

**THEA 1033: Acting One**  
**Southern Utah University**  
**Fall 2023, MWF 1:00 - 1:50pm**  
**AU 108**

<b>Professor:</b> Scott C. Knowles	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:scottknowles@suu.edu">scottknowles@suu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b> MW: 10-11am and 3-4pm F: 3-4pm <b>Office:</b> South Hall RM 210 <b>Office (Held over Zoom):</b>	<b>Office Phone:</b> (435) 586-7830

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An intensive studio approach to introduce the student to the basic principles of acting and its artistry through vocal and physical awareness, character development, and analysis.

\*In this course I challenge you to experience life from perspectives other than your own. Because of this, some course material may make you uncomfortable. Not all course materials are “family-friendly.” This is a university-level course. If you have any concerns about this issue, see me during office hours.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- Movement clothing
- Dedicated notebook

**RECOMENDED TEXTS:**

Cohen Robert. *Acting One*. Fourth ed. McGraw Hill 2002.

Hagen Uta and Haskel Frankel. *Respect for Acting*. Hungry Minds 1973.

Stilson Kenneth L et al. *Acting Is Believing: Stanislavski in the 21st Century*. 13th ed. Rowman & Littlefield 2023.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- 1) Demonstrate and articulate a clear knowledge of basic stage and acting terminology.
- 2) Apply measurable and engaging tactics and motivations for characters and exhibit those choices during performance.
- 3) Demonstrate habits of punctuality, dependability, collaboration, and coachability.
- 4) Articulate, and demonstrate in performance, the concept of “immediacy” or “being in the moment.”

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

**Ensemble Expectations:**

Ensembles thrive on active participation, collaboration, a non-judgmental setting, a willingness to explore, and an eagerness to support. It is our goal to foster a respectful and vibrant artistic environment together as a class. Deliberate personal attacks, behavior, or disrespectful comments of any nature will not be permitted. Offensive or disruptive behavior will result in students being asked to leave class for the day. If asked to leave, you will be marked absent for the day and receive no credit for that day’s activities or assignments. Cellular phones, electronic devices of any sort, and eating are prohibited in class.

**As actors**, come prepared to work in each class session having completed any readings or assignments. Wear comfortable clothes that you feel comfortable moving in. Completely commit to the success of each class session, each day. Please discuss with the instructor all acting materials that contain questionable content *prior* to in-class performance. As artists, please respect and value the work that is done in class as each of us attempts difficult and personal work. In short, do not just be *here* in class, but be present and open to new discovery and to the hard work of your peers.

**As audience members**, it is your responsibility to actively listen and support your fellow actors. Disrespect includes, but is not limited to: eating, sleeping, talking, texting, or any other rude behavior during performance and class. It will not be tolerated. These behaviors will result in a letter grade reduction of the student’s grade for that particular assignment. Late students will not be permitted into class until an appropriate break in performance (e.g. waiting until a performance is completed). Cell phones and all other electronic devices must be turned OFF during class.

**As the instructor**, I will strive to be open-minded, fair, and sensitive to the needs of this class. I may encourage dynamic discussions and push all of us toward greater work, but I will *always* work to protect the emotional and intellectual safety and tolerance of our ensemble.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

<i>Pts</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Alignment with Outcomes &amp; Assessment</i>
200	<p><b>Participation and Social Contract:</b>            All students will participate actively in the community of this course—by that, I mean that each student will read the assigned material before class begins, contribute to class discussion in ways that are constructive to your fellow colleagues, and demonstrate openly your learning process with the material. <b>This will be a challenging course</b>, and therefore it necessitates a positive attitude from the whole class community. The traditional method of earning these points is showing up to class and participating in</p>	<p><i>Learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be measured through classroom participation, preparedness, and demonstrated knowledge via specific discussion questions. Students will receive critical feedback from peers and faculty.</i></p>

	<p>activities/discussions. If, for whatever reason, you need a different way to get these points, please talk with me (email or office hours works great)!</p> <p>You get 4 free absences that you can use at your discretion. Additionally, absences (or if you'd simply not like to use your freebies) can be excused for any number of reasons including isolating due to Covid Exposure or a Covid Positive Test. For excused absences I will provide an assignment or additional work at my discretion. DO NOT come to class sick. There is no reason to do so. I will absolutely work with you to make up missed material.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each absence after 4 will result in a 33.333 point deduction in your attendance and participation grade. If you negate your total attendance and participation grade your grade will continue to decline by 1/3 of a letter grade as per the TAD Student Handbook. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub></li> <li>• 3 tardies = 1 absence (leaving class early for any reason counts as a tardy).</li> </ul> <p>No student missing 25% of classes can receive a passing grade.</p> <p>Finally, please note that this class may move to a synchronous remote experience at any point for any number of reasons surrounding COVID-19.</p>	
100	<p>Monologue Self-assessment Performance Character Work (GOTE)</p>	<p><i>All learning outcomes will be measured as students perform monologues.</i></p>
100	<p>Quizzes – Oral and by Ensemble These will take place in an ad-hoc manner when needed. If they aren't needed, these points will be absorbed into participation and social contract</p>	<p><i>Learning outcomes 1 and 3 will be measure by directing testing the knowledge gained in the course.</i></p>

