



Acting for Majors I THEA 3304

"Enter the scene with purpose, like you're late for something. Talk with purpose, like you need something. Even glance at people with purpose."

-Lauren Gunderson

Instructor: Jay Stratton
Class: T, R 12:00-1:20
Room: D071
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Office Hours
T,Th 10:30-11:50
Conducted virtually
Or anytime by appointment
Cell: 347-581-6468

Required Text: We will not have a required text, but we will read numerous plays. I will supply PDFs for these plays.

Flexible is the WORD

What's going to happen? We don't know!!!

At present, our course is scheduled to be in-person and we will behave accordingly. However, we also know that things can shift and there's diddley squat that we can do about it.

I will do everything I can to keep this class as in-person as possible, but we need to be prepared to go hybrid or even entirely online.

That said, until further notice, please assume this class will be taught in-person, face to face in the classroom.

Course Objectives

After this course, you should:

1. Have an increased ability to play ACTION onstage.
2. Have an increased ability to personalize material and personalize action onstage.
3. Have familiarity with at least the four plays on our reading list.

Grading

Play Responses (24%, 4 at 6% each)

We will be reading four plays during the semester. You will write a response to each. The plays will be: *The Motherfucker With the Hat*, *Silent Sky*, *Disgraced*, and *Lydia*. Response guidelines will be on blackboard. Details to follow.

Action Scene with Partner (5%)

You and a partner will develop and perform an action scene.

Midterm Scene with Partner (24%)

You will present a learned scene with a partner. This will be off-book.

Midterm Scene Analysis (6%)

You will write an analysis of your midterm scene based on guidelines on blackboard.

Final Monologue (15%)

You will find and learn a new monologue and prepare it as a final.

Final Monologue Analysis (6%)

You will write an analysis of your final monologue based on guidelines on blackboard.

Participation and Attendance (20% 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. Attendance is also a crucial factor in this graded element.

Grading Scale

You will be assigned a letter grade on each of the above assignments. (A=4.0, B=3.0 etc.) 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+	D	=	0.50 - 1.49
B	=	2.50 - 3.49	F	=	Less than .50
C	=	1.50 - 2.49			

Extra Credit: While departmental shows are not required, you may earn extra credit by attending live performances and writing a brief response. To earn credit, your response should be:

1. Approximately 500 words in length
2. Turned in within ONE WEEK of seeing the performance
3. A discussion of the performance from the point of view of the elements of Voice and Speech that we are discussing in class

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice



Class Policies

Covid Stuff: Okay, here we go! We will do everything we can to have a valuable in-person and face to face class. That said, health and safety are still more important! I am not allowed to require mask use, but I encourage it. I am not allowed to require vaccinations, but I encourage it. I am not allowed to require testing, but I encourage it.

Attendance: In person attendance to this course is required. However, you may attend class via zoom if and only if you are concerned about your health status AND you communicate your circumstances with me in written format.

If you choose to attend via zoom please:

- **Be on time**
- **Find a space where you can participate in activities**
- **Have your camera on**
- **Do not be in a car or other vehicle**
- **Do not multitask**

In other words,

- If you test positive for COVID, email me and attend class via zoom.
- If you do not feel well, email me and attend class via zoom.
- If you don't feel safe coming to class, email me and attend class via zoom.

Attendance will still be a crucial part of your final grade and is a driving factor in your participation and attendance score. Lateness in person or via zoom is not acceptable. Failing to attend either in person or via zoom is not acceptable. Attending via zoom without written explanation is unacceptable.

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

The Space: No food or drink is allowed in the studio during class. Weather permitting, we may hold class outdoors.

Communication: I rely heavily on email for communication. You must check your student email daily. We will also utilize Blackboard to centralize documents. Note that most class assignments are required to be turned as an attachment to email. If you are not able to submit work this way, contact me immediately and we will work out an alternative.

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Phones and Devices: Please bring some device you can use to access internet to class every day. If you do not possess such a device, let me know immediately and we will make other arrangements.

You may use your phone or laptop to take notes if you like. Please do NOT use devices for non-class purposes.

Attire: Please wear clothes you can move in to every class. Please do not wear jeans. Be prepared to work barefoot if asked.

Late Work: All written and online work is due on by the start of class on the day of the due date. Written work turned in after the due date will be penalized 1 full letter grade. Written work turned in more than one week late may be penalized up to 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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