THEATRE 101-802 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS  Fall 2018
Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00am-12:15pm (in T6)

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Cotey / mpcotey@uwm.edu / 414-861-4692
Office hours Wednesday 12:30-2:00pm & by appointment. Office location TBD.

CATALOGUE LISTING
101 Acting for Non-majors. 3 cr. U. An introduction to basic acting techniques of personalization, focus, and scene study explored through participatory and collaborative exercises and assignments. Prereq: Non-Theatre major.

Expected Workload (hours):
- Direct classroom instruction (29 classes / 75 minutes) 36.25
- Reading (plays, research materials, assignments) 15
- SOLO rehearsal (2 performance presentations) 12
- Rehearsal W/ PARTNER (2 performance presentations) 12
- Attending 2 performances and writing analysis 16
- Written analysis, observation, self-assessment 5
- Final Scene (rehearsal W/ PARTNER) 20

Total: 116.25

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
What does it mean to act? What does it mean to “be in the moment”? What does it mean to want? How do you go about getting what you want? How does environment affect behavior? What does your life experience have to do with a character in a play (or vice versa)?

In this course you will learn how:

- To INCREASE ATTENTION to human behavior and the world around you
- To LISTEN and RESPOND spontaneously
- To recognize how CIRCUMSTANCES influence your actions
- To identify GOALS that will form the basis for clear ACTION
- To apply the above skills in the creation of CHARACTER

Using in-class exercises, outside assignments, observation of life, and improvisation you will encounter the basic principles of acting. You will learn the fundamentals of creating character and a simple method to turn the written word into action. Together we will explore and develop the following: voice/body awareness, approaches to dramatic text, emotional/imaginative life, rehearsal and performance process, observation/analysis of performance, and overall theatre appreciation. Our work will culminate as you apply what you’ve learned toward scene work.

Acting, like all forms of art, is a way of re-seeing the world we live in, specifically through the exploration and embodiment of human experience that are often differ from our own. Through observation, imagination, bravery, and the willingness to make believe, acting is the process of uncovering, discovering and sharing the truth within us.

GOALS OF THE COURSE (See GER SHARED LEARNING GOALS):

- To introduce students to the art and craft of acting in rehearsal and performance.
- To develop an understanding and appreciation for acting as a resource for other life skills. (SLO #1)
- To experience situations, ideas, cultures, and motivations outside the student’s own experience through the exploration and creation of character. (SLO #1)
- To practice the critical analysis of one’s own work and the work of fellow students both in class and through observation of live performance, applying knowledge and skills acquired in class. (SLO #3)
EXPECTATIONS / REQUIREMENTS:
Although there are written components to the course, the essence of the class is in the DOING. You must come ready to risk, to play, to work, and to question, as well as support your peers in their parallel journeys. You must also spend significant time outside of the class working with scene partners. Since classes cannot be made up, regular and prompt attendance is an important expectation. (See GRADING)

- Students should be prepared for rigorous physical activity and dress accordingly.
- Students will attend and respond to two local theatrical performances chosen by the instructor.
- Students will complete all homework assignments by the assigned due date.
- Students will be assigned a variety of performance presentations that require varying degrees of preparation. Attendance for the presentation of these is mandatory.

A NOTE ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Acting is about presence and the greatest gift we can give each other is our undivided attention. Outside of a few rare exceptions, our laboratory will remain a technology-free zone throughout the semester. Keep your devices stored in a backpack / bag / purse /off your person, and kept silent and turned all the way off.

REQUIRED READING:
Play Script – TBA
Other readings provided by instructor (either hard copy or on D2L)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
- **Attire**: Comfortable, loose-fitting clothes that allow ease of movement should be worn to class. Bring a pair of sweats to change into before class if necessary. Shoes should also be practical – no flip-flops or heels! Athletic shoes or bare feet often preferred.
- **Go Analog**: Bring a notebook. Paper. Pen. Pencil. Folder or binder for handouts. Once we start rehearsing, bring your script to class every day.
- **Water Bottle**: You will get thirsty. Stay hydrated.

REQUIRED ATTENDANCE to TWO PERFORMANCES:
In lieu of having to purchase any assigned textbooks, you will be required to attend two (2) UWM performances: Red Velvet and The Tempest. (Refer to Class Schedule for dates and locations.)

