously beneficial to your own acting.

I think you will find the readings in Cohen, Shurtleff, and Lockett to be very informative and great supplements to the stage work that you will be doing in this class. Keep up with the weekly readings as they will be a consistent part of class discussions and our work together. When commenting on in-class work, I expect each of you to draw on your readings. I expect each of you to be committed to creating a positive, supportive, respectful atmosphere.

What to Wear: Please wear clothes that you can easily move in, such as sweat pants, T-shirts, and sneakers. No clothes that will inhibit movement. Shut off cell phones. Arrive to class on time, dressed properly, and ready to work, armed with an open mind and spirit.

B. Midterm Exam (20 points): The in-class midterm exam will be on the facts and concepts covered in Acting Professionally and Audition. Make sure that you read closely and take notes on your reading as the exam will be very specific and detailed. Tuesday October 19, 2021.

C. Response Paper (10 points): This paper covers the chapters in Black Acting Methods. I will handout guidelines for this paper later in the semester. DUE: Tuesday November 30, 2021.

D. Monologue/ Scene Work: Presentation & Written Work (50 points):

Each monologue is worth 10 points and each scene is worth 15 points. You will choose all your own partners, scenes, and monologues during the semester. I further explain performance expectations and written work in the handouts Scene & Monologue Guidelines.

1. Monologues: You will present two contrasting 45-60 second monologues this semester. One monologue will be contemporary, one Shakespeare (in verse). You will present each monologue twice. *Only work on NEW material! Build your arsenal, don't recycle old material!*
2. Scene Work: You will present two stage scenes (1 contemporary and 1 classical). You will present each scene twice. For the first showing, you will present the scene and we will workshop it in class. You will then have a second showing of the improved scene. For each scene you will turn in written work at the *second showing*. Written work will include character analysis, a unit-by-unit breakdown of the scene, and a journal about the process of rehearsing the scene. When you present the scene or monologue in class for the first showing, you need to come in with the scene rehearsed, blocked, and off-book. Also, you should dress appropriately for your character in the scene and have necessary props and set pieces (furniture, etc.).

E. Final Public Performance & Written Assessment (10 points):

At the end of the semester the class will present a public *Acting IV Showcase* in which you will present your two monologues and two scenes from your work during the semester. I expect the monologues and scenes to be further developed and polished for this FINAL performance of all your material. This presentation will be in the Lab Theatre. Final Written Assessment: Three typed pages. Due at the final performance. I will handout guidelines for this paper later in the semester. Sunday December 5, 2021: 11am-1pm.

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.

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

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/86069442749?pwd=SVp3TWYvSkprTDQ0akYxY2FIWUw1Zz09>

Week 1:

- Select contemporary monologue
- Classical scene partners due 8/26

8/24 Enrollment, Business, Course Objectives, Grading Policy, Handout *Guidelines*/
Discussion of monologue selection: bring options Thursday!

8/26 Monologue Pairing Selections, schedule/ Shakespeare 101 & Scansion Review

Week 2:

Weekly Reading: Cohen: Chapter 1; Shurtleff p. xi-22

- Classical scene selections due 9/2

8/31 Contemporary Monologues First Showing (2)

9/2 Contemporary Monologues First Showing (2)

Week 3:

Weekly Reading: Cohen: Chapter 2; Shurtleff p. 23-52

- Acting Resumes due 9/7

9/7 Contemporary Monologues First Showing (2)

9/9 Contemporary Monologues First Showing (2)

Week 4:

Weekly Reading: Cohen: Chapter 3; Shurtleff p. 53-75

9/14 Contemporary Monologues First Showing (2)

9/16 Classical Scene First Showing (2)

Week 5:

Weekly Reading: Cohen: Chapter 4; Shurtleff p. 76-103

9/21 Classical Scene First Showing (1)

9/23 Classical Scene First Showing (1)

Week 6:

Weekly Reading: Cohen: Chapter 5; Shurtleff p. 104-141

9/28 Classical Scene First Showing (1)

9/30 Classical Scene Round Robin (ALL)

Week 7:

Weekly Reading: Cohen: Chapter 6; Shurtleff p. 142-182

10/5 Classical Scene Second Showings/ Discussion/ WRITTEN WORK DUE on day of scene presentation (ALL)

10/7 The Business of Acting: Auditions, Agents, Marketing, Casting Breakdowns

Week 8:

10/12 The Business of Acting (cont)/ Cohen & Shurtleff Discussion

10/14 Cohen & Shurtleff Discussion/ Exam Review

Week 9:

- Contemporary scene partners due 10/21

10/19 MIDTERM EXAM

10/21 Shakespeare Monologues First Showing (2)

Week 10:

Weekly Reading: Lockett: p. 1-86

- Contemporary scene selections due 10/28

10/26 Shakespeare Monologues First Showing (2)

10/28 Shakespeare Monologues First Showing (2)

Week 11:

Weekly Reading: Lockett: p. 87-135

11/2 Shakespeare Monologues First Showing (2)

11/4 Shakespeare Monologues First Showing (2)

Week 12:

Weekly Reading: Lockett: p. 136-199

- Revised ACTING RESUMES DUE 11/9
- Headshots due (if available) 11/9

11/9 Monologue Second Showings: Audition Format (audition pairing)

11/11 Contemporary Scene First Showing (2)

Week 13:

Weekly Reading: Lockett: p. 200-220

11/16 Contemporary Scene First Showing (1)

11/18 Contemporary Scene First Showing (1)

Week 14:

11/23 Contemporary Scene First Showing (1)

11/25 NO CLASS: Thanksgiving

Week 15:

- Black Acting Methods Response Paper due 11/30

11/30 Contemporary Scenes Round Robin (ALL)

12/2 Contemporary Scene Second Showing/ Discussion/ WRITTEN WORK DUE on day of scene presentation

Sunday 12/5

***Acting IV Showcase* in Lab Theatre**

Sunday December 5, 2021 in the Lab Theatre.

11am Actor Call

11:30am Performance

ZOOM LINK for FINAL:

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/85154012581?pwd=U29rTIRUY0huQW5SSlI3SHpqS2NGQT09>

Final Written Assessment Paper due.