THEA 215 Acting I (002)
Boise State University
Fall 2011 MWF 10:40 to 11:30 PM
Danny Peterson Theatre MCC 100

Office Hours: By appointment only. Email is the best way to get in touch with me.

Instructor: Valerie Baugh-Schlossberg
Office: Morrison Center 106B
Phone: 426-3935
Email: ValerieBaugh-Schlossberg@boisestate.edu

Course Description
This class is designed as an introduction to the craft of acting. Trust, risk, openness, stillness, concentration and improvisation will be explored as tools for unlocking truthful and spontaneous responses in the actor (i.e., unlocking the body, voice, and mind). Additionally students will define and apply the concepts of action, objective, obstacle, and given circumstances to improvised work. This course has a rigorous attendance requirement.

Course Objectives

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Skills:
• Apply critical analysis to the experience of theatrical performance and dramatic literature
• Develop a basic understanding of structure and theme in the context of both performance and dramatic literature

Communication Skills:
• Formulate and organize an aesthetic response to theatrical performance and be able to articulate that opinion in both verbal and written discourse

Cultural Perspective:
• Appreciation of theatrical performance and dramatic literature within diverse social contexts
• Identify meaningful connections between theatrical productions and plays and the historical contexts in which they emerged throughout Western Civilization
• Cultivate an awareness of diverse perspectives and values of others as presented in a variety of plays and productions
• Develop an awareness of the ephemeral and communal nature of theatre

Breath of Knowledge and Intellectual Perspective:
• Apply methodologies and strategies of inquiry specific to the performing arts
• Develop a basic understanding of the creative production process essential to the theatre
• Recognize similarities, differences, and interrelationships between theatre and allied art forms

Course Learning Outcomes
• Acquire and demonstrate a basic understanding of performance elements of theatre.
• Identify and compare acting styles and methodologies.
• Analyze performance skills and techniques of university and local theatrical productions.
• Make thoughtful decisions about what is valuable in artistic expression.
• Value and learn to collaborate effectively in-group situations.
• Develop confidence in formulating and expressing the self.
• Respect diverse beliefs and values expressed in theatrical performance.
• Reflect, record, and make decisions about future participation in the theatre and other art forms.
Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Punctuality:
   • Regular attendance is a must. Class participation is essential to this course.
   • You are allowed three (3) absences without penalty. Every absence beyond these 3 will lower your final letter grade by one-third of a letter grade (i.e., if you have a B- at the end of the semester and 4 absences, you will receive a C+ for the course.)
   • Five (5) tardies = one (1) absence. Attendance is noted at 10:40; anyone arriving after this time is considered late. You must speak to me to make sure I marked you present when you are late to class.

2. Assignments
   • Journal Entries (4 @ 25) 100
   • Production Acting Critique 50
   • Acting Vocabulary Quiz 50
   • 1st Presentation 100
   • Research Presentation (Acting Methodology) 100
   • Final Presentation 150
   • Self Evaluation 50
   • Personal Responsibility (participation, attendance, willingness, & professionalism) 400
   Total: 1000

3. Required Reading
   • Throughout the semester I will post readings from various acting books and resources. You will be responsible for reading them and discussing them in class and in your journal entries. You will also choose one acting methodology to research during the semester.

4. Required Productions
   You are also required to obtain tickets and attend the two BSU Theatre Arts Department productions. For BSU productions tickets are available from any Select-A-Seat on campus. If you are not a full-time student, these tickets must be purchased. Full-time students are allotted one ticket to each production at no charge. Any additional tickets would have to be purchased. If you are involved with both productions of the semester you will need to see a performance selected from other theatre productions listed.

Information about tickets can be found at:
Boise State University Department of Theatre Arts BSU Department of Theatre Arts Production Calendar
Boise Contemporary www.betheater.org
College of Idaho Theatre Department www.collegeofidaho.edu/academics/theatre

Boise State University Department of Theatre Arts

Champagne Breakfast by Evan Sesek
September 22-24 at 7:30 pm, September 25 at 2:00 pm
September 28-October 1 at 7:30 pm, October 2 at 2:00 pm
Danny Peterson Theatre in the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts

Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel
November 10-12 at 7:30 pm, November 13 at 2:00 pm
November 16-19 at 7:30 pm, November 20 at 2:00 pm
Danny Peterson Theatre in the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts

Acting Critique (Due November 30, 2011 by 5 PM Both hardcopy and Safe Assignment Required)
Extra Credit or Replacement Productions

Boise Contemporary Theater

**Shipwrecked!** An Entertainment: The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told By Himself) by Donald Margulies
Oct 5–29, 2011

**Commissioned World Premiere** by Samuel D. Hunter
November 22- December 17, 2011

The College of Idaho Theatre Arts Department

**The Hot L Baltimore** by Lanford Wilson
November 3-5, November 9-12 at 7:30 PM and November 13 at 2 PM.

**Grading**

Check your grade by clicking on the 'Tools' Button and then clicking the 'My Grades' Option.

