Acting for Majors 1
THEA 3304 CRN: 23588
Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 - 1:20pm
Spring 2024

Professor: Samantha Michelle Nava, M.F.A.
Email: smnava5@utep.edu
Office: D273 (behind Box Office Window in Wise Theatre Lobby)
Office Hours: Monday – Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 pm (or by appointment)
Google Voice Text: 915-8438792

“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

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This class is designed to broaden, improve, and enhance the skills learned in Acting Fundamentals through further character study, scene analysis, improvisation, and applied physical techniques. With a focus on ACTION. This course will challenge students to sharpen skills in concentration, imagination and justified impulses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate:

• An ability to analyze and score a scene or monologue.
• An ability to create characters with strong dramatic choices and fully integrated physical and vocal techniques.
• Personalization of text and a vivid connection to partner through ACTION.
• A sophisticated sense of observation, imagination, and concentration.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY
My teaching philosophy is to allow students to experience personal responsibility in a university setting. It will be the student’s responsibility to actively participate in their job as a college student by actively participating in the class for the semester, checking Blackboard daily, being prepared for class, and completing all assignments. My job is to provide a positive environment through lecture, class discussions, and activities that encourages the desire to learn, guide the students through the course, and make sure that the students feel comfortable coming to me to ask any questions or to talk about the class.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:
There are no required textbooks for our class, but there will be excerpts or audios and plays to read throughout the semester. All will be available on our class Blackboard page.

• Plays to read TBD**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
• Complete assigned reading on time. Take notes and be prepared to discuss the text.
• Come to class ON TIME and ready to work. Work with positivity and respect.
• Meet scheduled deadlines and turn in assigned work on time. Late assignments will not be accepted.
• Be prepared to participate in all classroom discussions and exercises.
• Prepare and memorize all assigned texts.
• Write a 2-page observational paper relating to course concepts on two UTEP shows this semester.
• Perform scenes and exercises that demonstrate a thorough application of Learning Goals.

COURSE COMMUNICATION
• Office Hours: My office hours will be Tuesdays a- Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm. (or by appointment)
• Email: Email through Blackboard ONLY. I will make every attempt to respond promptly to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receiving it. Do not email at utep.edu because it will get lost in the shuffle; I will miss it and be unable to respond. Please log into our Blackboard class and use the “email professor” link on the left.
• Text: You may also text me at 915-843-8792 in an emergency. Please include your name and which class you are attending.

COURSE POLICIES
• You are responsible for fulfilling all the course requirements to the best of your abilities. You should seek clarification if you are unclear about anything on the syllabus.
• If you do not feel well, PLEASE STAY HOME; I will provide accommodation if possible.
• Students are expected to maintain a positive classroom environment conducive to learning. To ensure all students can benefit from time spent in class, students are prohibited from using cell phones unless otherwise approved by the instructor.
• No earphones, earbuds/air pods are allowed in the classroom.
• Late work will not be accepted, with no exceptions. If a deadline is missed, the student will receive a zero as a grade for that project or assignment.
• Food and/or Drink snacks are permitted; please eat and drink quietly, avoid noisy food or packaging, and YOU MUST clean up before leaving.
• Students must behave by all rules put forth by the Handbook of Operating Procedures of the University of Texas at El Paso.
• I do not drop students from class; that is your choice and responsibility.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION POLICY
YOU MUST SIGN IN FOR EVERY CLASS, IT IS PART OF YOUR GRADE. A line will be drawn on the sign-in sheet after class starts. If you arrive after the class has started, sign in below the line. If you arrive 15 minutes after class has started, you will get no attendance points for the day but are still welcome to stay for the remainder of the class, so you receive your participation points. Attendance does factor into the grading breakdown; therefore, it will affect your grade. (Max points for attendance and participation = 1 per class meeting)

Attendance Grading Break down Students will receive the following points based on their punctuality:
  1 point- Arrives on time (before class starts) and ready to work at the start of class.
  ½ point- Arrives up to 15 minutes late
  0 points – Arrives 15 minutes or later to class.

Absences that will be excused for those students representing the university in officially recognized university activities. The students must provide the instructor with written notice from the sponsoring faculty or staff member before the event. Additional excused absences may include religious observance, family emergency, and serious illness; these also need documentation of proof.

You have 3 personal days that may be used for a class absence, and no points will be deducted. I don’t need
to know why! Need a mental health day, maybe you’re not feeling well, or maybe you need a day before you get sick. I understand, but **attendance is very important**; you learn as much from observation and participation as from performing. Any additional unexcused absences will have an impact on the final grade.

You can, at any time, inquire about your absences. There will be a notepad that I pass around in class each day. It is your job to make sure you sign in.

