

# THEA 1403-201 Acting I SYLLABUS

Midwestern State University—Spring 2023

TTh 9:30am-10:50am

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:** To study acting is to take life's experiences and reflect them through various characters on stage. It is a great form of expression. Live theatre sharpens your perceptions while enhancing your creative capabilities. You can reach your audience through storytelling, movement, music, and expression. Acting is not just for "theatre majors" or those students who want to develop a career in acting. Acting is for everyone!

**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 plays
- Develop research skills necessary to create a character who may be from a different time, place, culture, and lifestyle than the student
- Create and perform a character in a monologue and scene
- Develop oral and written critical skills for discussing performance
- Use constructive criticism to further develop an acting role
- Understand these basic 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 five plays, as assigned by the instructor. You will receive links to these as they become available.

Other materials:

Handouts provided by instructor

Monologues and scenes from scripts, provided by instructor and student

**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 turned in via email the date and time it is due, 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:** Daily participation in class activities and discussions. Have fun, be engaged and participate fully in order to begin to develop your imagination and gain insight about yourself. Dependable participation in scene, attending out of class rehearsal as needed.
2. **READING:** Completely read three assigned plays and demonstrate analytical skills. The Instructor will place three scripts on D2L. There will be quizzes on assigned reading. Student will also read and analyze the corresponding play for every performance project assigned (2 plays total). Student will be responsible for finding the scripts performance projects are from. This encompasses 5 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:** Prepare and present all performance projects, as assigned by the instructor. These include:
  1. an Introduction performance project, as assigned by the instructor.
  2. Memorize, rehearse, perform, and then, based on critique, revise and perform again a one monologue and one scene from a contemporary American play. 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.**
  3. Prepare and present a Final production performance that is based on your current major at MSU. More details will be given halfway through the semester and will give the student ample time to prepare for the performance.

For both the scenes and monologues, a list of suggested plays will be provided by the instructor (if requested), or you will be assigned a role.

**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	150 points
READING -3 quizzes at 50 points	150 points
PRODUCTIONS –2 critiques, 100 pts each	200 points
PERFORMANCE	500 points
-Monologue and scene performance 100 pts each	
-Monologue and scene script analysis 50 pts each	
-Introduction performance project 50 pts	
-Final performance project 150 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 and a smile, ready to work

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

NO gum, food or drink

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.

## 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.