

# Acting I

TH 1351-010 | Fall 2019

*"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.

Director of University Theatre

[Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu](mailto:Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu)

Office: Carr EFA | Room 160 | Direct line: 325.486.6191

Office Hours: |Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00AM-12:00PM , or by appointment

## Course Meeting Information

Mondays and Wednesdays | 2:30-3:45PM | Carr E/FA 241A (Studio Theatre)

## Required Text

*Acting 1* | Waincott, Fletcher | 4<sup>th</sup> Edition | Pearson Publishers

**Suggested Text (This text is valuable and interesting, but is not required.)**

## Required Additional Materials

Journal or Notebook

Writing tools (pen or pencil)

## 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 (and people) take action.

## 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. This course is part of the ASU theatre core.

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 Mainstage productions.

*The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht | ASU Auditorium Theatre, Administration Building  
*Rated M for mature audiences for adult language, themes of violence, history, and politics*  
Student Sneak Peek is Wednesday October 9 at 8:00PM  
October 10-October 13 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM only on October 13

*Fun Home* by Lisa Kron | ASU Modular Theatre  
*Rated Pg-13 for adult language and themes, some sexuality*  
Student Sneak Peek is Wednesday November 13 at 8:00PM  
November 14-November 16 | 8:00PM Nightly  
November 21-November 24 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM only on November 24

### **Optional Extra Credit Performance to replace lowest quiz grade**

*Gruesome Playground Injuries* by Rajiv Joseph | ASU Studio Theatre, Carr Education-Fine Arts Building  
*Rated Pg-13 for adult language and themes, some sexuality*  
Student Sneak Peek is Thursday, October 3 at 8:00PM  
October 4-October 5 | 8:00PM Nightly

### **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:**

Open Monday-Friday 2:00PM-6:00PM starting two weeks before a performance  
325-942-2000

All ASU students receive free admission for plays and musicals. Dinner theatre productions are \$12.50 for students.

Sneak Peek Performances:

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:

Assignment Type	Point Value	Total Assignments	Total Points
Journals	35	4	140
Play Reports	50	1	50
Exercise Performances	50	4	200
In-Class Rehearsals	50	5	250
Scene Score	80	80	80
Final Scene Performance	120	1	120
Peer Critiques	60	Completed in class	60
Participation/Discussion/Assignments	100	-	100
<b>Total Points</b>			<b>1000</b>

The methods of assessment described below are followed by the correlating outcomes that they assess.

- 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 two hundred (200) 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 (100) 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.

#### Point Breakdown Scale

Total Points	Letter Grade
1000-970	A+
969-920	A
919-890	A-
889-850	B+
849-810	B
809-780	B-
779-750	C+

<b>749-710</b>	C
<b>709-660</b>	C-
<b>659-620</b>	D+
<b>619-590</b>	D
<b>589-550</b>	D-
<b>549-0</b>	F

### **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 I pads 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 of 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. Play reports and programs 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 **two (2)** 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)

<[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](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.

### **Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

**Online:** [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

**Face to Face:** Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

**Phone:** 325-942-2022

**E-Mail:** [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325- 942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

**Policy on Children in Class:** Currently, the university does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom. The policy described here is thus, a reflection of my own beliefs and commitments to student, staff and faculty parents. If you are a parent, I invite you to discuss the following accommodations with me ASAP.

- 1) All exclusively breastfeeding babies are welcome in class as often as is necessary to support the breastfeeding relationship. Because not all women can pump sufficient milk, and not all babies will take a bottle reliably, I never want students to feel like they have to choose between feeding their baby and continuing their education. You and your nursing baby are welcome in class anytime.
- 2) For older children and babies, I understand that minor illnesses and unforeseen disruptions in childcare often put parents in the position of having to choose between missing class to stay home with a child and leaving him or her with someone you or the child does not feel comfortable with. While this is not meant to be a long-term childcare solution, occasionally bringing a child to class in order to cover gaps in care is perfectly acceptable.
- 3) I ask that all students work with me to create a welcoming environment that is respectful of all forms of diversity, including diversity in parenting status.
- 4) In all cases where babies and children come to class, I ask that you sit close to the door so that if your little one needs special attention and is disrupting learning for other students, you may step outside until their need has been met. Non-parents in the class, please reserve seats near the door for your parenting classmates.

5) Finally, I understand that often the largest barrier to completing your coursework once you become a parent is the tiredness many parents feel in the evening once children have *finally* gone to sleep. The struggles of balancing school, childcare and often another job are exhausting! I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. While I maintain the same high expectations for all student in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom!

**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.

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 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Ashley Meyer

## Fall 2019 Syllabus Contract

Return this signed page to the instructor

*Due August 28<sup>th</sup>*

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