An absence may be excused for legitimate medical reasons, professional obligations, or family emergency at my discretion. The request for an excused absence must be made in writing and must be accompanied by some proof.

If you have an absence, you are still responsible for missed work. **Absences do not change the due dates of assignments or performances.** Once again, in a class where physical participation is this important, it is very important that you take attendance seriously. Please and thank you. I will possibly be out a few days this semester as well, and you will be told this is the case the week prior. If I have an emergency, I will do my best to contact all of you via email as soon as I know I won’t make it to class. The 15-minute rule does apply. If I am not present by 10:45, please assume there was an emergency, and you can leave.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY**
If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodation, you should contact The Cass Office at 747-5148 or at cass@utp.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

**PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION FOR CLASS**
Active participation is vital to your growth as an artist and to your success in this class. You will be expected to come to class on time and be fully prepared, actively engage in class discussions, and give your all to class exercises. Share your voice! We only get better by asking questions and taking risks.

Preparation/memorization of all exercises done in class as well as ability to participate in course discussions about assigned reading for the week will factor into your participation/preparation grade as well.

**UTEP SHOW ATTENDANCE AND OBSERVATIONAL PAPER**
You are required to attend a performance of *Los Empeños de Una Casa* in the Wise Family Theatre and Personhood Dance Festival in either the June Sadowski Kruszewski Theatre or Wise Family Theatre. Google Forms will be available to sign in after each performance, and **YOU MUST SIGN IN** digitally to receive full credit.

A written critical response that relates to course concepts present in *Los Empeños de Una Casa* is required. Do not write a summary of the play. Papers are due via Blackboard. No late work will be accepted unless predetermined with me.

*Los Empeños de Una Casa* paper due March 8th by 11:59PM

**There is no paper due for PERSONHOOD DANCE FESTIVAL, but attendance is still required.**

Ushering opportunities are available for each show that will allow you to see the shows for free, but those spots are taken very quickly. Use the following links to sign up when they are opened. BEFORE signing up you must be able to commit to the full time are needed to receive credit.

*Los Empeños de Una Casa* sign-up link
If you are acting in the production, then you are excused from writing a paper as rehearsal and preparing for the role is a lot of work. If performing in the production, please provide proof of casting.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES
I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

LATE WORK
I do not accept late work. No Excuses Allowed. I do not have time to catch up on grading late assignments. However, you are more than welcome to do work early and get ahead on assignments.

EXTRA CREDIT
Extra credit points will be given for attending WE WILL ROCK YOU, any other UTEP Dinner Theatre production this semester or a production outside of UTEP, which I highly encourage. I will inform you of outside productions when I hear of them. Email proof of attendance with a photo and program with your face in the picture and the date of attendance is required to obtain the extra credit point.

Max Extra credit points = 3 (1 per additional production seen)

RESPECT:
• All students are in this class to learn. Should a student disrupt that process, the instructor will take the appropriate steps to ensure that all students interact in a safe space that is conducive to the learning process.
• Remember that I am a human being, too. I have many other responsibilities outside of this class, just as students have several responsibilities outside of this one class. Read the syllabus, stick to class/university policies, utilize common etiquette, and respect, and know that I want you to succeed in this course, but I am not responsible for that; you are.

SHOW DATES
Los Empeños de Una Casa
Location: Wise Family Theatre, UTEP
February 23-24 & March 1-2 @ 7:30PM
February 25 & March 3 @ 2:00PM

PERSONHOOD DANCE FESTIVAL
Location: JUNE Sadowski Kruszewski Studio Theatre, UTEP
April 12 & 13 @7:30PM
April 14 @ 2:00PM
Location: Wise Family Theatre, UTEP
April 25 - 27 @7:30PM
April 28 @ 2:00PM

Ticket Prices
$18 Adults
$15 UTEP Faculty/Staff, Alumni, Seniors, Military, Non-UTEP Students
$12 UTEP Students

_We Will Rock You_
(* =Discount Dinner Performance)
February 2, 3, 4*, 8*, 9, 10, 11, 14*, 15*, 16, 17, 18, 2024
Evening Dinner performances begin at 6:30pm, Matinee dinner performances begin at 1:00 PM, Matinee (No Dinner) performances begin at 2:00 PM

For ticket prices go to https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/udt/

_Description_ Featuring over 20 hit Queen songs, WE WILL ROCK follows two revolutionaries trying to save Rock in a post-apocalyptic world. Featuring the songs “Another One Bites the Dust,” “Bohemian Rhapsody,” “Killer Queen,” “We Will Rock You,” “Somebody To Love,” “We Are The Champions,” “Don’t Stop Me Now” and many more. After a victorious 12-year reign and having rocked over 7,376,485 people in a record-breaking 12 years at the London Dominion Theatre, WE WILL ROCK YOU played its final London performance on May 31, 2014. With 4,659 performances played, WE WILL ROCK YOU became the longest-running show at London’s Dominion by a margin of nine years. By this time, WE WILL ROCK YOU has been performed in 28 countries around the globe and seen by more than 16 million people.

