



Audition Techniques THEA 3316

You wanna call it a day, Jay?
- Paul Mason Barnes, 2004

Instructor: Jay Stratton
Class: T, TR 1:30-2:50
Fox D071 (Basement Lab Theatre)
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Office Hours: By Appointment

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Required Texts: Each student will be responsible for getting copies of any plays assigned for in-class work. (I will help facilitate this process as needed.) There will also be readings from sources that I will make available.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should:

1. Feel more comfortable and work more effectively in an audition environment.
2. Have a ready-to-use Resume (and Headshot if possible).
3. Have a broader understanding of the acting profession.
4. Be ready to audition with sides at various levels of preparation.
5. Be able to create and submit an effective 'video' audition via youtube.
6. Have a full package of audition materials appropriate to audition for internships, apprenticeships, and conservatory training programs – either musical or non.

Grading

Audition Responses (15%, 3 responses at 5% each)

You are required to track down at least three auditions over the course of the semester. Auditions for UTEP productions or the UTEP Dinner Theatre are absolutely acceptable, but you will also need to look beyond the school. You will then fill out a brief response questionnaire about this audition. You should write your response within one week of the audition. Note: at least ONE of these three auditions must happen AWAY from UTEP. Details to follow.

Rock Star (5%)

You will be performing a single lip sync song as a rock star in front of the class.

Resume (5% of grade)

You will hand in a finalized version of your ACTING resume (and headshot if available).

Contemporary Monologue (10%)

You will prepare a new contemporary monologue to try as an audition piece in front of the class.

Contemporary Monologue Analysis (5%)

You will write a brief of analysis of your contemporary monologue. Details to follow.

Sides Audition (15% of grade)

You will perform prepared sides in a simulated audition environment.

Youtube Audition (10% of grade)

You will prepare and submit a video audition through Youtube.

Final Conservatory Style Audition (20% of grade)

You will prepare and deliver a 'conservatory style' audition as your final exam. For non musical focused students, this will include two contrasting monologues, 16 bars of an unaccompanied song, and any additional materials requested. For musical focused students this will include one monologue and one song with accompaniment, readiness to work from your book, and any additional materials requested.

Please note, I will invite local industry professionals to attend these auditions!

Participation (15% of grade)

You will be graded on your focus, willing participation, supportive attitude, and individual progress in daily class work. Respect and enthusiasm for the lessons and the work of your fellow actors is a crucial part of this class work.

Grading Scale

You will be assigned a letter grade on each of the above assignments. Your final class grade is based on a weighted average of these grades (before any modification for attendance) according to the following scale.

A	=	3.50+
B	=	2.50 - 3.49
C	=	1.50 - 2.49
D	=	0.50 - 1.49
F	=	Less than .50

Extra Credit: There are three ways to earn extra credit in this class. In descending order of value they are as follows:

1. Have perfect attendance. (Please see the attendance section in class policies.)
2. Do ADDITIONAL outside auditions.
You are required to audition for three projects during the semester and write responses. Additional auditions with responses will gain you extra credit at my discretion.
3. You will be awarded extra credit if you attend live performances of departmental shows you are not otherwise involved in and provide proof of your attendance. *Newies, Humans, Oedipus El Rey, Mama Mia,* and the World Dance Alliance performances are all eligible and there is no limit.

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice



Audition Technique Class Policies

Communication: I rely heavily on email for communication. You **MUST** check your students email daily.

We will use Blackboard to store our plays and other documents.

There are two ways to submit written work: my favorite way to receive written assignments is a **WORD DOCUMENT** attached to an email. I also happily accept hard copies of written work. No other channel but these two is acceptable unless you make prior arrangement with me.

Attendance: The best way to trash your grade is with bad attendance. In the professional world, actors always show up and they are always on time. Nothing less is acceptable. Class starts on time; one minute after is late.

Please note, if you set your bag down and then go to the restroom and are not present for the start of class, you are late.

In this class, *absent and late are the same thing*. **You may be absent or late 3 times**, no questions asked. On your fourth attendance issue, your final grade will be reduced one letter grade. On your sixth attendance issue, your final grade will be reduced two letter grades. If you have eight or more attendance issues, you cannot receive a passing grade in the course.

At my discretion, an absence may be excused for legitimate medical reasons, professional obligations, or family emergency. The request for an excused absence must be asked for in writing. I may also ask for some kind of proof of the circumstances.

If you have an absence, you are still responsible for missed work. Absences do not change the due dates of assignments.

At my discretion, a student with **perfect attendance** may be given a *bonus to their final grade!*

The Space: No food or drink is allowed in the studio during class. The only exception is unflavored water. Water is allowed and encouraged.

Phones and Electronics: All phones and electronics should be turned off for the duration of class. If you take out a phone, tablet, or other electronic device without permission during class, you may be asked to leave and the day will count as absence. If a phone rings during class, you may be asked to leave and the day will count as absence. You may use a tablet or laptop to take notes, but not a phone. If you need to work out of a script or side, you must have paper or book version of that material. You will not be allowed to read off tablet or phone.

Touching: This course will require touching; however safety is the first priority. ‘Safety’ in this instance refers to both physical safety and respect for personal boundaries. If you have trouble with being touched or touching someone else, tell them and/or me immediately. Absolutely no one should be touching anyone in an inappropriate or non-consensual manner. If you feel unsafe for any reason, tell me immediately, and we will adjust the exercise accordingly, no questions asked.

Attire: Wear clothes you can move in to every class. Be prepared to work BAREFOOT in every class, and be prepared to take off shoes and socks without complaint. You may be asked to participate in yoga or other physical activity. If you are not prepared to do so, you will not participate in class that day. No hats, hoods, head wraps, etc. No large earrings, loud jewelry, or tongue piercings. No JEANS. Trust me on this.

If you wear a piece of attire for religious reasons, please come talk to me and give me something in writing; an exception will be made!

If you have a legitimate MEDICAL reason not to work barefoot, let me know at the start of class.

Exception: on your audition and performance days, you may wear whatever outfit you deem appropriate for the circumstance as we will discuss during the semester.

Late Work: Written work is due by the beginning of class the scheduled calendar day. Written work turned in after the beginning of class on the due date will be penalized 1 full letter grade. Written work turned in more than one week late will be penalized 2 full letter grades.

Academic Dishonesty: University Policy will be strictly adhered to and absolutely no academic impropriety will be tolerated. All transgressions of university policy including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, the unauthorized exchange of information for written assignments or tests, theft via the computer or infringement of the rights of other to academic freedom (i.e. disrupting class, disrespectful comments towards classmates or instructor) will result in a failing grade for this course as well as disciplinary procedures as adopted by the university and described in the current student handbook.

Disabled Student Statement: In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call [915-747-5148](tel:915-747-5148) for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you may have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor and the Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

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