



**TERM:** Fall 2018  
**CREDITS:** 3  
**LEVEL:** U  
**CLASS TIME:** T/Th 8:00 - 9:20  
**LOCATION:** Drake 107  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Sean Naughton

**OFFICE:** Drake #2058  
**OFFICE EMAIL:** naughton.41@osu.edu  
**OFFICE PHONE:** (614) 292-5821  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tue. 9:30am – 11:30am by appointment

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Craft of Acting teaches basic acting techniques in service of creation of character, the art of storytelling, and expanding the capacity to communicate physically and vocally. To develop these techniques, students will read and discuss noteworthy plays; explore those plays for performance possibilities and cultural/social impact; create character analyses; perform monologues and scenes; attend and write a written response to two productions discussing specific acting choices and techniques; and participate in group activities including warm-ups, discussion of scripts, and offering constructive feedback to your fellow artists. No prior acting is required and non-majors are welcome.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Theatre 2811 meets the Visual and Performing Arts GE requirement under Section 2 Part C, focusing on arts appreciation and an understanding of theatre in culture. Through this course, students will develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

- Students will learn to describe and interpret dramatic texts, and to recognize those works as significant cultural achievements in service of generating the opportunity to become enlightened observers and active participants in visual, spatial, musical, theatrical, rhetorical and written arts.
- Students will learn general principles and strategies of character analysis through which they can appreciate and begin to understand the intersection of art and craft in performance, including works from historical and cultural contexts other than the ones covered by the course itself.
- Students will acquire an understanding of the fundamental elements of acting, primarily through an exploration of acting technique, script analysis, storytelling and ensemble-building.
- Students will develop their critical and analytic abilities, as well as the clarity, depth and precision of their writing in order to illuminate and interpret achievement in the arts and literature.

### **GENERAL EDUCATION:**

#### *Visual and Performing Arts*

**GOALS:** Students evaluate significant works of art in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

#### Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze, appreciate, and interpret significant works of art.
2. Students engage in informed observation and/or active participation in a discipline within the visual, spatial, and performing arts.

In this course, students will have the opportunity to watch, analyze and interpret performances, both during class and in the two required departmental productions. Students will also engage and participate in the creative process through monologue and scene performances in class, as well as various exercises to strengthen character analysis and performance skills.

**TEACHING METHOD:** Lab, Lecture, Discussion

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Robert Cohen. *Acting One*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2008. ISBN 978-0-07-351416-1

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:**

**Attendance**

Given the collaborative nature of acting and theatre-making, your attendance and participation is vital. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in the reduction of the student's final grade. On your 3rd and 4th absences, your attendance grade will be reduced by 5pts. On your 5th absence, your attendance grade will be reduced by an additional 10pts. As per the Department of Theatre policy, you will fail the course on your 6th unexcused absence. Class will begin promptly, and role will be taken at the top of class. **Two tardies will equate to one unexcused absence. You will be marked absent 15 minutes after class begins.**

For all absences, excused or unexcused, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed in class, and to make up work. Any work missed during an excused absence must be made up within two weeks of the absence. You will not receive credit for work missed during unexcused absences, but making up the work may be necessary to continue on with future assignments.

**If any student misses four classes (excused or unexcused), s/he will be required to have a meeting with the instructor to discuss possible withdrawal from the course.**

**Excused Absences**

**Illness:** You must provide a valid doctor's note that specifically covers all the days you missed. You must present your note on the day you return to class.

**University-sponsored activity (such as athletics):** Present an original letter on University letterhead, written by the person excusing you. This letter must mention you by name, mention the dates that you will be missing, and must be signed. Present this documentation well before you are scheduled to miss class.

**Civic duties (such as National Guard):** Provide official documentation that specifies your name and the dates of your absence. Present this documentation well before you are scheduled to miss class.

**Religious Holidays:** Provide written notification of date/event **at least two weeks prior to anticipated absence.**

**Participation**

Participation is a fully engaged activity. In this course, you will be expected to risk your point of view, to listen to others, question your peers and instructor, and help keep the conversation moving in a democratic direction where a variety of ideas, theories, and interpretations coexist and inform one another. **True participation includes being present, prepared, and offering thoughtful comments throughout the course.** Participation means giving your full attention during class discussion, presentations, lectures, and asking questions and giving feedback afterward.

Active engagement and the content of your comments will be continually assessed each class session. Failing to pay attention, choosing not to contribute to discussions, or exhibiting distracted or distracting behavior during class (including but not limited to: tardiness, leaving class early, using electronic devices for non-course related activities, reading or engaging in discussion about non-course related material, or acting inappropriately towards other students or the instructor) will negatively impact your grade. If there is a reason that you cannot fully participate in class, please let me know as soon as possible so we can discuss your

options.

