THEATRE ARTS 215: ACTING I
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
Spring 2012

Instructor: Richard Klautsch
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Objectives: To introduce the student to the fundamental skills of acting and to familiarize the student with those skills through class participation and outside study. The purposes of the class are to develop a fundamental, practical understanding of the acting craft and to encourage a critical appreciation of acting as the central form of expression within the theatre. Through study and conscientious participation, students can expect to:

1. Gain a working knowledge of concepts and terminology inherent in the study and practice of acting;
2. Develop a basic physical and vocal warmup;
3. Gain and apply a working knowledge of rehearsal procedure (including script analysis, rehearsal techniques, memorization);
4. Gain and apply a practical understanding of script analysis;
5. Experience performing before an audience.

Required Reading: Handouts will be provided throughout the course. You will also be required to study any plays from which your performance projects will be assigned.

Assessment: Your responsibilities in class fall under four major areas: 1) Class participation, which includes regular attendance, punctuality, willingness and readiness to participate in class exercises and discussions, attitude, and preparation [20%]; 2) Two performance projects, 20% each; 3) One acting performance review of departmental production 10%; 4) Rehearsal and presentation of a final project [30%].

Special Notes: More than three absences will affect your final grade by reducing it one/third letter grade per absence (ie, A- to B+, B to B-, etc.). Each tardy will count as 1/2 an absence. Also, because of the participatory nature of the class, no one will be admitted after the first ten minutes of each meeting unless you have approval from the instructor in advance.

This class will get very physical at times, requiring that you participate in various activities. Please dress appropriately for this class. Loose fitting pants and tops, tennis shoes (or comfortable equivalents).

No cell phone usage whatsoever during the class.

No food or drink except water in bottles with caps.
Semester calendar:

KCACTF: February 13-17, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
Hamlet: March 8-11, 23, April 3, 5, 7, 11, 13; Peterson Theatre
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead:
   March 20-22, 24, April 4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 15; Peterson Theatre
USITT: March 28-31, Long Beach, CA
High School Drama Festival:
   April 5, 6

Course Breakdown (by weeks):

Jan. 18: Class Orientation: the rules of the game/Introduction and introductory exercises
Jan. 23: Basic theatre terminology/Rules of rehearsal, developing a basic warm up
         Basic tools of the trade. The Actor’s Resources.
         Exercises in Concentration, Observation, Listening
Jan. 30: The Actor's Resources: Physical Action
Feb. 6: Playing the intention/preliminary improvisations/First performance project
         assignments
Feb 13: Performance Project 1 presentations (depending on KCACTF travel to Region
         VII festival).
Feb 22-23: Script Analysis
Feb. 27: Playing the circumstances
March 5: Combining the Improvisational with the Scripted: Elliptical Scene Work/
March 12: Continue Elliptical Scenes/Final project assignments
March 19: Performance Project 2 presentations
March 26: Spring Break
April 2: Utilizing the Elements of Technique/Rehearsal techniques/Assignments of final
         projects
         April 5 and 6: High School Festival/ NO CLASSES
April 9: Utilizing the Elements of Technique/Rehearsals
April 16: Developing the Final Project.
April 23: Developing the Final Project/ PERFORMANCE REVIEW DUE on Wednesday,
         April 25
April 30: Dress rehearsals for final projects

May 9: 10:30 to 12:30pm. Final Exam