

# Acting II

Theatre 351, 3 Credits  
Course Syllabus, Spring 2015  
Iowa State University

*“True power is in the individual’s ability to move from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” – Winston Churchill*

## Instructor Information:

**Instructor:** Adrien Logsdon

**Office Hours:** Scheduled by appointment.

**Phone:** 641-980-8038

**E-mail:** [adrienlogsdon@gmail.com](mailto:adrienlogsdon@gmail.com) (official ISU email address TBA)

## Course Description:

Theory and practice of techniques of acting with emphasis on character and scene analysis.

## Meeting Information:

**Time:** 12:10-1:00 PM, M W F

**Room:** Pearson 2140

## Learning Objectives:

- Apply the lessons of spontaneity, play and imagination learned in Acting I to texts and scenes.
- Identify and effectively apply methods of character and scene analysis in practical acting situations.
- Identify and effectively apply specialized acting principles, techniques, and theories into personal acting processes.
- Continue to develop a strong sense of play as both an individual and ensemble.

## Methods of Instruction:

This class involves intellectual and experiential exploration of the acting process. The plan of study for this course includes:

- \* Laboratory activities designed to help students put theory into practice
- \* Reading assignments and written responses
- \* In-class demonstrations and explorations
- \* Homework assignments
- \* Lectures
- \* Performances
- \* Oral and written critiques

***A substantial amount of time must be spent outside of class in reading, rehearsing and writing about the student’s individual acting process.***

## Course Evaluation:

Attendance, Preparation (Daily Assignments), and Participation	20%
<i>Note: Acting 351 students must attend all university theatre productions.</i>	
Scene and Monologue Analysis	25%
Scene and Monologue Workshops/Performances	30%
Practitioner Project and Presentation	10%
Acting Journal	15%

**Attendance:** Attendance is vital to success in this class. **As with any rehearsal or performance, absences affect both the individual student’s progress and the progress of the class as a whole.** Be on time, dressed in

comfortable clothes and shoes that allow you to move, bend, sit on the floor, etc. You will be expected to participate fully in class exercises and to rehearse and memorize performance projects outside of class time.

Each student is permitted **two** unexcused absences in this course. Each subsequent unexcused absence will automatically lower the "Preparation and Participation" grade by 15 points. *It is possible to achieve negative points in this category.*

An excused absence is defined as: 1) a medical emergency or illness, 2) death in the immediate family (grandparents included), 3) university sanctioned activities. Official documentation and advance notification is required for an absence to count as "excused."

**Note: Arriving late to class more than once will impact your attendance grade.**

**A note on workshops and class performances:** Given the nature of this course, disciplined rehearsals consisting of substantial outside-of-class preparation are required to effectively prepare for workshops and in-class performances.

**Deadlines:** Assignments are due **in class** on the day assigned. Assignments will drop one letter grade for each day that they are late. An assignment turned in after class time will be considered one day late, so plan ahead. Save your work, have ink in your printer, keep your dog from eating your thumb drive, etc.

Assignments due on the date of campus-sanctioned activity absences must be turned in prior to the absence date. The student is responsible for making up all work missed because of absences.

#### **Play Attendance:**

Students must attend the following ISU Theatre productions: *Love and Honor* (Feb. 27, 28 and Mar. 6, 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 1 and 8 @ 2 p.m.), *Les Mis* (Apr. 10, 11, 17, and 18 @ 7:30 p.m.; Apr. 12 and 19 @ 2 p.m.), *On the Verge* (Apr. 30, May 1 and 2 @ 7:30 p.m., May 3 @ 2 p.m.).

Tickets can be purchased at the Stephens box office. You can also see the shows for free by signing up to usher in the Main Theatre Office Pearson 2130. Failure to attend a production will result in two unexcused absences per production missed.

#### **Grading Scale:**

**A- to A+ = 90-100% Exceptional work:** Always prepared; extensive outside-of-class preparation; self-motivated. Active, positive contributor to class. Punctual; always present. Makes significant improvements in skill and knowledge during semester.

**B- to B+ = 80-89% Good work:** Always prepared; significant outside-of-class preparation, self-motivated. Punctual; always present Positive contributor to class. Notable improvement in skills and knowledge during semester.

**C- to C+ = 70-79% Average work:** Generally prepared; adequate outside-of-class preparation; often self-motivated. Often contributes to class. Punctual; almost always present. Shows some improvement in skills and knowledge during semester.

**D- to D+ = 60-69% Below average work:** Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation; rarely self-motivated. Seldom contributes to class, and/or may have negative attitude. Sometimes late; some absences. Little skill and knowledge improvement demonstrated during semester.

**F = 59% and below. Unacceptable work:** Rarely prepared and lacks adequate outside-of-class preparation; not motivated. Does not contribute to class and/or may have negative attitude. Not punctual; several absences. Virtually no demonstrated growth in skills and knowledge.

