



Acting Genres THEA 4317

An Independent Study Course
For Andrea Taman and Aaron Herrera
Taught Jointly by Jay and Kim

Instructor of record: Jay Stratton

Additional Instructor: Kim McKean

Class time will be Fridays from 2:30-3:20 in D071 (basement theatre). This course is an independent study course and alternate times may be scheduled as needed.

There will be no required textbook for this course; however, you will read several plays over the course of the semester from different genres.

The course will be divided into four units each examining a different genre.

Unit 1: **French Farce**, taught by Professor Stratton

Unit 2: **20th Century Absurdism**, taught by Professor Stratton

Unit 3: **20th Century Realism**, taught by Professor McKean

Unit 4: **Voiceover Content**, taught by Professor McKean

Note that Units 1-3 are intended to be taught in person, Unit 4 will be taught remotely. Because there are only two students in this course, we felt it could be safely taught in person, once per week with social distancing and masks. However, we are prepared for the course to switch to online as needed.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should:

1. Have a broad sense of the history of the genres covered.
2. Have a specific sense of the acting styles and skills of these genres.
3. Be comfortable working with the material of these genres.

Grading

Each unit will be self contained and worth 25% of the total grade.

Unit 1: French Farce

Play Response: 10%

Monologue: 10%

Participation: 5%

Unit 2: 20th Century Absurdism

Play Response: 10%

Monologue: 10%

Participation: 5%

Unit 3: 20th Century Realism

Play Response: 10%

Monologue: 10%

Participation: 5%

Unit 4: Voiceover and Vocal Content

Audio Response: 10%

Monologue: 10%

Participation: 5%

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



Class Policies

Attendance:

As long as you *communicate clearly via email*, you are allowed UNLIMITED ABSENCES for appropriate reasons.

You read that right, you can miss as many classes as you need – just email an explanation.

- If you do not feel well, email us and don't come to class.
- If someone in your home gets sick and you are not confident about coming to class, email us and don't come to class.
- If you simply don't feel safe coming to class, email us and don't come to class.
- If at any point in the semester you wish to switch your class experience from hybrid to entirely online, you may do so by communicating with us via email. You may also switch back at any time.

Simply put, we do not want you to come to class if you are not secure in your own health and confident that your health will not be placed at risk through attendance. As long as you communicate your circumstances in writing via email, your grade will NOT suffer as a result.

That said, being late to class is still unacceptable. If you have an issue with lateness, it will be reflected in the participation portion of your grade.

If you need to be absent, you are still responsible for missed work. Absences do not change the due dates of assignments.

Touching: No touching. For more on this please see

<https://media1.tenor.com/images/d0dcacc5d736c86f5fbf893c360c66d4/tenor.gif?itemid=16782350>

The Space: No food or drink is allowed in the studio during class. Doors will be kept open at all times to maximize airflow. Weather permitting, we may hold class outdoors to increase safety.

Masks: Until further notice, masks will be required in this class at all times.

Social Distance: Maintain a minimum of 6' space from everybody. Further is better.

Covid Testing: We recommend that you utilize the University's voluntary testing program.

Communication: We rely heavily on email for communication. You must check your student email daily. We will also utilize Blackboard to centralize documents and for Discussion Boards.

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice

Phones and Devices: Please bring some way to access Blackboard to class every day. Please do NOT take out your phone or laptop without first discussing with me. Please do not use devices for non class purposes.

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.

Attire: Since we will not be doing yoga (thanks virus), go ahead and wear your jeans! There is no required dress code other than dressing appropriately.

Late Work: All written and online work is due on by the beginning of class the day it is due. Written work turned in after 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.

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice