 Acting I  
TH 1351-010 | Fall 2017  

“The Theatre is one of the few places left in the bright and noisy world where we sit in the quiet dark together, to be awake.” -Sarah Ruhl

“One cannot always create subconsciously and with inspiration. No such genius exists in the world. Therefore our art teaches us first of all to create consciously and rightly, because that will best prepare the way for the blossoming of the subconscious, which is inspiration.”
—Konstantin Stanislavski from An Actor Prepares

Instructor Information  
Ashley Meyer, M.A.  
Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu  
Office: Carr EFA | Room 160 | Direct line: 325.486.6194  
Office Hours: | 12:00PM-2:50PM M/W, 11:00-3:00 T/TH, 11:00-1:00 F, or by appointment

Course Meeting Information  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays | 9:00-9:50PM | Carr E/FA 241A

Required Text  
Acting 1 | Wainscott, Fletcher | 4th Edition | Pearson Publishers

Required Additional Materials  
Journal/Notebook

Course Description  
A study and application of acting techniques and physical training. Designed to acquaint the beginning actor with the fundamentals of acting, this course explores the physical, vocal, emotional, and technical aspects of the actor’s craft. The student should be able to analyze characters for their qualities and characteristics, and the motivations that make characters take action.

All people are performers. Every day we “present” a different side of ourselves to the various persons with whom we come in contact. We are all skilled at a kind of “deception” which allows us to transform our voices and our bodies as needed to get what we want. As children, we learn what works and what doesn’t work in our interactions with adults. These become ingrained in us. In this course, we remind ourselves what our different sides consist of, we learn strategies for acquiring our needs, we learn to relate to each other, to sympathize and even empathize with people different from ourselves. We become better citizens in a global society. In the study of acting we learn to be better sociologists, psychologists, public speakers, athletes, managers, anthropologists, parents, children, and friends. In short, we learn much more about the human condition in order to reflect it to others.

Course Content  
This course is a study and application of the various activities and methods of theatrical practice. It includes discussions and lectures designed to analyze and evaluate all aspects of the theatre experience: scripts, acting, directing, staging, history and criticism.

Attendance at representative plays is required.

The objective of the creative arts in a core curriculum is to expand the student’s knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behaviors, ideas and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as the creative arts, students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments and develop an appreciation for arts as a fundamental to the health and survival of any society.
Required Theatre Performances
Attendance is required for one of the ASU Theatre’s fall productions.

Not About Nightingales by Tennessee Williams | ASU Auditorium
October 13-October 14 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM October 15
October 20-October 21 | 8:00PM Nightly

My Fair Lady music by Frederick Loewe, lyrics and book by Alan Jay Lerner | ASU Modular Theatre
November 29-December 2 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM on December 2 and December 3
December 6-December 9 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM on December 9

Box Office • Ticketing Information
Modular, ASU Auditorium, and Studio Theatre Productions:
Angelo State University Theatre | Carr Education-Fine Arts Building, 2602 Dena Dr, San Angelo, TX 76904
Box Office:
325-942-2000

All ASU students receive free admission for plays and musicals. Dinner theatre productions are $12.50 for students. One free sneak peek performance will be available for students for each show, the night before “opening night.”

A sold-out performance is not an excuse for not seeing a production. Please obtain tickets ahead of time.

Course Specific Expected Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Learn stage areas and terminology. Student will know stage areas, types and basic acting terminology.
2. Physical work on stage process; student will learn to adjust body to character.
3. Voice work on stage process; student will understand projection and vocal adjustments to character.
4. Developing character and analysis processes; student will be able to analyze character behavior, assess character culturally, emotionally and physically.
5. Self-awareness and sensory experience; student will learn to assess the character experience.
6. Script analysis; student will understand play and scene structure.
7. Scene development and performance; student will have performance experience (scene work and improvisation).
8. Relaxation, trust and discipline skill development through exercises; student will experience exercises related to acting preparation.
9. Apply knowledge of acting in interactions with people from other fields.
10. Demonstrate the ability to select and apply contemporary forms of technology to solve problems or compile information.
11. Read, analyze and apply written materials to new situations.

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes
This course will use a “point system” for all work, including test and participation. There are 1000 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Assignments</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Reports</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Performances</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Rehearsals</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scene Score</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Scene Performance</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Critiques</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Completed in class</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Discussion/Assignments</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The methods of assessment described below are followed by the correlating outcomes that they access.
1) **Written journals**: Worth 35 points each for a total of 140 points. Students will write about their in-class performances and their experiences with the exercises to assess goals and outcomes of the common acting exercises. The responses are an opportunity for the student to reflect on the experiences and for the instructor to follow individual progress more efficiently. Student is also required to write 3 additional journal entries per journal assignment related to daily class activities or the student’s general reflections on their acting growth. (Handouts to follow.) (Outcomes 2, 4, 5, 10, 11)

2) **Exercises**: Worth fifty (50) points each for a total of one hundred twenty (120) points. Students will perform various exercises that complement the specific techniques being taught in class. (Handouts to follow.) (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)

3) **Play Reports**: Worth fifty (50) points. Play Reports will be written a minimum of one department productions produced this semester at Angelo State University. All written assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical and spelling errors, double spaced, one-inch margins on all sides and twelve-point font Times New Roman. You will be given a handout on the required content for the critiques. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11)