GER RATIONALE:
This course meets the PSOA GER criteria because it:

1. Asks students to interpret and collaborate around a piece of dramatic literature, applying knowledge of artistic principles, conventions, methods, and practices through the creation or production of works of Theatre (GER #2) [alter ego monologue; final two character scene; other in class performances].
2. Involves students in critical analysis of their own work as well as that of classmates and the theatrical community at large, demonstrating comprehension of theoretical, philosophical and aesthetic perspectives commonly used in understanding Theatre (GER #1) [in-class discussion of work; self-analysis; observation of classmate’s work; two written responses to theatrical performances].

GER SHARED LEARNING GOALS:
The two shared learning goals for this GER course are:

- **Goal 1**: To study knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World including breadth of knowledge and the ability to think beyond one’s discipline, major, or area of concentration. This knowledge can be gained through the study of the arts, humanities, languages, sciences, and social sciences.
- **Goal 3**: To challenge the student to use effective Communication Skills including listening, speaking, reading and writing.
GRADING
There are 1,000 total points possible for the course.

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<tr>
<th>Max Pts Possible</th>
<th>Criteria for Maximum # of Points</th>
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| 10               | Attend class on time
| 7                | Arrive late / leave early
| 3                | Excused absence*
| 0                | Unexcused absence

* An excused absence will be determined at the discretion of the instructor. With regards to religious holidays, please inform me in advance.

In-class work missed cannot be made up. Assignments missed because of absence may not be able to be made up. Late assignments may not be considered for evaluation.

Finally: You will not be graded on your talent. The criteria for evaluating your work in this course will include your seriousness of purpose, the effort you put forth, and the detail with which you work, and the progress you make.

CATEGORIES FOR EVALUATION and MAJOR PERFORMANCE PRESENTATIONS (points assigned)
(Please refer to Class Calendar for due dates. Further Assignment details and grading rubrics will be forthcoming on D2L.)

1. Attendance and Enthusiastic participation (290). Enthusiastic participation means throwing yourself boldly into exercises, being prepared to discuss assignments or present material, and working cooperatively with your partner or group, and submit assignments on time. Failure to complete all assignments will prevent you from achieving an A in this requirement. (See ATTENDANCE POLICY below)

2. Assignments (200). You are expected to complete all written and performance assignments on time and in a thoughtful manner. All written work is to be submitted on D2L by the start of class time on the date due, unless otherwise specified.

3. Attend 2 Plays (50 pts. each, 100 total). Write a two page typewritten response to the work of an actor or actors in the production. Late papers will not be accepted. You will receive a handout with more guidance on format and content. (GER #2)

4. Alter Ego Monologue (100). Rehearsal and presentation of a 1-2 minute monologue written by student. The monologue will be rehearsed and performed with a partner, then again as an audition piece to an imaginary auditor. (GER #1)

5. Contentless Scene (100). Rehearsal and presentation of a short “contentless” scene with 2 sets of imaginary circumstances, employing the techniques you have learned. Out of classroom rehearsal time required. (GER #1)

6. FINAL: Scene from a Play and Rehearsal Journal (210). Rehearsal and performance of a memorized scene from a play chosen by instructor. Out of classroom rehearsal time required. Scenes will be presented twice. The first presentation should be fully memorized and “blocked” and will be followed by notes and work with the instructor. You will keep a journal about the rehearsal process. The second and FINAL presentation will demonstrate work done based on those notes. (GER #1)

ATTENDANCE (and PARTICIPATION) POLICY
Evaluation of attendance and participation will be assessed according to the following rubric. Your energetic, focused, and thoughtful participation is paramount to the success of the class and the work of your fellow students. There will be no “make ups” scheduled for scene presentations. Students may gain extra credit points for outstanding participation. Students will lose points for conduct disrespectful to other students and/or disruptive to class. If there is an extraordinary circumstance that prevents you from attending a number of classes (mononucleosis, surgery, death in the family, etc.), it is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible so we can decide how to address it.
GENERAL RUBRIC FOR ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE and PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 90-100% of total points</td>
<td>Cogent, collaborative (when applicable), creative, original, strong performance style, evocative, interesting, compelling, superb grasp of all performance aspects including preparation &amp; rehearsal, physical &amp; vocal life of character. Interactive (when applicable), evidence of progress made since first rehearsal, evokes emotional response in audience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B 80-89% of total points</td>
<td>Clear, well presented, interesting, collaboration is strong (when applicable), involves audience (when appropriate), points, themes, and ideas are clear and communicated well, progress made since first rehearsal, presentation flows in a holistic manner, characters are clearly delineated, solid application of physical &amp; vocal life character choices.</td>
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<td>C 70-79% of total points</td>
<td>Presentation is clear, collaboration is not apparent and/or weak (when applicable), attempts to involve audience are limited or non-existent (when applicable), somewhat unfocused or unclear, limited progress made since first rehearsal. Character work apparent, but limited vocal and/or physical expression.</td>
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<td>D 60—69% of total points</td>
<td>Sloppy, thrown together at the last minute, rushed, one person leads the entire group (when applicable), no acknowledgement of audience, generally unfocused, disjointed and not understandable, character work extremely limited, use of gestures extremely limited, vocal work extremely limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 59% or less of total points</td>
<td>Inappropriate, late, assignment not done, group collaboration non-existent (when applicable) and/or limited, progress since first rehearsal is minimal or non-existent, unfocused or not understandable, character work non-existent, no use of gesture, vocal variation not included.</td>
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University Policies & Procedures can be found at this link: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

