

Acting II
Fall 2024

Tuesday/Thursday
11:00-12:20 PM
Location: B118

Instructor:

Professor RJ Magee

Email:

richard.magee@msutexas.edu

Office: B107

Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays,

Fridays:

11 AM – 12 PM

Tuesdays, Thursdays: 1-2 PM

Changes in the course syllabus, procedures, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes as they occur. Continued enrollment in the course constitutes a formal agreement to abide by all policies and procedures that are outlined in the syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Live theatre sharpens your perceptions while enhancing your creative capabilities. This course will cover realistic acting styles through scene work, will introduce acting pedagogues through group projects and exercises, will contain intimacy training and safe partner practices and expectations, and will contain an auditioning/portfolio assignment. This course requires the students to warm-up daily, prepare multiple performance projects, and actively participate in daily activities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To provide the student, through participation and experience, with an understanding and appreciation of the arts and theatre. Students will:

- Further develop research skills necessary to create a character who may be from a different time, place, culture, and lifestyle than the student
- Realize various acting techniques through 2 scenes and 2 monologues
- Develop oral and written critical skills for discussing performances observed
- Use constructive criticism to further develop an acting role
- Delve deeply into advanced acting techniques to continue to finesse professional skills and learn how to apply them into employment.

CLASS PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES:

Wear loose, non-restrictive clothing to ensure freedom of movement.

You must be ready to work, physically and mentally, at the start of the class.

Turn off your cell phones. No texting. If caught with your phone out, you will be marked absent and receive no points for the day.

No electronics of any kind may be used for note-taking.

No eating is allowed in class. You may use beverages in sealed containers.

You must respect the space, your fellow classmates, the professor, and yourself at all times in order to ensure a safe environment. Nothing Less will be tolerated.

*If you cannot respect yourself, the space and others, refrain from disruptive behavior, or otherwise follow the guidelines, you will be asked to leave at the discretion of the instructor and will be marked absent for the day.

TEXTS:

No textbooks are required for this class. Appropriate, non-restricted clothing is required for all class sessions.

Other materials:

Handouts provided by instructor

Monologues and scenes from scripts, provided by instructor

GENERAL NOTES:

1. No food or drinks allowed in class except bottled water.
2. Turn all electronic devices OFF.
3. Please do not bring a laptop to class in order to take notes. I promise you that, when it comes to note taking, you will retain more of this course's content via the mind/body connection of manually writing out your notes via the traditional method of a pen (or pencil) and paper.
4. Wear comfortable clothing suitable for movement and floor work. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will not be able to take part in class and it will affect your participation grade.
5. All written assignments must be typed and formatted with the following guidelines:
 - a. Plain white paper / 8.5 x 11
 - b. 1" margins on all four sides
 - c. Double-spaced
 - d. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font
 - e. Papers less than the required length will lose points.
6. Hate speech, of any form, is not allowed in the course at any time.
7. Full costumes and realistic props are not required for monologues and scenes. However, you are to dress appropriately for a role. For example, a lawyer delivering a final summation in court would not deliver it in sweats and a t-shirt. You will find that dressing appropriately and having a prop to represent important objects in a scene or monologue will help you "get into character." Points will be deducted from the scores of monologues and scenes for inappropriate dress or a lack of necessary props.
8. When attending theatre performances and class: **arrive on time**, be attentive, be quiet, and be respectful.

Class participation	10 points
Contrasting Monologue Performance	5 points
Leading of daily warm ups (dates will be assigned)	10 points
Presentation on acting methodologies and pedagogies	10 points
1 st Scene table work, in-class coachings, memorization deadlines	10 points
1 st Scene performance	15 points
2 nd Scene table work, in-class coachings, memorization deadlines	10 points
2 nd Scene performance	15 points
End of semester progress analysis reflection paper	<u>15 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

By the end of every class period, you must be prepared to write down one question or comment about the work that we have done in class that day. These will either be turned into me at the conclusion of class or they will be shared out loud. These count toward your participation grade.

NOTE ON THEATRE TRAINING AND STUDY

Theatre requires us to explore a multitude of people and their stories. These stories include issues of gender, race, sexuality, religion and various moral concerns that may not be in line with your own personal beliefs. We may use materials or engage in discussions that you may find personally objectionable--this does not imply that you believe or embrace those things. The professor may adopt an opposite point of view in order to encourage independent discussion and analysis. This should not be construed as representing the personal views of the instructor.

LATE WORK POLICY

Late work is only accepted until midnight on the date that the assignment is due and points will be deducted per the instructor's discretion.

