

**Course Syllabus**  
**Acting I- Fall 2007**  
(Beginning Technique Class)  
Theatre 164

Instructor: Johnson, Miki  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2-5 PM  
Morning hours by appointment only

**Required Text:**

Instructor will provide text  
The following texts may prove helpful or interesting to the student but are NOT required:  
An Actor Prepares by Constantin Stanislavsky, Challenges to the Actor by Uta Hagen,  
and The Actor at Work 8<sup>th</sup> Edition by Robert Benedetti.

**Objective:**

To teach basic acting skills through the use of character analysis, research, improvisations, and physical and vocal techniques.

**Attendance Policy:**

Class participation is an important part of any acting class, so it is imperative that you Attend all classes. If you are absent more than **three (3)** classes, your final grade will be reduced **five (5)** points for **each** absence. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy **three times**, that equals **one absence**. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

**Classroom Attire:**

Please wear clothes that is comfortable loose fitting.

**Classroom Demeanor:**

Come to class focused and ready to work. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.

**Catalogue Course Description:**

A study of basic techniques in body and voice as they are applied to the performance of stage tasks by the actor.

**Course Requirements:**

All students are required to see the following Department of Theatre and Dance Fall 2007 productions and to write a three-page critique on **one actor** from each of the following shows: Oedipus, Quake, and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (These critiques may be typed or handwritten. If typed, font must be no larger than 12 pt. If handwritten the writing must be legible). **One** complimentary ticket will be provided for each show. These papers will focus on the use of body and voice in the creation of a character. **All critiques must be turned in at the beginning of the first class period after a show closes.** The critique may be e-mailed to my SHSU address (see above). It **must** reach me by the beginning of the class period. If the critique is not turned in by the beginning of class, you will be given a **ZERO** for the critique. Critiques **will not** be accepted at a later date.

**Scene Work:**

Much of your grade will be based on partner work. You must be available to work with a partner in the rehearsal process. If you are unavailable to work with your partner, your grade will be lowered. **If you do not show up on the day when your scene is due to go up, you will be given an automatic ZERO for your scene.** Your partner will not be penalized. Scenes are presented to the class and then reworked. Your grade is based on both the initial and the reworked performance.

Also due on the **first day** of each scene (see dates outline) is a character analysis, a character journal or collage: Scene 1 (Character Analysis); Scene 2 (Journal and Research); Scene 4 (Collage). Each is worth a specific point value. (See below). **If the analysis, journal, or collage, is not turned in on the first day of scene work, the assigned values will be deducted from your grade. Character analyses, character journals, and collages will not be accepted late.**

<b>Monologue</b> 1.5 minutes – Total worth 10 ( No analysis)	10
<b>Scene 1 (Comedy)</b> – 4 minutes – Total worth 35 – Scene 25/Analysis 10	35
<b>Scene 2 (Drama)</b> – 4 minutes – Total worth 50 – Scene 30/Journal/ Research 20	50
<b>Scene 3 (Stage Combat)</b> – Total worth 15 (No Analysis)	15
<b>Scene 4 (Open Genre)</b> – Total worth 55 – Scene 45/Collage 15	60
<b>Critiques</b> – 10 each – Total worth 30	30
	<b>Total 200</b>

The following is an explanation of the grade scale:

- 200-180 = A
- 179-159 = B
- 158-138 = C
- 137-117 = D
- Below 117 = F

If the student is unable to complete course requirements, the student's grade will reflect this.

**The drop date for All Fall 2007 Classes is Friday, September 14, 2007.**

**Academic Honesty:**

The nature of a performance class encourages co-operation and collaboration between acting partners. The sharing of information and ideas is very appropriate. What violates the area of academic honesty is asking someone else to write show critiques for you or not attending one of the required productions, and renting the movie instead then writing a critique on the movie, presenting it as a critique of SHSU production. The area of academic honesty also violated when one turns in another individuals research, character journals or character analysis and claim it as one's own.

Anyone who engages in this type of behavior runs the risk of receiving a zero on the assignment.

**Religious Holidays:**

University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of religious holy day they must notify their instructor by the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the first day semester of the semester (Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007

**Classroom Visitors:**

Please talk to me prior to class if you would like to bring a visitor to class.