UWM Resources:
The UWM Writing Center: http://www4.uwm.edu/writingcenter/
Libraries: http://www4.uwm.edu/Library/
Panther Academic Support Services (tutorial assistance): http://www4.uwm.edu/pass/
On campus computer lab information: https://www4.uwm.edu/uits/services/campus/ccls/index.cfm
The UWM Bookstore: http://uwmbookstore.aux.uwm.edu/home.aspx
The UWM TechStore: http://www4.uwm.edu/techstore/
University Information Technology Services (Help Desk): https://www4.uwm.edu/uits/help/help_desk/index.cfm
Help Desk Telephone: 414-229-4040 Help Desk Location: Bolton Hall 225
Desire to Learn (D2L) Help: https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/groups/sa/ltc/public/D2L%20student%20help%20files/

"The steps that we take in order to enter deeply and emotionally into the lives and narratives of others create empathic journeys. We emerge from these journeys freed for a time from the prison of our own habitual worldview. The intimacy with and proximity to alternate experiences of reality do nothing less than offer us insight into the parallel universes of other lives. These journeys remind us that, in truth, we know little and can learn much."

- Anne Bogart, director -

"The main interest in life and work is to become someone else that you were not in the beginning."

- Michel Foucault, philosopher and social theorist -

Syllabus is subject to change.
# THEATRE 101-802 ACTING FOR NON-MAJORS

## FALL 2018 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS: Labor Day</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>WED</td>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>In Class Exercises</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>WED</td>
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<td>Me's' Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>Objectives in a Day Assignment</td>
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| 20 | WED | | Listening Assignment  
Stolen Walk Assignment |
| 25 | WEEK 4 | MON | Alter Ego Draft Due  
One Minute Activity (7-8) |
| 27 | WED | | One Minute Activity (7) |
| OCTOBER | | | | |
| 2 | WEEK 5 | MON | One Minute Activity (7) |
| 4 | WED | | Alter Ego Presentations (5-6) |
| 9 | WEEK 6 | MON | Alter Ego Presentations (5-6) |
| 11 | WED | | Alter Ego Presentations (5-6) |
| 16 | WEEK 7 | MON | Alter Ego Presentations (5-6) |
| 18 | WED | | 1-20 Action Scenes (3-4) |
| 17-20 | | | UWM SHOW 1 – *Red Velvet* – Kenilworth 508  
October 17-20 @ 7:30pm; October 21 @ 2:00pm |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 12</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>Contentless Scenes (3)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WED</td>
<td>Final Scene Analysis Assignment</td>
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<td>FINAL SCENE - In-Class Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 13</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>2ND PERFORMANCE RESPONSE PAPER</td>
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<td>WED</td>
<td>2ND PERFORMANCE RESPONSE PAPER</td>
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<td>FINAL SCENE, 1st presentation (3)</td>
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<td>FINAL SCENE, 1st presentation (3)</td>
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<td>WEEK 14</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>FINAL SCENE, 1st presentation (3)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WED</td>
<td>FINAL SCENE, 1st presentation (3)</td>
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<td>EXTRA CREDIT PERFORMANCE RESPONSE PAPER</td>
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<td>WEEK 15</td>
<td>MON</td>
<td>FINAL Presentation of Scenes (1/2 class)</td>
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<td>WED</td>
<td>FINAL Presentation of Scenes (1/2 class)</td>
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<td>AND Rehearsal Journal Due</td>
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<td>AND Rehearsal Journal Due</td>
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*There will be nothing scheduled during final exams.*