Grading Scale

1000-934	A
933-900	A-
899-867	B+
866-834	B
833-800	B-
799-767	C+
766-734	C
733-700	C-
699-667	D+
666-634	D
633-600	D-
599-0	F

Attendance/ Participation/ In-Class Exercises: Regular attendance is mandatory and punctuality is of the utmost importance in the Theatre.

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences without penalty. **After three unexcused absences (10% of the course), your final grade will drop by one letter grade.** Your final grade will continue to drop by one letter grade after each subsequent absence.

Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of every class. If you expect to be more than 10 minutes late do not come to class. It is disruptive to your classmates.

Two tardies will equal one absence. Only true, honest, documented medical, and family emergencies are acceptable excused absences at the discretion of the Instructor.

GENERAL NOTES:

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES:

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may record performances, from time to time, for legitimate class reasons. Students may record their own performances, with instructor approval. If you are uncomfortable having your performances recorded, please let the instructor know.

STUDENT HANDBOOK, ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

COLLEGE POLICIES, CAMPUS CARRY RULES/POLICIES:

Participation in laboratory classes (acting, voice, movement) often requires students to wear yoga, movement, or period style clothes/costumes. These types of garments may be thin of form fitting which may make concealed carry of a firearm difficult if not impossible. In addition, students are often required to make physical contact with other students while learning exercises, choreography and/or physical positioning within special technique work. This required physical contact may also make concealment of a firearm difficult. While concealed carry is not prohibited in laboratory style class, students are reminded that intentional display of a firearm may result in criminal and/or civil penalties and unintentional display of a firearm is a violation of university policies and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the program and university. Students should factor the above in their decision as to whether or not to conceal carry in any theatre laboratory class.

SAFE ZONE STATEMENT:

The professor considers this classroom (or whatever space this class is meeting) to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being –regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom/meeting location a safe environment.

CLASS SCHEDULE / Fall 2024
Instructor: Professor Richard Magee
Class schedule is SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Date		Assignment Due
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WEEK ONE		
<u>Aug 27th</u>	Introductions	
August 29 th	Syllabus	
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WEEK TWO		
<u>Sept 3rd</u>	Half of the class presents two contrasting monologues	Warm up leader: Monique
<u>Sept 5th</u>	Half of the class presents two contrasting monologues	Warm up leader: Lauren
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WEEK THREE		
<u>Sept 10th</u>	Begin table work (Group 1)	Warm up leader: Alexis
<u>Sept 12th</u>	Table work (Group 2)	Warm up leader: Tyler
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WEEK FOUR		
<u>Sept 17th</u>	Guest Artist: Alison Novelli stress and nervous system regulation for the actor	
<u>Sept 19th</u>	Begin scene coaching	Memorization Deadline (Group 1) Warm up leader: Catherine
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WEEK FIVE		
<u>Sept 24th</u>	Group 2 scene coaching	Memorization Deadline (Group 2) Warm up leader: Amaria
<u>Sept 26th</u>	Meisner presentation	
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WEEK SIX		
<u>Oct 1st</u>	Continue scene work (Group 1)	Warm up leader: Gerald
<u>Oct 3rd</u>	Continue scene work (Group 2)	Warm up leader: Monique

WEEK SEVEN

Oct 8th Scene catch up day/guest artist TBD

Oct 10th Scene final performances

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 15th Stephanie Roberts, voice over masterclass

Oct 17th Strasberg presentation

WEEK NINE

Oct 22nd commercial coachings/tba

Oct 24th Begin table work (Group 1) **Warm up leader: Lauren**

WEEK TEN

Oct 29th Table work (Group 2) **Warm up leader: Alexis**

Oct 31st Adler presentation

WEEK ELEVEN

Nov 5th Begin scene coaching (Group 1) **Memorization Deadline (Group 1)**
Warm up leader:
Tyler

Nov 7th Continue scene coaching (Group 2) **Memorization Deadline (Group 2)**
Warm up leader: Catherine

WEEK TWELVE

Nov 12th Continue scene coaching (Group 1) **Warm up leader: Amaria**

Nov 14th Continue scene coaching (Group 2) **Warm up leader: Gerald**

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 19th Clurman presentation

Nov 21st TBD

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 26th final scene performances

Nov 28th Thanksgiving break, no class

WEEK FIFTEEN

Dec 3rd tbd, guest artist

Dec 5th tbd, final reflections

WEEK SIXTEEN

Final Exam Date and time: TBA, final reflection paper due