**(+ and - grades will be assigned on the following scale: percentages ending in a 0-2 will result in a -; percentages ending in 7-9 will result in a +. Example: 70-72%=C-, 73-76%=C, 77-79=C+)**

*Please note:*

*The theatre explores the full range of human experience and perspectives. Some of the assigned plays, performances, and class discussions will cover sensitive material that may be offensive to some people. It is not the objective of this course or the instructor to change anyone's worldview, and students will be encouraged to share their opinions and perspectives on material covered throughout the course.*

### **University Policy Statements:**

The instructor of this course abides by University policies and regulations concerning attendance, academic honesty (including plagiarism), and all others as stated in the current Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

All work should be your own. Cheating, plagiarism (copying or paraphrasing the ideas of others and passing them off as your own), and other forms of academic dishonesty are very serious issues. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of the assignment to dismissal from the university.

Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

To avoid plagiarism, document the source when using words or ideas from another person's work, (including printed, spoken, and electronic sources).

To document direct quotations in APA or MLA style, writers must:

- include quotation marks around the material or indent it within the text to indicate their use of the source;
- provide appropriate parenthetical notation;
- include the name of the author (if available) or the title (if no author is given) either in the introduction to the quotation or within the parenthetical citation.

To document a direct quotation in an oral presentation, speakers must:

- say the word "quote" to verbally replace written quotation marks; and
- include the name of the author (if available) or the title (if no author is given) either immediately before or after the quotation.
- outline oral presentations consistent with the above rules for written material.

If you paraphrase facts and/or ideas of others, by fully considering the ideas, then stating them in your own words and sentence structure; **you must still credit the sources.**

### **Disability Accommodations:**

Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact (instructor name) to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with (instructor name), you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the Disability Resources Office, located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email [disabilityresources@iastate.edu](mailto:disabilityresources@iastate.edu). Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

### **Dead Week:**

This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week guidelines as outlined in

<http://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/#deadweek>

### **Harassment and Discrimination:** Harassment and Discrimination

Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email [dso-sas@iastate.edu](mailto:dso-sas@iastate.edu), or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

**Religious Accommodation:**

If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

**Contact Information:**

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email [academicissues@iastate.edu](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu)

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

M 1/12	Introduction to course/ The Ethics of Acting
W 1/14	Discipline and the Creative State
F 1/16	Discipline and the Creative State
M 1/19	No Class – MLK Day
W 1/21	KCACTF - Assigned Readings/Journal Responses/Terminology Review
F 1/23	KCACTF - <b>Monologue and Practitioner Presentation Requests Due</b>
M 1/26	<b>Terminology Quiz;</b> Character Function and Elements
W 1/28	Character Function and Elements; Scene Assignments
F 1/30	Character Function and Elements
M 2/2	Character Mind, Action, and Emotion
W 2/4	Character Mind, Action, and Emotion
F 2/6	Character Mind, Action, and Emotion
M 2/9	<b>Monologue Workshop I; Monologue Analysis Due</b>
W 2/11	<b>Monologue Workshop I</b>
F 2/13	<b>Monologue Workshop I</b>
M 2/16	<b>Monologue Workshop I</b>
W 2/18	<b>Monologue Workshop I</b>
F 2/20	<b>Monologue Workshop I</b>
M 2/23	The Working Process
W 2/25	<i>Practitioner Presentations</i>
F 2/27	The Working Process; <b>Journals Due</b>
M 3/2	<b>Scene Workshop; Scene Analysis Due</b>
W 3/4	<b>Scene Workshop</b>
F 3/6	<b>Scene Workshop</b>
M 3/9	<b>Scene Workshop</b>
W 3/11	<b>Scene Workshop</b>
F 3/13	<i>Practitioner Presentations; Project Three Assignment</i>

## SPRING BREAK

M 3/23	Auditioning
W 3/25	Auditioning
F 3/27	Auditioning
M 3/30	<b>Monologue Workshop II</b>
W 4/1	<b>Monologue Workshop II</b>
F 4/3	<b>Monologue Workshop II</b>
M 4/6	<b>Monologue Workshop II</b>
W 4/8	<i>Practitioner Presentations</i>
F 4/10	<i>Practitioner Presentations</i> ; <b>Project Three Analysis Due</b>
M 4/13	<b>Monologue Presentations/Critiques</b>
W 4/15	<b>Monologue Presentations/Critiques</b>
F 4/17	<b>Monologue Presentations/Critiques</b>
M 4/20	<b>Scene Presentations/Critiques</b>
W 4/22	<b>Scene Presentations/Critiques</b>
F 4/24	<b>Scene Presentations/Critiques; JOURNALS DUE</b>
M 4/27	<b>Project Three Presentations/Critiques</b>
W 4/29	<b>Project Three Presentations/Critiques</b>
F 5/1	<b>Project Three Presentations/Critiques</b>

**Final Exam Period (9:45-11:45PM Friday, May 8): Final Process Discussion**

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### **The Ethics of Acting** Guidelines for Professionalism in the Classroom and Beyond

Accept responsibility, and abandon excuse making.

Demand excellence in your own work, and expect the same from others.

Embrace the nature of our discipline – we learn by doing, and sometimes by failing.

Respect your collaborators, including your audience.

Never, ever see another's failure as your success.

Practice . . .  
generosity  
humility  
and tact  
. . . in all things

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