This is the Grading Scale for this course!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>990-1000</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>921-989</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900-920</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>880-899</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>821-879</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-820</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>780-799</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>721-779</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>700-720</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>680-699</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>600-679</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>599 or below</td>
<td>F</td>
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**House Rules:**

- **Attendance and participation** are the foundation for progress in this class. This is a performance class: you learn by experiences in the moment rather than from notes, reading, or lectures. There is no way to “make-up” in-class experiences, exercises, or moments. Eventually, you will have scene partners who are relying on you to be there for in-class rehearsals and performances; if you are not there, your partners suffer the consequences.

- **Willingness to say yes.** Sometimes the things that fill us with the most anxiety are the very things we need to confront. If you find that you are resisting a certain exercise, take a breath and recognize that resistance is the cue to go.

- **Group effort.** This class is not a competition; it is not about outdoing, or besting other people. If we try to work for the collective, or for the progress of the other members of the group, the class will be that much more successful. A group that supports its own members can achieve wonders.

- **Respect. Trust. Risk.** This class and classroom is akin to a sacred space: treat it, yourselves, and others with attentive respect in the knowledge that others will do the same for you.

- **NO cell phones, no MP3 players, NO TEXTING; no food or drink except water in a capped bottle.**
Class Policies and Requirements

- Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing in order to move and work in class. Please, no jeans or flip-flops.

- Check Blackboard for information regarding all class requirements.

- Complete all readings and viewing of productions prior to the date on which they will be covered or discussed in class.

- If you are absent on the scheduled day of a performance you will receive an F in the course.

- Complete all assignments. Quiz, Paper, Activities and Projects.

- Any work not turned in will be assigned a zero, which is an F.

- No work will be accepted beyond the communicated deadline (see class schedule) except under extraordinary circumstances acceptable to the instructor or based on prior written notification also acceptable to the instructor.

- Papers will be turned in via Blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with this site if it is new to you.

- All written assignments must be typed. Double spaced with 12pt. Font. Un-typed work will not be accepted.

- Attend the two BSU Department of Theatre Productions and turn in your ticket stub.

- Contribute actively and respectfully during class.

- You need to familiarize yourself with the University’s policies on academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating is expressly forbidden in the class and will result in an F for the course.

- If you need accommodations and if you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please give me a copy of your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you are not registered, with the Office of Disabilities Services and you feel that you need a special accommodation, let me know as soon as possible.

Course Etiquette

- I ask that you assist me in maintaining the best possible atmosphere for interaction and learning. Please turn all cell phones to silent while in class. In the event of a situation where you need to carry a cell phone in class, prior notice and approval from me is required.

- If you need to leave class early, please be respectful and leave as quietly and discreetly as possible.
### Schedule

***Subject to change based on the progress of the class and the evaluation of the instructor.***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Focus</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Readings and small assignments will be assigned as we go during the semester)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>Introductions/Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/24-8/26</td>
<td>Getting to Know Each Other</td>
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<td>8/29-9/2</td>
<td>The Language of the Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td><strong>LABOR DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5-9/9</td>
<td>Ensemble Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12-9/16</td>
<td>Ensemble Building</td>
<td>Journal Entry #1 Due Fri, 2/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19-9/23</td>
<td>Given Circumstances</td>
<td>Acting Vocabulary Quiz Fri, 2/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/26-9/30</td>
<td>Character</td>
<td>Acting Book selected by Wed, 9/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/3-10/7</td>
<td>Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/10-10/14</td>
<td>Action, Objective, &amp; Obstacles</td>
<td>Journal Entry # 2 Due Fri, 10/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/17-10/21</td>
<td>Open Scenes/ Improvisations</td>
<td>Presentation # 1</td>
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<td>10/24-10/28</td>
<td>Begin Devised Work</td>
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<td>10/31-11/2</td>
<td>Devising Work</td>
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<td>11/4</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/7-11/11</td>
<td>Devising work with View Points</td>
<td>Online Portion of Research Presentations</td>
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<td>Uploaded by Wednesday, 11/9 5 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Journal Entry # 3 Due Fri, 11/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14-11/18</td>
<td>Research Presentations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21-11/27</td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING BREAK</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/28-12/2</td>
<td>Group Rehearsals</td>
<td>Acting Critique Due Wednesday, 11/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/5-12/9</td>
<td>Group Rehearsals</td>
<td>Video Tape Presentations, Mon 12/5</td>
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<td>Journal Entry #4 Due Fri, 12/9</td>
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**Self-Evaluations are due**

**Final Presentations**

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

10:30-12:30 PM