

"There are no failures—just experiences and your reactions to them." –Tom Krause
"The greatest gift we can give to another is the quality of our attention." –anonymous

SCENE STUDY II/III
THEA3313/4307
T/TH 10:30-11:50, Room D071
Fall 2017

Professor: Kim McKean
Email: kamckean@utep.edu

Office: Worrell 303
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm
(or by appointment)

Course Description

This course explores advanced acting techniques in contemporary scene work. Coursework uses the Meisner Technique to deepen your understanding of acting technique and how to approach scenes in plays.

Learning Goals

Upon successful completion of this course you should demonstrate “living truthfully under imaginary circumstances” and “the reality of doing” while acting. This will include:

- Embracing everything, denying nothing.
- Using Meisner’s ‘Repetition Exercises’ to spontaneously react to genuine human behavior.
- Being available to and responsive to everything as it’s actually happening.
- Actually *doing*, rather than trying to make it look like you are doing something.
- Asking yourself deep questions about the text.
- Responding to your scene partner and let him/her *personally* effect you.
- Having an authentic *need* to say the text.
- Directing your attention on *others* rather than the *self*.
- Particularizing specific moments and emotionally prepping for scenework.
- Translating exercise work to text in scenework

Recommended Texts

Sanford Meisner on Acting by Sanford Meisner and Dennis Longwell

True Acting Tips by Larry Silverberg

Evaluation Criteria

All paperwork must be typed, double spaced, and printed.

1. Participation	20%
2. Work Responses.....	20%
3. Exercises.....	20%
4. Scene 1.....	20%
5. Scene 2.....	20%

Participation

Active participation is vital to your growth as artists and to your success in this class. You will be expected to come to class on-time and fully prepared, actively engage in class

discussions, and give your all to class exercises and scene work. Class periods will include exercises, scene work, and discussions. Absences, lateness, lack of preparation, or non-participation will lower your grade significantly—**each absence after TWO lowers your overall grade a whole letter grade. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.** If you know you will be absent for a specific class period, please let me know so I don't schedule you to work that day. Share your voice! We only get better by asking questions and taking risks.

Written Work Responses

Over the course of the semester you will turn in three short papers or “Work Responses.” Responses can include questions/discoveries/responses to reading and in-class exercises, or something you noticed when working, watching your classmates work, or watching a live theatrical production (related to course concepts). Specific due dates are listed below. Responses should be at least two pages, double spaced, and typed. No electronic copies will be accepted.

In-Class Exercises

Includes all work done in class. You will be evaluated on preparation, work ethic, professional standards, and ability to apply course concepts. You are expected to memorize and rehearse your scenes outside of class.

Scene 1

A formal presentation and critique of your first scene. Evaluation rubric will be provided.

Scene 2

A formal presentation and critique of your second scene. Evaluation rubric will be provided.

Academic Integrity

Any incident of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero on the assignment. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Please visit <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for more information.

Disability Accommodations

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at UTEP provides students with disabilities, accommodations and support services to help them pursue their academic, graduation, and career goals. For more information, visit <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.

Subject Matter

The scripts and scenes studied in this course deal with mature subject matters. Consequently, much of the discussion in class will require discussion of adult subject matter and language. If you have concerns, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. All classroom discussions must be held in a respectful and professional matter.

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices allowed in class unless permission is given beforehand. Students using electronic devices in class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = 0% - 59%

“**A**”—indicates exceedingly high quality work. Masters all assigned work, completes work on time, shows originality and initiative, does more than required, and makes quality contributions in class.

“**B**”—indicates good progress, above the average, masters portions of the work, is alert and shows an interest in the work, completes work on time, and offers good discussion points in class.

“**C**”—indicates a quality of work acceptable at this level. Satisfactorily completes most assigned work under normal conditions and direction, shows interest in work, and completes work on time.

“**D**”—indicates that although most assignments may be completed there is a need for greater effort to meet the expected level of work for this course, student is hesitant to engage in the work or at times shows little interest, and seldom responds in class.

“**F**”—indicates failure to produce an accepted quality of work for this course.

Schedule of Classes & Assignments

(subject to change)

**the reading and assignments are due the day they are listed*

Week	Date	IN CLASS	Assignment(s) Due
1	T 8/29	The Reality of Doing Intro to Scene Study 2/3, Story Listening, The Reality of Doing Introduce Mechanical Repetition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes of mechanical repetition with two partners
	TH 8/31	Continue Mechanical Repetition and Begin Repetition Into Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes of mechanical repetition with two partners• Read Larry Silverberg Article, “Point of View.”
2	T 9/5	POINT of VIEW Continue Repetition Into Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Larry Silverberg Article, “The Reality of Doing.”• 15 minutes of

			Repetition into Language with 2 pairs
	TH 9/07	WHAT'S HAPPENING Point of View and 3 Moment Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 minutes of Repetition into language with 2 pairs
3	T 9/12	WORKING OFF 3 Moment Exercise with Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Three Moment Exercises with two different pairs
	TH 9/14	PINCH and OUCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Larry Silverberg Article, "Pinch and Ouch."
	F 9/15 9:30-12:00pm	COMING to the DOOR DOING FULLY Physically Difficult Activity Coming to Door with Physically Difficult Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Larry Silverberg Article, "Doing Fully" WORK RESPONSE 1 DUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring in difficult activity
4	T 9/19	Coming to Door with Physical Activity	
	TH 9/21	Coming to Door with Physical Activity and a Little More Important	
5	T 9/26	Coming to Door with Physical Activity and a Little More Important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	TH 9/28	Coming to Door with Heightened Reason	
6	T 10/3	Coming to Door with Heightened Reason	
	TH 10/5	TAKING IT PERSONALLY Coming to Door in the Extreme and Urgency with Relationship	HAND OUT SCENE 1- instructions for memorization
7	T 10/10	Coming to Door in the Extreme and Urgency with Relationship	
	TH 10/12	Scene work- Ball Throw, Working Readings	
	F 10/13 9:30-	Scene work ALL Groups	Scene 1 Fully Memorized

	12:00pm		
8	T 10/17	Scene Work Groups 1-3 and Urgency	WORK RESPONSE 2 DUE
	TH 10/19	Scene Work Groups 4-7	
9	T 10/24	PRESENTATION SCENE 1	Hand out Scene 2
	TH 10/26	Emotional Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 minutes of repetition with two partners • Working Reading Scene 2
10	T 10/31	Emotional Prep with Activity and Coming to Door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 minutes of repetition with two partners • Working Reading Scene 2
	TH 11/2	Emotional Prep with Activity and Coming to Door	
	FRI 11/3 10:30-11:50	Scene Work 1-3	Scene 2 MEMORIZED All have an Emotional Prep for Scene 2
11	T 11/7	Scene Work 4-7	Emotional Prep for Scene 2
	TH 11/9	Scene Work 1-3	
12	T 11/14	Scene Work 4-7	
	TH 11/16	FINAL SCENE Presentation LAST DAY of CLASS	WORK RESPONSE 3 DUE
13	T 11/21	No class- Makeup class on Friday 9/15	
	TH 11/23	NO CLASS—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	
14	T 11/28	No class- Makeup class on Friday 9/15	
	TH 11/30	No class- Makeup class on Friday 10/13	
15	T 12/5	No class- Makeup class on Friday 10/13	
	TH 12/7	No class- Makeup class on Friday 11/3	