

## THEA 4223-201 Acting III SYLLABUS

Midwestern State University—Spring 2023

MWF 9:00am-9:50am

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

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Office Hours are MWF from 10-11 and TTh from 11-12:30p, office hours can also be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** For the advanced student actor, this course places primary emphasis on the development of physical characterization techniques, participation in physical and vocal acting exercises, and practical performance application through stylistic scenework. Additional emphasis will be placed on academic reading, problem solving, and group participation in devised theatre creation in order to learn special skills such as physical listening, contact improvisation, object work, and image work.

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

- Learn to read and analyze classical plays
- Develop research skills necessary to create a character who will be from a different time, place, culture, and lifestyle than the student
- Create and perform a character in four classical scenes and one lazzi
- Develop oral and written critical skills for discussing performance
- Use constructive criticism to further develop an acting role
- Understand these advanced acting principles and how to apply them to the student's choice of career or lifestyle

**TEXTS:** No textbooks are required for this class. However, you will be expected to read seven plays, as assigned by the instructor. You will receive links to these as they become available.

Other materials needed:

- Handouts provided by instructor
- Scenes from scripts
- Please note, for your Lazzi work you must be in all black clothing (long sleeve, long pants), with a black head cover. Instructor will tell you when to have these items in class.
- For some scenework, you must arrange to have period appropriate clothing and/or props. Instructor will be helpful in arranging these things, but ultimately it is up to the student to ensure they are properly executing these performances.

**ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS:** This is a performance-based class. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. The work of this course primarily happens during class time and cannot be made up privately. Tardiness is extremely disruptive and disrespectful to the creative process in an acting class. If you are absent or late, the following penalties apply:

### Attendance Penalty Scale

0 absences + 20 points  
1 absence 0 points  
2 absences – 10 points  
3 absences – 20 points  
4 absences – 40 points  
5 absences – 80 points etc

### Lateness

Late – 5 points  
Really late (over 25 minutes) – 10 points  
More than ½ of class – whole class

If students are sick/quarantining, they can still receive class credit/attendance points by attending the synchronous class via Zoom. They will be required to be present, dressed, have their camera on during the whole class period, and to do all exercises. Students MUST arrange for online classes 24 hours in advance with their instructor. Classes will NOT be recorded for students to view at any time; the student must be present for the class period as scheduled by the university. The Zoom link for class attendance will be given when requested by the student.

I DO NOT accept late work. If you have an excused absence, the homework must be emailed/self-taped and emailed the day it is due BEFORE CLASS, NO exceptions. If you are set to perform on a day you are missing due to an excused absence, you must exchange with a peer and it must be preapproved BEFORE the day of performance.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Attendance alone does not constitute participation. Participation is vital in this class. This is an interactive environment and students must not only attend, but must also actively contribute to each class. Furthermore, the completion of miscellaneous homework assignments/rehearsals in class will also be considered part of your participation grade. There will be quite a few of these short assignments and they are all important in the development of your skills as an actor.
2. **READING:** Student will read and analyze the corresponding play for every performance project assigned (4 plays total). Student will be responsible for finding the scripts performance projects are from. In conjunction with your performance projects, you must submit a typed script analysis of 2-3 pages on your assigned in class rehearsal day. **No late script analysis will be accepted.** Students will also be reading 3 historical scripts and taking quizzes on them. This encompasses 7 total plays the student will read over the scope of the semester.
3. **PRODUCTIONS:** View 2 Midwestern plays *Moonlight and Magnolias* and *Merry Wives of Windsor* and write a critique. These will be based on acting critique guidelines provided by the instructor. These must be TYPED, EDITED and 2 pages in length in Standard English with an introduction and conclusion. Failure to see a required play will result in a 100 point penalty. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID.
4. **PERFORMANCES:** Each student will work with a partner or with a group to perform memorized scenework. The length of the scenes will vary as appropriate. Each of these performances will be rehearsed, workshopped once, and performed. You will be required to score

and block each of these scenes appropriately. These scenes will derive from the dramatic texts of varying historical periods (Greek, Shakespeare, Restoration, Commedia dell'arte, and Comedy of Manners). Specific requirements for these assignments will be given as they become available.

Students will also prepare and present a final Lazzi performance that is based on our study of Commedia dell'arte unit. More details will be given halfway through the semester and will give the student ample time to prepare for the performance.

**GRADING:** Grading will be out of a total of 1000 points, based on the course requirements outlined above. You could at any time calculate your grade if you are organized and keep all of your assignments (which is a GREAT idea!)

Breakdown is as follows:

PARTICIPATION	100 points
READING -Scene script analyses and quizzes, 25 pts each	200 points
PRODUCTIONS –2 critiques, 50 pts each	100 points
PERFORMANCE	600 points
-Scene performances 100 pts each	
-Final Lazzi project 200 pts	

Grading Scale

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

**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. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Some other general class rules include:

When you enter for class you must be prepared with all materials, your folder, and a smile, ready to work

NO CELL PHONES, HEADPHONES, or TEXTING. . .phones will be confiscated

NO gum, food or drink (water in the dance studio is okay)

NO sassy attitudes—this is a safe space

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes 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.

I would LOVE to help you with any confusion regarding homework before 8am on the day it is due. . .after that. . .

When attending theatre performances and class arrive on time, be attentive, quiet and respectful during performances.

Please note that there may be adult themes discussed, addressed, and explored through both script reading and acting scenes in this class. The instructor will be sensitive to all viewpoints, and also allow for free speech and expression. Student safety is the instructor's first priority. Feel free to discuss with her at any time.

#### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.

#### 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, on a cell phone for legitimate class reasons. Student recording of the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, unless it is done by the professor for grading purposes, or can be done by obtaining written consent by the instructor. If you are uncomfortable having your performances recorded, please let the instructor know.

#### Student Handbook

##### Academic Misconduct Policy & 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 or 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.