



Audition Techniques THEA 3316

"You want to call it a day, Jay?"
-Paul Mason Barnes

Instructor: Jay Stratton
Class: TH, 1:30-2:50
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Office Hours
T,Th 10:30-11:30
Conducted virtually
Or anytime by appointment
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We will be doing readings from several books, but there will be no required book for the course.

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:

- Tuesday – ONLY Tuesday group meets in person
- Thursday – ONLY Thursday group meets in person
- Sunday – Online materials due by end of day (11:59pm) for all students, but can be turned in earlier at your discretion

*If you are not able to participate in the in-person portion of class, you can attend via zoom and **your grade will not be impacted.***

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

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.

Syllabus may change with appropriate notice

Grading

Lysistrata Audition (5%)

You are required to submit a *Lysistrata* audition (see flyer on Blackboard). You will be graded on the quality and professionalism of your audition package.

Lysistrata Audition Response (5%)

You are required to write a response to your *Lysistrata* audition submission experience.

Additional Audition Responses (10%, 2 responses at 5% each)

You are required to track down at least two auditions over the course of the semester besides *Lysistrata*. Auditions for UTEP productions or the UTEP Dinner Theatre are absolutely acceptable, but you may also need to look beyond the school. You will then fill out a response questionnaire about this audition. You should write your response within one week of the audition.

Discussion Boards (10%)

We will be doing a number of Blackboard discussion boards throughout the semester, often connected to assigned reading. You are required to participate on each board with TWO comments. First, you must offer your own original comment responding to the prompts. Second, you must offer one response to a classmate.

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 or via zoom.

Contemporary Monologue Analysis (5%)

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

Contemporary Monologue Youtube Audition (5%)

You will submit a simulated audition using your new contemporary monologue as a youtube link. Details to follow.

Sides Audition (15% of grade)

You will perform prepared sides in a simulated audition environment. This will either happen live or via zoom.

Final Conservatory Style Audition (10% of grade)

You will prepare and deliver a 'conservatory style' audition as your final exam. This will either be a live event or happen as a submission.

Please note, I will either invite local industry professionals to attend these auditions or distribute to them the materials!

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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.

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

In addition, if you do additional auditions beyond the three required and submit audition responses, you will be awarded extra credit.



Class Policies

Attendance: Because of our shared global pandemic, you are never required to physically attend class in person. You may always elect to participate via zoom. If you choose to attend via zoom you must be on time and have your camera on for the duration of the class.

- 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 someone in your home gets sick and you are not confident about coming to class, email me and attend class via zoom.
- If you simply don't feel safe coming to class, email me and attend class via zoom.

Simply put, I do not want you to physically attend class if you are not secure in your own health and confident that neither your health nor that of your classmates will not be placed at risk.

As long as you communicate your circumstances in writing via email, your grade will NOT suffer as a result.

That said, attendance will still be a crucial part of your final grade. Lateness in person or via zoom is not acceptable. Failing to attend either in person or via zoom is not acceptable. These behaviors 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: There will be touching in this class.

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.

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

Covid Vaccine: As soon as vaccines become available, I will be getting one. I recommend you do the same.

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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: For normal classes, wear whatever you like. For simulated audition classes, you should wear audition appropriate clothing.

Late Work: All written and online work is due on by 11:59pm on Sunday 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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COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu. For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety and Section 1.2.2.5 Disruptions in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. (classes with on-campus meetings) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.