_MENU_
Skirt Steak with Chimichurri Sauce, California Vegetable Medley, Red Roasted Potatoes with Fresh Rosemary, Garden Salad with Green Goddess Dressing, Coffee, Iced Tea, and Cheesecake with a Strawberry Glaze.

_WHERE YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS_
The UTEP Ticket Center – Main Location 2901 N. Mesa El Paso, Texas 79902 Monday-Friday: 8 A.M.-6 P.M. Saturday: 8 A.M.-4.P.M. Closed on Sundays (915) 747-5234
UTEP Ticket Center – Union East Location Union Building East, Room 111 (1st Floor) Hours of Operation Open only Fall & Spring Semesters Monday - Friday: 9am - 2pm (Hours subject to change)

_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学术诚信/ for more information. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action.

_COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT_
As members of the University of Texas at El Paso community, we acknowledge that we are meeting on unceded Indigenous land. We would like to recognize and pay our respects to the Indigenous people with long ties to the immediate region: Lipan Apache, Mescalero Apache, Piro, Manso, Suma, Jumano, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, and Tortugas Pueblo. We also acknowledge the nations whose territories include present day Texas: the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, and the peoples of Chihuahua and northern Mexico from whom most/many of our students descend, such as the Raramuri, Tepehuan, Wixarrika and Nahuatlaca peoples. Finally, we recognize all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories here in Paso del Norte, on Turtle Island. The University of Texas at El Paso honors your history and culture, and we seek greater awareness of the myriad ways in which your legacy can guide us in fruitful partnerships and mutually fulfilling relationships.

**Protections for Pregnant and Parenting Students:**
The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodation based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.”

For more information, please visit: [https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html](https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html)

**Helpful Resources:**

**Technical Support** If you do not know how to use Blackboard or have technical issues with Library access – visit the Technology Support Center located in the Library at Room 300. You can contact the Help Desk via email, helpdesk@utep.edu, by phone 747-5257. Hours are M-F 7a-8p, Sat 9a-10p and Sun 12-4pm.

**UTEP Writing Center** To get help with writing please check out the writing center – their procedure has changed due to the virus, and you must plan accordingly. [https://www.utep.edu/uwc/](https://www.utep.edu/uwc/)

**UTEP Student Health Center** is here to meet the health care needs of all students so they can focus on their studies. As a student you have paid a medical service fee that allows you to be seen at the clinic as often as needed. Office visits are low cost as well as medications, supplies and any lab tests needed (747-5624).

**UTEP University Counseling Center** located at 202 Union West can assist you to decide on a career or work through personal concerns. They provide confidential counseling services, assist with stress management, and offer an after-hours crisis support line (747-5302).

**Copyright Statement:** some materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of the student currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further distributed.

**Scholastic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone
intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html I expect all your work to be original, as I do read all your work. Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that affect the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Assignments & Grading Breakdown

Assignments

1. **Non-Verbal Action Performance**: Students will pair up and perform a non-verbal scene with 3 intentional actions to obtain one Super objective (more explanation in class)

2. **Laban Efforts**: We will be using the 8 efforts of motion from Laban. Along with some text you apply the efforts to different objects.

3. **Improvisation Action Performance**: Students will be put into pairs. Each pair will improv a scene that we are not shown from one of the plays we have read.

4. **Scene Work 1**: With a scene partner students will perform a scene from the play we are covering in class.

5. **Scene Work 2**: With a scene partner students will perform a scene from the play we are covering in class.

6. **Monologue**: Each student will pick a monologue that can be used as an audition piece. These will be performed twice with notes in between.

7. **Reflections**: After each final performance, a reflection on the work will be due via Blackboard. Please make sure these are half page to page at the least, unless I ask you to answer a specific question. I will read all the reflections. I am looking for growth, that’s all. We all start at different places.

8. **Final Scene**: Students will choose a scene from one of the plays we covered throughout the semester to perform for their final scene.

Grading Scale

This is a point-based class, you can earn up to 187 points, but you only need 174 to get an A

184- 174 = A       173- 159= B       158-139= C       138-99=D       98-0= F

“**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, students are 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.
Attendance and Participation = 23 points total (earn 1 point max per class meeting)
Reflections= 21 points total (3 points per reflection)
Performances = 90 points total (15 points per performance)
Show Analysis Paper and Attendance = 20 points (10 points per show)
Final Scene = 30 points
*Extra Credit for additional shows = 3 points max (1 point per show)