### **Attire**

This will be an active classroom, and each class session will begin with a physical warm-up. You are required to wear clothing that doesn't inhibit movement. Hats will be removed for the duration of class. For your scene work and monologues, you are expected to dress as you see your character for final performance.

### **Hygiene**

This class may bring students into close proximity with others. Students will practice good hygiene habits, wear clean movement clothes, and refrain from pungent colognes, perfumes, and body sprays.

### **Electronics Policy**

Unless specifically approved by the instructor, use of cellphones is prohibited during class.

### **Reading Assignments, Related Discussions, and Quizzes:**

Throughout the semester, you will be assigned various readings, both from plays and from practitioners who have written about the craft of acting. Your active and engaged contribution to discussion of these readings will count towards your participation grade.

### **The Warm-Up and Other Active Learning Exercises:**

Students will participate in an instructor-led physical, vocal, and/or mental warm-up at the beginning of each class session. The warm-up will prepare students to approach the work with the necessary focus, as well as develop the habit of discipline. These are designed to give students a basis of concentration and focus and provide the emotional, physical, vocal, and mental acuity to be productive and creative. I invite you that you enter the space and participate in this adventure with an open mind. I assure you, we will all be looking "weird" together.

### **Papers:**

All written assignments must be typed (double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins). The papers will follow MLA style guidelines. **Assignments must be submitted by syllabus-specified deadline.**

**Two character analysis** papers are assigned throughout the semester, one for your monologue performance and one for your scene. Guidelines TBA.

**Late Work:** Students will be allowed to turn in any late work 24 hours after the due for a maximum of half credit. Technical issues including, but not limited to, internet connection, malfunctioning hardware/software, or lost flash drives are not valid excuses to turn an assignment late.

**Productions:** All productions cost \$15 per ticket. Students are encouraged to get their tickets as soon as possible. Theatre Majors and Minors are entitled to one free ticket per production, and non-majors/minors are encouraged to sign up to Usher for the production/s, and thus see the show/s for free. Details are available at [theatre.osu.edu](http://theatre.osu.edu) → Usher Sign Up Sheet. These spots work on a first-come-first-serve basis, so sign up a.s.a.p!

**Production Response Papers** – Students will be required to attend three Departmental productions of the semester: *Twelfth Night* (9/28-9/30), *Michael von Siebenburg Melts Through the Floorboards* (10/17-10/27), *Legally Blonde* (11/8-11/18) Details of the requirements for these papers will be posted on Carmen and discussed in class. **See Course Schedule for due dates.**

### **Monologue and Scene Performance**

Each student will perform one monologue and one scene assigned by the instructor. Students must rehearse, research, and explore alone and with their scene partner outside of class meeting times. ***Outside rehearsal is required for successful fulfillment of class requirements.*** There will be at least one in-class rehearsal for each

performance project, during which all students will observe and provide feedback. Students are expected to have incorporated instructor comments (from in-class rehearsal) by the time of final performance. These performances will allow students the opportunity to develop poise and confidence, as well as an understanding of the creative process and the craft of acting.

For each acting assignment, students are expected to come to class *with lines memorized*, wear clothing that is appropriate to the character, *have analyzed and rehearsed outside of class*, have all props present, be open to constructive criticism, and be willing to try potential adjustments suggested by the instructor. When observing the work of others, students will respect and support the performers by watching and listening attentively and offering constructive feedback when asked to do so by the instructor.

Grading		Percentages	
Participation	30pts	93-100%	A
Attendance	25pts	90-92.9	A-
Reading Quizzes	20pts	87-89.9	B+
Production Response Paper #1	20pts	83-86.9	B
Production Response Paper #2	20pts	80-82.9	B-
Production Reaction Paper	15pts	77-77.9	C+
Character Analysis #1	25pts	73-76.9	C
Character Analysis #2	25pts	70-72.9	C-
Open Scene Presentation	20pts	67-69.9	D+
Monologue Presentation	30pts	60-66.9	D
Scene Presentation	40pts	0-59.9	E
Self-Reflection Paper	30pts		
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	300pts		

**CLASS CANCELLATION:** In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency, I will contact you via e-mail and request that a note on be placed on the door. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations.

Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY**, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

University calendar: <http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcalsem.asp>

**NOTE: This schedule is subject to change!**

Week	Date	Agenda	Date	Agenda
1	Tuesday, August 21, 2018	Intro: What is Theatre? What is Acting?/Warmup/Games/Syllabus	Thursday, August 23, 2018	Ensemble Building Games/Reading Discussion/Stage Directions <b>Quiz: Chapter 7 &amp; 8</b>
2	Tuesday, August 28, 2018	Ensemble Building/Assign Open Scenes/GOTE/Performance Expectations	Thursday, August 30, 2018	One-on-One Games/Work on Open Scenes/Given Circumstances/Giving and Receiving Criticism
3	Tuesday, September 4, 2018	Open Scenes Presentation/Work	Thursday, September 6, 2018	Open Scenes Presentation/Work
4	Tuesday, September 11, 2018	Assign Monologues/Character Analysis/Memorization	Thursday, September 13, 2018	<b>Discussion/Quiz: Chapter: 20 &amp; 28</b>
5	Tuesday, September 18, 2018	Goals and Tactics/Status/In Class Monologue Rehearsal with Partner	Thursday, September 20, 2018	Discuss Assigned Plays in Groups/ The Sun Shines On
6	Tuesday, September 25, 2018	Monologue Rehearsal (OFF BOOK)	Thursday, September 27, 2018	Monologue Rehearsal (OFF BOOK)
7	Tuesday, October 2, 2018	12th Night Discussion/Monologue Rehearsal (OFF BOOK) <b>DUE: Production Response #1 - Submit on Carmen</b>	Thursday, October 4, 2018	Monologue Rehearsal (OFF BOOK)
8	Tuesday, October 9, 2018	<b>Monologue Performance</b> <b>DUE: Character Analysis Paper #1 Due - Submit on Carmen</b>	Thursday, October 11, 2018	<b>OFF NO CLASS</b>
9	Tuesday, October 16, 2018	Assign Scenes/Scene Structure/Beats/ <b>Discussion/Quiz: Chapter 26 &amp; 27</b>	Thursday, October 18, 2018	Script Analysis/Rehearsal Techniques

<b>10</b>	<i>Tuesday, October 23, 2018</i>	<b>Discussion/Quiz: Chapter 10</b>	<i>Thursday, October 25, 2018</i>	One-on-One Exercises with scene partner
<b>11</b>	<i>Tuesday, October 30, 2018</i>	Discuss Michael von Siebenburg Melts Through the Floorboards/Discuss Plays in Small Groups <b>DUE: Production Response #2 - Submit on Carmen</b>	<i>Thursday, November 1, 2018</i>	Relaxation/Take the first thing
<b>12</b>	<i>Tuesday, November 6, 2018</i>	Discuss Plays in Small Groups/Quiz on Assigned Plays	<i>Thursday, November 8, 2018</i>	Scene Work In Class
<b>13</b>	<i>Tuesday, November 13, 2018</i>	Scene Work In Class (OFF BOOK)	<i>Thursday, November 15, 2018</i>	Scene Work In Class/ DUE: Character Analysis #2 Due
<b>14</b>	<i>Tuesday, November 20, 2018</i>	Discuss Legally Blonde/Scene Work In Class <b>DUE: Production Reaction Legally Blonde – Submit on Carmen</b>	<i>Thursday, November 22, 2018</i>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS</b>
<b>15</b>	<i>Tuesday, November 27, 2018</i>	Scene Work In Class (OFF BOOK)	<i>Thursday, November 29, 2018</i>	Scene Work In Class (OFF BOOK)
<b>16</b>	<i>Tuesday, December 4, 2018</i>	Scene Work In Class (OFF BOOK)	<i>Thursday, December 6, 2018</i>	Scene Work In Class (OFF BOOK)
<b>17</b>	<i>Tuesday, December 11, 2018</i>	<b>DUE: FINAL SCENE PERFORMANCE</b> <b>DUE: Self Reflection Paper Due - Submit on Carmen</b>		

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** Students are encouraged to make use of OSU’s Writing Center when completing academic assignments. The Writing Center offers the following free services to members of the OSU community:

- Help with any assignment (ranging from lab reports to dissertations) at any stage of the writing process (brainstorming, thesis development, revising, etc.).
- Face-to-face, 50 minute tutorials by appointment at their main location in 4120A Smith Labs, Monday through Friday
- Online tutoring sessions via CarmenConnect, by appointment.
- Walk in appointments at their two satellite locations
  - Smith-Steeb dorms, Monday-Wednesday, 7-9pm.
  - Thompson library 1st floor, Monday-Thursday, 11am-3pm and 5-7pm.

Online appointment scheduling is available 24/7. Please visit <http://cstw.osu.edu> or call 688-4291 to make an appointment.

## **TITLE IX STATEMENT**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g. race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu).

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as an Ohio State employee. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussion or in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the University's Title IX Office. If I can be of assistance in helping you to make a report and in finding campus and community resources, please let me know. If you would like to access resources directly, please feel free to contact the Title IX office (see above). Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting Counseling & Consultation Services at 614-292-5766 or the 24 hour helpline from the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) at 614-267-7020.