

# **ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



## **Course Syllabus**

### **Humanities and Fine Arts Division**

#### **Course: THE 1006 - Acting**

Date: Spring 2002

Semester Hours: 3.0

Prerequisite: None

Lecture: 3.0

Offered:

Instructor: Engstrom

#### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A first year course in basic skills in the art of acting in interpretation of roles.

#### **EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND RELATED COMPETENCIES:**

##### **OUTCOMES RELATED TO GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze a script and character and relate that analysis to developing the character's personal, social and professional profile. Also, the student will be able to apply that analysis to portraying that character in written scenes and other situations.
2. Communicate personally and socially their knowledge and ideas concerning acting and the acting process.
3. Develop an awareness of how acting has developed along with civilization and how acting has contributed to society.
4. Not applicable.
5. Work individually on preparing lines and analysis and work in collaboration with others to prepare scenes for class rehearsal and performance.
6. Understand how theatre can express ethical and responsible action within society and understand how they can act ethically and responsibly when working in the theatre.
7. Develop and maintain a healthy body, voice and mind.
8. Appreciate the on-going necessity of learning, self-improvement and career planning in working as an actor.

##### **OUTCOMES RELATED TO COURSE-SPECIFIC GOALS**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Students will gain an awareness of their body as a performance instrument.
  - 1.1 Students will participate in physical exercises that promote body awareness.
  - 1.2 Students will demonstrate an awareness of how their body moves.

- 1.3 Students will develop an awareness of their body's limitations.
- 1.4 Students will explore the possibilities of expanding their abilities beyond their present limitations.
2. Students will gain an awareness of their voice as a performance instrument.
  - 2.1 Students will participate in vocal exercises that promote awareness of their voice.
  - 2.2 Students will demonstrate an awareness of their vocal instrument.
  - 2.3 Students will develop an awareness of their voice's limitations.
  - 2.4 Students will explore the possibilities of expanding their abilities beyond their present limitations.
3. Students will develop the use of their body to perform basic acting techniques.
  - 3.1 Students will explore neutral posture and posture in relation a variety of character types.
  - 3.2 Students will explore walking in relation to a variety of character types.
  - 3.3 Students will explore gesturing.
  - 3.4 Students will explore facial expression.
4. Students will develop the use of their voice to perform basic acting techniques.
  - 4.1 Students will explore changing their vocal production to create different patterns of quality, rhythm and volume.
  - 4.2 Students will explore non-verbal sounds as a means of expression.
  - 4.3 Students will demonstrate the ability to project their voice.
5. Students will learn the basic vocabulary of the acting craft.
  - 5.1 Students will be able to identify their position on the stage.
  - 5.2 Students will demonstrate their knowledge of stage directions commonly found in a script.
  - 5.3 Students will demonstrate their knowledge of how an actor should relate to an audience in order to be seen and heard.
6. Students will learn how to analyze a script from the actor's point of view.
  - 6.1 Students will learn basic script divisions – act, scene, French scene, beat, etc.
  - 6.2 Students will learn how to discover a character's objectives and motivations from reading a script.
  - 6.3 Students will develop the ability to articulate a character's objectives and motivations.
7. Students will learn the process of character development.
  - 7.1 Students will demonstrate their ability to define a character from a script.
  - 7.2 Students will explore their ability to use their body and voice to create a character.
  - 7.3 Students will demonstrate their ability to portray a character to an audience.
8. Students will explore the relationships between their character and other characters.
  - 8.1 Students will explore character relationships through clues from the script.
  - 8.2 Students will participate in exercises designed to encourage relating to other actors on stage.
  - 8.3 Students will demonstrate an ability to relate to other actors as a character.
9. Students will become aware of acting from different historical periods and related cultural contexts.

- 9.1 Students will research theories from representative actors and theorists from various historical periods.
- 9.2 Students will demonstrate their knowledge of acting theories including those of del Sarte and Stanislavsky.
- 10. Students will apply learned techniques and theories to performance situations.
  - 10.1 Students will perform a variety of scenes and/or monologues.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of this course are:

1. To help the students gain and awareness their physical and vocal abilities.
2. To help the students apply their physical and vocal instruments to the craft of acting.
3. To give the students a basic knowledge of the terminology and techniques used in acting.
4. To help the students develop a knowledge of how to read a script with character analysis and development in mind.
5. To develop the students' ability to use their physical and vocal awareness and their knowledge of script analysis to develop a character in one or more plays.
6. To relate to other characters in a scene as a character other than themselves.
7. To study the lives, styles and theories of actors from different periods of theatre history.
8. To experience the process of how and actor prepares for rehearsal and performance.

### **COURSE CONTENT:**

The class shall consist of:

1. Physical exercises taken from the disciplines of movement, dance and mime.
2. Vocal exercises.
3. Theatre games and improvisations.
4. Reading and discussing play scripts.
5. Discussion and exploration of the actor's craft and techniques.
6. Discussion and exploration of different theories of acting.
7. Rehearsing and performing scenes from plays.
8. Discussion of how actors work in the context of educational, community and professional theatres.
9. Researching and presenting a report on an actor including their life, performing style, acting theories and historical context.

### **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

1. Attend class and participate in exercises, games and improvisations.
2. Participate in class discussions.
3. Prepare scene work for class rehearsal and performance.
4. Rehearse scenes with partners.
5. Prepare a written report on an actor assigned by the instructor.

6. Demonstrate knowledge of acting techniques and theories through class discussions and performance of scenes.
7. Demonstrate personal growth in acting knowledge and ability through rehearsal and performance of scenes.

**TEXTBOOK:**

Hagen, Uta, Respect for Acting, MacMillan, New York, NY, 1973.

**OTHER REFERENCES:**

Benedetti, Robert L., The Actor at Work, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1981.

Brockett, Oscar G., History of the Theatre, Allyn and Bacon, Inc., Boston, MA.

Cole, Toby and Chinoy, Helen Krich, Actors on Acting, Crown Publishers, New York, NY, 1970.

Ducharte, Peirre Louis, The Italian Comedy, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, NY, 1966.

Spolin, Viola, Improvisation for the Theatre, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, IL, 1963.

Stanislavsky, Constantin, An Actor Prepares, trans. by Hapgood, Theatre Arts Books, New York, NY, 1948.

Stanislavsky, Constantin, Building a Character, trans. by Hapgood, Theatre Arts Books, New York, NY, 1949.

Also plays from various publishers and historical periods.