



Acting for Majors II THEA 3313

*"You get 2 big juicy dramatic moments/speeches where you can take your time and feel the feels. But only 2 *in the whole play.* Earn them. Then go fast."*

-Lauren Gunderson

"Acting is behaving truthfully under imaginary circumstances."

-Sanford Meisner

Instructor: Jay Stratton
Class: M, W 10:30-11:50
Studio Theatre Fox D178
Email: strattoncoach@gmail.com
or jastratton@utep.edu

Office Hours
M,W 12-1:00
Conducted virtually
Or anytime by appointment
Cell: 347-581-6468

Required Text: How to Stop Acting by Harold Guskin

In addition, we will be reading four plays this semester! I will put PDFs on blackboard but if you need another format, that is up to you.

Hybrid Format

This is a **Hybrid Format** course with a **40/60** in-person to online ratio.

The online portion is **asynchronous** and need not be done during class hours.

You will come to class once per week in your assigned groups and complete online materials once per week as follows:

- Monday – ONLY Monday group meets in person
- Wednesday – ONLY Wednesday group meets in person
- Friday – Online materials due by end of day (11:59pm) for all students

If you are not able to participate in the in-person portion of class, accommodations will be made and your grade will not be penalized.

Note – While not preferable, it is possible this course will shift to an entirely online format in response to coronavirus. If this occurs, some online portions will be synchronous.

Course Objectives

After this course, you should:

1. Understand the concept and develop a facility to play action through language.
2. Develop emotional freedom in response to taking language off the page.
3. Have increased emotional availability and ability to personalize challenging material.
4. Be able to find your greatest stakes available more quickly.

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice

Grading

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

As a class, we will be reading four plays this semester. Titles will be on our calendar document. You will write a brief response to the experience of reading each play.

There will be separate guidelines for each play.

The submission process for this will be a **word document attached to an email**.

Sense Memory Exercises (10%, 2 at 5% each)

We will do two fully fleshed out sense memory exercises. One will be the “Morning Ritual.” The second is TBA. These will be explored either live in front of the class or via zoom.

Paired online Action Exercise (10%)

You will be paired with a partner from the other class group to explore and record an action scene. You will record this scene entirely as an online event. You may NOT meet in person for this exercise.

The submission process for this will be a **youtube or vimeo link sent via email**

Anger and Tears Monologue (26%)

In the second half of the semester, you will learn, rehearse, and perform an ‘anger and tears’ monologue not longer than 2 minutes. This will be offered either live in front of the class or via zoom.

Anger and Tears Monologue Analysis (5%)

You will write an analysis of your anger and tears monologue.

There will be guidelines for this analysis.

The submission process for this will be a **word document attached to an email**.

Participation (25%)

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.

Participation includes the Discussion Boards on Blackboard.

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

Extra Credit: There will be extra credit opportunities associated with the departmental performance events this semester. More to follow.

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Class Policies

Attendance: Normally I am an attendance monster. Not this time!

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

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

- If you do not feel well, email me and don't come to class.
- If someone in your home gets sick and you are not confident about coming to class, email me and don't come to class.
- If you simply don't feel safe coming to class, email me 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 me via email. You may also switch back at any time.

Simply put, I 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.

Breaks: Until further notice, we will schedule one 10 minute break halfway through every class. You **MUST** vacate the room during this break to allow air turnover.

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

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Covid Testing: I highly recommend that you utilize the University's voluntary testing program. I will be getting tested throughout the semester.

Communication: I 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.

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.

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

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 11:59pm on Friday of that week. 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.

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