

Acting II | TH 1352 | Spring 2022

“Silence has a myriad of meanings. In the theatre, silence is an absence of words, but never an absence of meaning...an ounce of behavior is worth a pound of words.” -Sanford Meisner

Instructor Information

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Office: Carr Education-Fine Arts Building, Room 162 or online appointments

Office Hours: By appointment only. Masks encouraged for in-person appointments. Zoom and Facetime appointments preferred.

Course Meeting Information

Monday/Wednesday/Friday | 10-10:50am | Carr Education Fine Arts, room 241a.

Course Text Requirements

Sanford Meisner On Acting by Sanford Meisner and Dennis Longwell

Backwards & Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays by David Ball

Course Description

Study of acting techniques, vocal, and physical training with a focus on scene structure and character development.

Course Content

Exploration and further training within the basic principles and tools of acting, including and emphasis on critical analysis of oneself and others. The tools include ensemble performing, character and script analysis, and basic theatre terminology. This will continue the exploration of the development of the actor's instrument: voice, body, and imagination.

This course is a study and application of Sanford Meisner's method of acting, which focuses on scene work. Therefore, it requires a substantial amount of partner work. Those enrolled in the class are expected to behave professionally. Please see additional guidelines in Blackboard.

Attendance at representative plays is required. This course satisfies three hours of the Creative Arts requirement in Theatre Electives.

Course Objectives

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) about the Meisner method of acting.
2. Learning fundamental principles of listening, awareness of present emotions and verbalizing them.
3. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation for scene work, scene study, and working with a partner on stage.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Analyze scripts more in depth from the viewpoint of the actor.
2. Analyze, develop, and perform more complex characters.
3. Demonstrate effective and safe use of the voice and body.
4. Define and discuss terms and concepts using an expanded vocabulary of theatre.
5. Perform at an increasingly skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes, and final projects, which may include participation in plays.
6. Analyze and critique personal and peer performances.
7. Develop a comprehensive overview of the Meisner method of Acting.
8. Identify the technical aspects of understanding a play and what moves the action forward.
9. Examine and identify authentic, momentary emotions in the body.
10. Develop a practice of “living truthfully under imaginary circumstances.”
11. Establish and apply a professional practice of rehearsal and learn how to skillfully collaborate with others.
12. Develop active listening.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Creative Arts Foundational Component Area Content Description

1. 1) Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of human imagination.
2. 2) Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative and innovative communication about works of arts.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Core Objectives

1. 1) *Critical Thinking Skills* (CT): to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques, reflection papers, quizzes, exams. 80% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better on the written critiques and creative projects, synthesizing their knowledge of the class to accurately critique performances and create examples of theatrical works in production.
2. 2) *Communication Skills* (CS): to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques, reflection papers, quizzes, exams. 80% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better on the discussion questions and analyses designed for greater communication of interpretations concerning theatre works whether live or in written texts.
3. 3) *Teamwork* (T): to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques. 80% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better on group discussions and creative projects designed for collaboration in the arts.
4. 4) *Social Responsibility* (SR): to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Assessments will include group discussions, creative projects, play critiques, reflection papers. 90% of the students will make a grade of 80 or better in discussions as they reflect on their civic responsibilities when creating art, and the way in which theatrical art binds different cultures together.

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes

This course will use a “point system” for all work, including test and participation. There are 5950 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

| Assignment Type | Point Value | Total Assignments | Total Points |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Quizzes | 50 | 2 | 100 |
| Meisner/B&F Readings | 100 | 11 | 1100 |
| Play Attendance | 450 | 2 | 900 |
| Reflective Journals | 25 | 14 | 350 |
| Final Exam | 1000 | 1 | 1000 |
| Group Discussions | 1000 | - | 1000 |
| Weekly Participation | 100 | 15 | 1500 |
| Total Points | | | 5950 |

The methods of assessment described below are followed by the correlating outcomes that they access:

1. **1) Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given for the major and minor components of the Expressive Continuum. Two (2) quizzes will be given, and each quiz will be worth fifty (50) points, for a total of one hundred (100) points possible. The questions will be related to the assigned readings and projects. Completing assigned readings will ensure success in these assignments. **(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8)**
2. **2) Meisner/Backwards & Forwards Chapter Readings:** Worth one hundred (100) points for each assigned reading, for a total of eleven hundred (1100) points possible. Reading of the chapters will be tracked via Blackboard Forums and in-class discussions. **(Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 6, 7,8)**
3. **3) Play Attendance:** Worth four hundred and fifty (450) points for each production for a total of nine hundred (900) points total. As this course explores the elements of live in-person and virtual theatre, students are expected to experience both. Students are given ample time to schedule their viewing of the productions hosted by Angelo State University Theatre, and productions are free to all ASU students. Attendance as a respectful and informed audience member at both productions is expected. **(Outcomes 2, 4, 5, 6, 8)**
4. **4) Reflective Journals:** Worth twenty-five (25) points for each journal for a total of three hundred fifty (350) points. The purpose of this consistent assignment is that students develop a language in their process and a growth mindset in learning **(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)**
5. **5) Final Exam:** One final exam, worth one thousand (1000) points. Cannot be made up. **(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11)**
6. **6) Discussions/Debriefs:** Worth one thousand (1000) 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. 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, 12)**

7. **7) Weekly Participation:** Worth fifteen hundred (1500) points. Students will be asked to participate with others weekly. Cannot be made up. Mandatory for the successful completion of this course and the final. (**Outcomes 3, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12**)

Please note: Due to the substantial amount of scene work, it is essential to bring a positive, constructive outlook to the work, and to class. All learning requires one to become “momentarily incompetent,” as Seth Godin puts it. Trust the process.

Grading

Grades will be calculated using a 9750-point scale.

Point Breakdown Scale

| Total Points | Letter Grade |
|--------------|--------------|
| 5950-5355 | A |
| 5354-4760 | B |
| 4759-4164 | C |
| 4163-3568 | D |
| 3567-0 | F |

In-Course Technology Use

This course utilizes the following platforms: Blackboard, Ramport, Connect (McGraw Hill), and Zoom. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are familiar with the platforms and seek the necessary help you require if you have questions. All lecture notes, recorded lectures, PowerPoints, and lesson materials are in Blackboard. In the event of technology issues, please maintain open and honest communication.

Flipped Classroom Expectations

Flipped classroom is a “pedagogical approach in which direct instruction moves from the group learning space to the individual learning space, and the resulting group space is transformed into a dynamic, interactive learning environment where the educator guides students as they apply concepts and engage creatively in the subject matter” (The Flipped Learning Network, 2014).

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 class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students. You will be expected to read the chapters, watch the pre-recorded lectures on Blackboard prior to arriving to classes by the designated deadlines. Class time is dedicated to applying the concepts of the course in practical and creative methods in addition to understanding how the concepts affect and involve all educational disciplines. This means the preparation for each lecture is more in-depth on the parts of the instructor and the students. However, the learning results have proven to benefit the students when all parties put forth this effort. In our current pandemic, this also allows for the most flexibility across our diverse student cohort. In the event of a state-mandated transition to a solely online environment, there will be minimum disruption to our learning environment and progress as a class.

Encouraged Use of Masks/Facial Coverings and Vaccinations by students in Class at Angelo State University

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, students in this class are encouraged to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Students are also encouraged to acquire the CDC recommended vaccinations. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also encouraged to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability.

Content Disclosure

Courses within the Department 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, value judgements, 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.

Electronics Policy

I invite you to be physically and mentally present in our time together, and I request that you do not allow your devices to impact the learning environment, which involves many of us, in any negative manner.

Course Workload

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

For every hour an assignment is submitted late, a 10% grade reduction will occur. Group projects cannot be submitted late. The final exam and group project must be completed by the deadline, or the assignment automatically receives a "0". In the event of COVID-related issues, please consult with the instructor.

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 1/2 a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. Please arrive on time. If you do not feel well, do not come to class. Lectures and lesson materials are provided on Blackboard, and Zoom sessions are available for clarification opportunities. In the event that you are quarantined due to COVID, please inform your instructor and do not come to class. 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.