100	<p>Minor Performances</p> <p>There will be 4 minor performances in the semester:</p> <p>Carte Blanche Object Exercise Tableaus Non-content Scene</p>	<p><i>learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be measured through short performances that are created through collaboration with classmates that demonstrate knowledge of acting techniques and critiqued and improved during in class workshops.</i></p>
100	<p>Journal – You will write daily based on each class period of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Workshop/lecture day: What did you learn about acting and about yourself?</li> <li>2. Performance day: Write critiques of each of your peer’s work in your journals.</li> <li>3. Work days: What did you work on, what techniques or tools from the course did you implement?</li> </ol>	<p><i>learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be measured through self-reflection of the student on any given day.</i></p>
100	<p>Acting Performance Critique</p>	<p><i>Learning outcomes 1, 3, and 4 will be measured by the student utilizing the theories and terminology of the class to critique a performance</i></p>
200	<p>Final Scene</p> <p>Scene Analysis Performance Self-assessment</p>	<p><i>All learning outcomes will be measured as students perform scenes utilizing the techniques taught throughout the semester, collaborating with a scene partner, and continually improving their work based in critique by both peers and instructor.</i></p>
100	<p>Audition Monologues OR Acting Theory Presentations</p>	<p><i>Learning outcomes TBD based on options.</i></p>

## Grading Scale:

A	930-1000	B+	860-899	C+	760-799	D+	660-699	F	599-0
A-	900-929	B	830-859	C	730-759	D	630-659		
		B-	800-829	C-	700-729	D-	600-632		

## COURSE POLICIES:

### *E-mails:*

I am extremely good about checking my email, and strive to answer all emails within a twenty-four hour period. However, this might not always be possible. I will make it my personal responsibility to respond to you within forty-eight hours. PLEASE FEEL FREE to address any issues with me directly as an alternative to electronic communication.

### *Canvas:*

This class will utilize a Canvas website. On the website you will find information concerning assignments, readings, announcements, grades, etc. It is your responsibility to check Canvas frequently. Students must check their official university email accounts daily, and this course's Canvas site at least 3 times per week. I strongly encourage you to check this site the night before class sessions for important announcements and reminders.

### *Technology:*

I love technology. You are permitted to use technology in the classroom. I want to have a conversation about generative AI and what we can/should do with it here in our class. My hope is that we have a brief conversation and decide on a policy for the class.

### *Assignments/Late work:*

Assignment due dates will be listed on canvas as well as below. All assignments should be typed unless otherwise specified by the instructor. **Late work may be penalized 10% per day (not class period) that they are late.** In general, I do not penalize late work so long as I receive it before I am grading the assignment for the class. This of course, is a nebulous thing, and I do it to acknowledge that if I haven't started grading work by the time you turn it in, that it is arbitrary to penalize the work. While I often offer extensions, please know that extensions for in-class performances will only be granted under specific circumstances beyond your control (i.e. you are in deathly ill, an unexpected funeral, you were in a car accident on your way to class, etc.).

### *Extra Credit:*

There maybe extra credit offered in this course at the discretion of the professor. You may only earn up to 50 pts in extra credit.

### *Inclusion and Diversity Statement:*

It is my belief that diversity and inclusion is essential to the success of an educational environment. The perspectives, ideas, values, and experiences of diverse student populations are a strength and benefit to this course. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Please, let me know if you have any suggestions to improve this effort and thus improve the effectiveness of our course.

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that you would prefer be used in class, please let me know via email, in my office hours, or catch me before or after class.
- If you feel your performance in class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.
- I (like everyone) am still learning about diverse perspectives, identities, and cultures. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please come and talk to me about it.

***Land Acknowledgement:***

SUU wishes to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous communities of this region as original possessors, stewards, and inhabitants of this Too'veep (land), and recognize that the University is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nung'wu (Southern Paiute People). More information can be found at <https://www.suu.edu/land-acknowledgment/>

***Departmental Policies***

The Department of Theatre Arts & Dance operates under the policies listed in the current Student Handbook, a copy of which is on the department website. By enrolling in a Theatre class, you understand and agree to these policies. Where the individual class requirements and departmental requirements differ, the more restrictive policy shall be in effect. If you have any questions, please inform your instructor in writing before the end of the Drop/Add period.

***University Policies***

NEW: [Required Syllabi Statements for Fall 2023](#)

Website: <https://www.suu.edu/coronavirus/>

***Academic Integrity:***

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

The University maintains a policy on Academic Integrity that provides an explanation of the types of behaviors that constitute academic misconduct. (See SUU Policy # 6.33) That policy identifies the following behaviors:

- Cheating on exams or other forms of assessment or assignments
- Plagiarism
- Fabrication or forgery
- Obstruction of learning
- Multiple submission of assignments
- Copyright infringement
- Research Misconduct
- Complicity (helping others cheat or failing to report)

- Misuse of translation or recording devices

Students can review the policy for the definitions of these violations and infractions. The University definition of plagiarism is included below.

*Plagiarism:* The University defines plagiarism as intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student's original work which has wholly or in part been created by another person, or cutting and pasting of source material. It also includes the presentation of the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. It is the responsibility of the student to consult with their instructors for clarification in any situation in which the need for documentation is an issue. Faculty are encouraged to share with students various resources that can help identify plagiarism before assignments are submitted.

***Ada Statement***

Students with medical, psychological, learning, or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations, or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Disability Resource Center, located in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or by phone at: (435) 865-8042. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

If your instructor requires attendance, then you will need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy. Please contact the Disability Resource Center to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate

***Emergency Management Statement***

In case of emergency, the University's Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the homepage of the mySUU portal. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Response Protocols posted in each classroom. Detailed information about the University's emergency management plan can be found at <http://www.suu.edu/emergency>.

***Heoa Compliance Statement***

The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at <https://help.suu.edu/article/1097/p2p-and-copyright-infringement>.

***Disclaimer Statement***

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**SCHEDULE:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
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W 8.30	Introduction / Syllabus		
F 9.01	What is Acting?	<i>An Acting I Handbook (1-14)</i>	
M 9.04	<b><i>Labor Day Weekend – No Class</i></b>		
W 9.06	<i>Performances</i>		<b>Carte Blanche Due</b>
F 9.08	Objective, Motivation, Obstacle, Action, Tactics	<i>An Acting I Handbook (14-26)</i>	<b>Submit Monologue for Approval</b>
M 9.11	The Creative State		
W 9.13	Physical Actions		
F 9.15	Intimacy Training		
M 9.18	Scoring a role - Beats		
W 9.20	GOTE Worksheets		
F 9.22	<i>Performances</i>		<b><i>Object Exercise Due</i></b>
M 9.25	Expectations		
W 9.27	Monologue Workshops		Monologue Workshops
F 9.29	Monologue Workshops		Monologue Workshops
M 10.02	<b>Monologue Performances</b>		<b>Monologue Performances</b>
W 10.04	<b>Monologue Performances</b>		<b>Monologue Performances</b>
F 10.06	<b><i>Highschool Shakespeare Competition – No Class</i></b>		
M 10.09	Viewpoints		
W 10.11	Tableaus		<b>Tableaus Due</b>
F 10.13	Observation and Acting		<b>Journals Due</b>
M 10.16	<b><i>Fall Break - No Class</i></b>		
W 10.18	Voice		<b>Scenes and Partners submitted for Approval</b>



F 10.20	Voice		
M 10.23	Circles of Attention		
W 10.25	<i>Sense Memory (and Emotion)</i>		
F 10.27	Action Verbs, Obstacles, and Goals		
M 10.30	Creating a Character		
W 11.01	Creating a Character		
F 11.03	Creating a Character		
M 11.06	Staging Scenes		
W 11.08	Rehearsing		Rehearse Scenes
F 11.10	Scott at ASTR – Rehearse on your own.		Rehearse Scenes
M 11.13	Given Circumstances and Non-content Scenes		<b>Non-content Scenes Due</b>
W 11.15	This day intentionally left blank.		
F 11.17	This day intentionally left blank.		<b>Acting Performance Critique Due</b>
M 11.20	<b><i>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</i></b>		
W 11.22	<b><i>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</i></b>		
F 11.24	<b><i>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</i></b>		
M 11.27	Workshop Scenes (2-3)		
W 11.29	Workshop Scenes (2-3)		
F 12.01	Workshop Scenes (2-3)		
M 12.04	Workshop Scenes (2-3)		
W 12.06	<b>Performance of Final Scenes</b>		<b>Final Scene Performance</b>
F 12.08	<b>Performance of Final Scenes</b>		<b>Final Scene Performance Journals Due</b>
TH 12.14	<b>Final: 1:00pm -2:50pm</b>		<b>Either Auditions or Theory Presentations</b>

