DRM. 1351, Acting I

**YOU WILL NEED COMFORTABLE CLOTHING AND A JOURNAL FOR IN-CLASS WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND NOTE TAKING. ALWAYS BRING JOURNAL AND COPIES OF YOUR SCENES/MONOLOGUES TO CLASS.**

ACTING I

Syllabus

WEEK 1

Intro to course

Given Circumstances

Dramatic Structure

Sense Memory

Assignment: Given Circumstances/Dramatic Structure Exercise

SEARCH FOR MONOLOGUE.

WEEK 2

PERFORM ASSIGNED EXERCISE.

**JOURNAL ENTRY #1** – Life Story

More Given Circumstances

Physical Work

Subtext

How to Audition

CONFIRM MONO CHOICE.

SEARCH FOR SCENES/PARTNERS.

ASSIGNMENT: PLAY REVIEW (due 4/28)

WEEK 3

Work on Monologues in class.

Emotional Memory and Psychological Gesture

Continue search for TWO PERSON SCENES/PARTNERS.

**JOURNAL ENTRY #2 --** Diary entry for your mono character

WEEK 4

Physical and Vocal Warm-up

PERFORM MONOLOGUES.

CONFIRM SCENES/PARTNERS.

Read-thru all scenes.

OBJECTIVES/OBSTACLES

Assignment: **JOURNAL ENTRY #3** – Listen to music, record emotional reactions, memories, images.

WEEK 5

Scene Partners: SIGN UP FOR REHEARSAL TIMES w/instructor.

Breakdown of scene, and how to rehearse a scene

Assignments: create groundplan.

REHEARSE SCENES W/ INSTRUCTOR.

BEGIN SEARCH FOR FINAL MONOLOGUES.

**JOURNAL ENTRY #4** – View sunrise or sunset (sensory details and emotions)

WEEK 6

**JOURNAL ENTRY # 5** -- CHARACTER ANALYSIS

CONTINUE REHEARSALS WITH INSTRUCTOR.

Assignment: GET LINES OFF, confirm props and costumes.

Run-thru/work thru of all scenes IN CLASS.

DO SCENE BREAKDOWN with scene partner.

**JOURNAL ENTRY #6 --** Diary entry for Scene Character

WEEK 7

Continue to rehearse scenes.

SCENE BREAKDOWN.

**JOURNAL ENTRY #7** -- Emotional Checklist for your scene character

Speed Line-thru of Scene

WEEK 8

PRESENT ALL SCENES

CONTINUE SEARCH FOR FINAL MONOLOGUES.

WEEK 9

PREP FOR TEST.

FINALIZE MONOLOGUE CHOICE.

TEST

WEEK 10

PLAY REVIEW DUE.

Rehearse Monologues in class.

WEEK 11

**JOURNALS DUE – YOU SHOULD HAVE 7 ENTRIES** (including CHARACTER ANALYSIS and EMOTIONAL CHECKLIST)

Rehearse Monologues.

Resumes, photos, agents, etc.

Audition review

WEEK 12

PRESENT FINAL MONOLGUES.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course covers basic skills and techniques of acting, including sensory awareness, emotional memory, gesture and physical work, improvisation, ensemble and solo performing, character and script analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

to gain confidence and composure onstage through experience and participation

to learn to use the body and voice to communicate emotion and objectives

to acquire improvisational skills to create, rehearse and perform complex characters in scenes and monologues

to learn to evaluate ones own work and the work of others to prepare and perform audition material designed to secure employment in the local and/or national theatre/film/tv communities to demonstrate professional courtesy, discipline, and behavior at all times

to utilize a variety of warm-up techniques prior to rehearsals and performances

COURSE CONTENT AND REQUIREMENTS

An Acting class demands a level of commitment and discipline that is perhaps unlike other academic courses. It is very much a participation based course. Acting is a process, and students must participate in every class as we make our way through that process. Exercises will include improvisation, vocal and physical warm-ups, character analysis, audition techniques, and monologue and scene work.

If you’re serious about it, and you’re interested in earning a good grade, IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE that you attend class regularly, schedule and show up for rehearsals with scene partners, and do assigned reading and written work. You also need to be out looking for monologues and scenes to work on. I will provide some material and some ideas, but you need to show some effort, too, and find material that you like and want to explore. This class also now requires a minimum of three Technical Lab Hours which must be completed before the end of the semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

If you’re not serious about class, or you don’t think you’ll have time to really work, or attend class regularly, PLEASE DROP THE CLASS! IF YOU STOP ATTENDING, INSTRUCTOR WILL DROP YOU! DON’T EXPECT TO BE ALLOWED BACK INTO CLASS AFTER SIX OR MORE ABSENCES!! YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

You get three unexcused absences, NO QUESTIONS ASKED. If you miss more than three classes, YOUR GRADE WILL GO DOWN A HALF A GRADE POINT, AND WILL CONTINUE TO GO DOWN A HALF POINT FOR EVERY CLASS MISSED UNTIL SIX ABSENCES -- AT WHICH POINT YOU WILL BE DROPPED.

Parking is difficult at Rio Grande. Try to anticipate and arrive early. Don’t make a habit of coming to class late! It is rude, unprofessional, and disruptive to walk in on a class in which actors are already working on stage! BE ON TIME FOR CLASS AND ALL REHEARSALS!

NECESSITITES

Notebook to use for written assignments

photocopies of scenes and monologues

comfortable clothing

phone numbers /e-mails of scene partners

attendance at ACC productions

costume pieces as needed

props and set pieces as needed

SEMESTER GRADES

Journal Assignments = 15%

Class Participation = 20%

Test and Play Review = 15%

Monologues and Scene = 50%

Total = 100 points

**Withdrawal policy:**

 It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the roll should he or she decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is submitted before the Final Withdrawal Date. The student is also strongly encouraged to retain their copy of the withdrawal form for their records.  Students who enroll for the third or subsequent time in a course taken since Fall, 2002, may be charged a higher tuition rate, for that course. State law permits students to withdraw from no more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career at Texas public colleges or universities. With certain exceptions, all course withdrawals automatically count towards this limit. Details regarding this policy can be found in the ACC college catalog.

**Incompletes:** An instructor may award a grade of “I” (Incomplete) if a student was unable to complete all of the

objectives for the passing grade in a course. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in

the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor but may not be later than the final

deadline for withdrawal in the subsequent semester.

**Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty:** A student attending ACC assumes responsibility for conduct compatible with the mission of the college as an educational institution. Students have the responsibility to submit coursework that is the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, and falsifying documents. Penalties for scholastic dishonesty will depend upon the nature of the violation and may range from lowering a grade on one assignment to an “F” in the course and/or expulsion from the college. See the Student Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Process and other policies at http://www.austincc.edu/current/needtoknow

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Students at the college have the rights accorded by the U.S. Constitution to freedomof speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility to accord the same rights to others in the college community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. Opportunity for students to examine andquestion pertinent data and assumptions of a given discipline, guided by the evidence of scholarly research, is appropriate in a learning environment. This concept is accompanied

by an equally demanding concept of responsibility on the part of the student. As willing

partners in learning, students must comply with college rules and procedures.

**Statement on Students with Disabilities:** Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities.  Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).   Students are encouraged to request accommodations when they register for courses or at least three weeks before the start of the semester, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed.   Students who have received approval for accommodations from OSD for this course must provide the instructor with the ‘Notice of Approved Accommodations’ from OSD before accommodations will be provided.   Arrangements for academic accommodations can only be made after the instructor receives the ‘Notice of Approved Accommodations’ from the student.  Students with approved accommodations are encouraged to submit the ‘Notice of Approved Accommodations’ to the instructor at the beginning of the semester because a reasonable amount of time may be needed to prepare and arrange for the accommodations.    Additional information about the Office for Students with Disabilities is available at<http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/>

**Safety Statement:** Austin Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. You are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Additional information on these can be found at http://www.austincc.edu/ehs. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the Emergency Procedures poster and Campus Safety Plan map in each classroom. Additional information about emergency procedures and how to sign up for ACC Emergency Alerts to be notified in the event of a serious emergency can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/emergency/>. Please note, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be dismissed from the day’s activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities.

**Use of ACC email:** All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student’s ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify you of any college related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Instructions for activating an ACCmail account can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/accmail/index.php>.

**Testing Center Policy:** Under certain circumstances, an instructor may have students take an examination in a testing center. Students using the Academic Testing Center must govern themselves according to the Student Guide for Use of ACC Testing Centers and should read the entire guide before going to take the exam. To request an exam, one must have:

* [**ACC Photo ID**](http://www.austincc.edu/support/admissions/student_id.php)
* Course Abbreviation (e.g., ENGL)
* Course Number (e.g.,1301)
* Course Synonym (e.g., 10123)