Children in the Classroom

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.

Civility in the Classroom

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Higher Education is challenging, and new to many of you. We are also in an unprecedented time, and many of you are facing difficult circumstances.

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. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

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).

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

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

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:

Angelo State University Student Handbook:
<https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>

Angelo State University Catalog:
<https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty as soon as possible if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information. <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

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. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information. <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>

ADA Statement

Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from the participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information, about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ada

The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
325-942-2047
Houston Harte University Center, 112

If you suspect that you may need accommodations for 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 Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU. For more information, please consult the student handbook, <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft. In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center. https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

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 they 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

Promises from your instructor

- I will provide you with the tools you need in order to succeed in this class
- I will create a safe and equitable environment
- You will be able to connect this course to your life and respective careers
- You will be challenged appropriately to your current skills level
- You will learn tools to help in becoming a more effective communicator and scholar

-Professor Lisa Fischel

COURSE CALENDAR

| WEEK | AGENDA FOR THE WEEK | HOMEWORK | ASSIGNMENT DUE |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| 1/18-23 | Syllabus, Chapter 1, The Reality of Doing exercise | Review and sign syllabus, Read Chapter 1, Duse's Blush and The Reality of Doing | Syllabus signature page, The Reality of Doing exercise |
| 1/24-30 | The Reality of Doing exercise, Reading Chapter 2 | Read Chapter 2, Discussion, and Journal entry 1 | Chapter 2 Discussion, Journal entry, The Reality of Doing exercise |
| 1/31-2/6 | Working with the other, Repetition | Discussion, Working with the Other, Repetition, Journal entry 2 | Journal entry 2 |
| 2/7-13 | Repetition with I, Triggers and Heaps | Repetition with I, Discussion, Read Chapters 1 & 2 in Backwards & Forwards, Journal entry 3 | Journal entry 3 |
| 2/14-20 | Triggers and Heaps, Repetition evolution, the pause | Triggers and Heaps, Repetition Evolution, Journal entry 4 | Journal entry 4 |
| 2/21-27 | Triggers and Heaps, Repeat, Pause, and Evolve | Read B&F Chapter 6, Triggers and Heaps with Repeat, Pause, and Evolve in practice, Journal entry 5 | Journal entry 5 |
| 2/28-3/6 | Chapter 3 in Meisner, The Pinch and The Ouch | The Pinch and the Ouch, Read Meisner Chapter 3, Journal entry 6 | Discussion, Pinch and Ouch discussion, Journal entry 6 |
| 3/7-13 | Pinch and Ouch, But do it Backwards | Pinch and Ouch, Read B&F Chapter 3, Backwards memorization, listening discussion | Discussion, Journal entry 7 |
| 3/14-20 | ----- <i>No class</i> ----- | ----- <i>SPRING BREAK</i> ----- | ----- |
| 3/21-27 | Review and Approaching the script | Review, Read B&F Chapters 4 & 5, Approaching the script, Journal entry 8 | Journal entry 8 |

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|----------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 3/28-4/3 | Exposition and The knock on the door | Read Meisner Chapter 4, Knock on the door exercise | Knock on the door exercise, Journal entry 9 |
| 4/4-10 | The script and Character | Character, Read B&F Chapter 10, Read TBA play | Journal entry 10 |
| 4/11-17 | Play discussion | Play discussion, character, and script work | Character and script paperwork, Journal entry 11 |
| 4/18-24 | Putting it all together | Assign scenes and partners | Journal entry 12 |
| 4/25-5/1 | Scene and Partner work | Scene and partner work, rehearsal and staging | Journal entry 13 |
| 5/2-8 | Scene and Partner work | Rehearsal final scenes | Journal entry 14 |
| 5/9-14 | Finals Week | Final: Monday, May 9 th 10:30-12:30pm | Final performances, Debrief |
| ----- | ----- | <u>-----<i>This syllabus is subject to change</i>-----</u> | ----- |