TH 4301 – 01. 21030: Senior Seminar

Class Day/Time/Location:
MWF: 11:00 pm – 11:50 pm, CARR 241A (Studio Theater)

MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE ENFORCED WHILE IN THE CLASSROOM.

Instructor:
Daniel Anderson
Phone: 325.486.6194
e-mail: daniel.anderson@angelo.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Due to Covid restrictions all office hours will be held through Zoom appointments.
Office Location: Carr Education-Fine Arts Bldg. Room 164, Suite 163

Required Texts:
*How to be a Working Actor*: Mari Lyn Henry
*Letters to a Young Artist*: Anna Deavere Smith
Other readings as assigned

Course Description: This course is designed to prepare students for the professional world. Students will learn how to prepare their portfolios, websites, and resumes to ensure their readiness for possible employment. In addition, this course will help to define and refine their career goals and show the best way to develop a plan to achieve said goals. Furthermore, students will be exposed to different methods to distinguish themselves in a highly competitive field.

Course Objectives:
1. To learn how to properly prepare for interviews.
2. To learn how to search for positions best suited for their career goals.
3. Learn how to develop portfolios, websites, and resumes.
4. Learn how to present themselves in interviews.
5. Learn how to distinguish themselves apart in a saturated market.
6. Learn how to work within group settings to achieve a common goal.

Course Content:
- Lectures
- Discussion
- Reading Assignments

Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class at Angelo State University: As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the
best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

**Late Assignments**: Every effort should be made to complete assignments on time. All late assignments will receive reduced grades. Written assignments turned in 1 to 7 days after the due date will receive an automatic 10 point reduction for each day late. No written assignment will be accepted more than one week after the due date. Scene assignments must be completed on the day assigned.

**DO NOT ASK FOR AN EXTENSION, NONE WILL BE GIVEN.**

**Attendance Policy**: Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed FOUR (4) 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 least 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.

**Point Values for Assignments:**
- Artists Statement 10%
- Research 15%
- Resume 15%
- CV 10%
- Cover Letter 10%
- Website 20%
- Job Interview 20%

**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](http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies)

**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.

**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.

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
Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Phone: 325-942-2022
E-Mail: 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.

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.
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. Please know that your parenthood status is also protected by Title IX. 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.

Normally, I allow children to be brought to our classrooms. However, with the current pandemic, no one besides students registered in the class are allowed in the room. If you must miss class due to your children’s needs, please attend to them, and I will provide the lecture material for you.
Course Calendar

All dates tentative and subject to change.

Week 1 – Introduction – Letters to a Young Artist
Mon: Jan 25 – Class Introduction
Wed: Jan 27 – Career Goals Discussion
    - Artist Manifesto Assigned
Fri: Jan 29 – NO CLASS

Week 2 – Establishing and Defining Artistic Goals
Mon: Feb 1 – Artist Manifesto Presentations
Wed: Feb 3 – Artist Manifesto Presentations
Fri: Feb 5 – Zoom Session: What kind of artist to you want to become?

Week 3 – Establishing and Defining Artistic Goals – (Readings to be assigned)
Mon: Feb 8 – In-Class Discussion
Wed: Feb 10 – In-Class Discussion
    - Research Project Assigned
Fri: Feb 12 – Zoom Session: How do you define success?

Week 4 – Beginning the Search
Mon: Feb 15 – Research Presentations
Wed: Feb 17 – Research Presentations
Fri: Feb 19 – Zoom Session: Q & A.

Week 5 – Putting it Down on Paper
Mon: Feb 22 - Discussion of Resume/CV and Cover Letters
Wed: Feb 24 - Discussion of Resume/CV and Cover Letters
Fri: Feb 26 - Zoom Session: The Do’s and Don’ts of Interviews.
Cover Letter and Resume Project Assigned

Week 6 – Developing Work Ethic and Relationships
Mon: Mar 1 – Cover Letter and Resume Presentations
Wed: Mar 3 - Cover Letter and Resume Presentations
Fri: Mar 5 – **Zoom Session: Finding Your Twin.**

**Week 7 – A Life Beyond Theatre**

Mon: Mar 8 – Deavere-Smith Reading
Wed: Mar 10 – In-class Discussion
Fri: Mar 12 – **Zoom Session: What inspires you?**

**Week 8 – Developing Your Own Voice**

Mon: Mar 15 – Deavere-Smith Reading
Wed: Mar 17 – In-Class Discussion
Fri: Mar 19 – **Zoom Session: Q & A**

**Week 9 – Developing Your Brand**

Mon: Mar 22 – In-Class Discussion
Wed: Mar 24 – In-Class Discussion

- **Website Project Assigned**

Fri: Mar 26 – **Zoom Session: Theatre in the Modern World**

**Week 10 – Setting Yourself Apart**

Mon: Mar 29 – Website Presentations
Wed: Mar 31 – Website Presentations

Fri: Apr 2 – **Zoom Session: Grad School**

- **Jobs Posted**

**Week 11 – Getting the Job**

Mon: Apr 5 – Website Recap - Discussion
Wed: Apr 7 – Interview Process Discussion
Fri: Apr 9 – In-Class Work (*We will not meet. Use the time to work on Applications*)

- **Applications Due**

**Week 12 - Getting the Job**

Mon: Apr 12 – Phone Interviews
Wed: Apr 14 – In-Person Interviews

Fri: Apr 16 – **Zoom Session: Job Process Re-Cap**

**Week 13 – Relocation and Budget Planning**
Mon: Apr 19 - Job Project Recap and Discussion

Wed: Apr 21 – Relocating and Budgeting Discussion
   - Relocation Budget Exercise

Fri: Apr 23 – Zoom Session: Where do you want to go?

**Week 14 – Relocation and Budget Planning and Recap**

Mon: April 26 – Relocation Presentation

Wed: April 28 – Relocation Presentation

Fri: April 30 – Zoom Session: Relocation Re-Cap

**Week 15 – Final Drafts of Assignments** (A chance to see how you have adapted and applied the notes given to each of your assignments)

Mon: May 3 – In-Class Discussion

Wed: May 5 – In-Class Discussion

Fri: May 7 – Last day Recap-Discussion