4) **Rehearsals in Class**: Students will perform in-class rehearsals of their monologues and their major scenes as guided practice for scenes learned in class. (Handouts for each exercise to follow.) (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 11)

5) **Scene Score**: Students will analyze scenes using criteria given to them by the instructor for the final scene. (Handouts to follow.) (Outcomes 2, 4, 10, 11)

6) **Peer critiques**: Students will constructively criticize all scenes using criteria to them given by the instructor. (Handout to follow.) (Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5)

7) **Participation/Discussion/In-Class Assignments**: Worth one hundred fifty (150) points. Students will be given assignments throughout the semester. Students are expected to participate in class, including asking questions, answering questions and initiating classroom discussion, and participating in theatre exercises and acting games. If your final point count is between two grades, participation will be taken into account to raising or lowering the grade. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)

**Grading**

Grades will be calculated using a 1000-point scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-970</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>969-920</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>919-890</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>889-850</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>849-810</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>809-780</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>779-750</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
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<td>749-710</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>619-590</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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**Content Disclosure**

Courses within the Department usually deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.
Physical Contact Policy
In drama, the actor becomes a medium as well as a creator of art. Stage life, which may involve actions such as touching, laughing, crying, kissing, dancing, flirting, threatening, dueling, and/or fighting, is not something the actor merely mimics, but necessarily experiences in and with his or her own body and mind. The ancient maxim of Horace, ‘in order to move the audience, the actor must first be moved himself,’ is as valid today as when Horace stated it two thousand years ago: stage performance involves not only the externals of body and voice, but also the internals of longings and emotions. Effective teaching in the drama disciplines, therefore, may often involve physical and/or emotional interventions that can be demonstrative, suggestive, and/or challenging. This has been true as long as theatre has existed.

Electronics Policy
Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom or during any class activity. Phones and other electronic devices are to be turned completely off (not just silenced) the moment you enter the studio and must remain off during the class period. Likewise, text messaging is prohibited in the classroom or during any class activity. Students utilizing the phone or messaging during class will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an absence for the day. Messaging during an exam will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Computers and Ipads can be used in class for the purpose of note taking and research. Students misusing their computers (i.e. being on-line, or on social media) will lose their computer privileges for the duration of the course. Be physically and mentally present.

Course Work Load
According to the Angelo State University guidelines, students are expected to spend approximately two-three hours in preparation for each hour or lecture. The instructor anticipates that out-of-class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students.

Late Work: Because of the pacing of this course and performance-based nature of the work, performances, peer critiques, and exercises cannot be made up. Written assignments will lose a letter grade for every day that one of them is turned in late. Pop reading quizzes must be made up within one week of missing a pop quiz. The scene score is due the day of the final and cannot be accepted late.

Attendance Policy
Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed three (3) absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. General rule: If you arrive to class after attendance has been taken, you are tardy. Pop quizzes and tests must be made up within one week of the original date of the assignment. Performances and in-class rehearsals cannot be made up barring a medical emergency at the discretion of the instructor.

Medical emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Doctor’s appointments subsequent to an illness or injury will NOT count as an excused absence.

Please note: The only university-recognized excused absences are participation in official university business or for bona fide religious holy days. Participation in official university business must be documented by written notice from sponsoring faculty or staff member at last one week prior to the event.

Observance of a Religious Holy Day
Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

ADA Statement
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Office of Student Services at (325) 942-2191, Student Life Office, room 112 if you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.
**Academic Advising**
The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication, Mass Media, or Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU’s Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at (325) 942-2710.

**Grade Appeal Process (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances)**
A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc
<http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc>

**Honor Code Policy**
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

** Civility In the Classroom**
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers, cellular phones or other text messaging devices, beepers, eating or drinking (except for water bottles), making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom.

In instances where a student is proved to be a distraction, the student will lose five points from their grade. Second occurrence will result in ten points removed. On the third occurrence, the student will be removed permanently from the classroom.

Additionally, in the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting.

In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class.

If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Dean of Students office.

**Sexual Harassment**
This course will observe the university’s guidelines for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because theatre imitates human living, and because sexuality is part of life, some materials in this course may deal with sexual behaviors, situations and language. Those who are easily offended by such subject matter may want to reconsider taking this course.
Promises from your instructor:

You will learn how to utilize acting techniques in your daily life.

You will learn techniques that will be valuable to your respective careers.

You will be able to manage your nerves with greater success.

You will gain a new artistic outlet.

You will learn more about your physical and emotional habits.

You will be pushed as appropriate to your current skill level.

You will learn tools necessary to becoming a more effective communicator and theatre artist.

You will gain an understanding of how other people think and act, and the reasons behind those specific things.

I will help you strengthen your ability to demonstrate and understand empathy.

I will always be available to you.

I will create a safe environment for you to achieve each of these things.

I will provide you with the tools you need to succeed.

Ashley Meyer
Fall 2017 Syllabus Contract
Return this signed page to the instructor
Due August 30th

I__________________________have read the 1351.010 syllabus and understand its contents. I will fulfill the requirements necessary for the grade I want.

____________________
Student Name

____________________  ________________
Student Signature       Date