

Course Syllabus: THAR 410: Acting IV-Advanced Problems in Acting

T/R: 12:45pm-2:00pm, LAAH 120

Instructor: Amy Guerin, Instructional Assistant Professor

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Office: LAAH 280

Office Hours: M: 11:30am-1:00pm, T: 9:30-11:00 or by appointment

Course Description: THAR 410: Acting IV-Advanced Problems in Acting

Solving advanced dramatic problems using acting, voice, movement, and style techniques. Includes audition preparation and rehearsal techniques. AKA: Professional Preparation

"How ready and psyched are we?"--The Book of Mormon

Prerequisites: THAR 410: Acting IV-Advanced Problems in Acting

THAR 310 and junior or senior classification

Required Texts:

The Empty Space by Peter Brook

The Complete Professional Audition: A Commonsense Guide to Auditioning for Musicals and Plays by Darren Cohen (available only in Kindle version)

And Then, You Act: Making Art in an Unpredictable World by Anne Bogart

Recommended Texts:

New York Times newspaper subscription

American Theatre magazine subscription

Course Requirements:

Performance Responses (100 Points) – There will be one individually-written performance response to the TAMU Theatre Mainstage production this semester. Each response will be typewritten 500-750 words, turned in via the class eCampus page. Focus on your experience and response to the play in performance, focusing on theme, acting, directing and design elements (lighting, costume, sound, projections.)

Additional Class Assignments (150 Points) – During the semester, you will turn in three class assignments—your monologue file (50pts), your resume (50pts) and your headshot (50pts.) These assignments will be discussed in further detail during class.

Monologue Work (250 Points) – During the semester, you will perform five monologues. These monologues will be discussed in further detail during class. Your monologues should highlight your strengths as an actor, while also challenging you to expand your range and skills. Rehearsal will be done outside of class. Monologues will not be postponed.

Showcase (500 Points) – During the semester, you and your classmates will produce a showcase for your monologue work throughout the semester. As a class, you will be responsible for finding a venue, marketing the showcase, and staging the showcase outside of class hours. Your grade will be based on your individual performance within the showcase, your participation in the producing of the showcase—determined via in-class weekly production meetings, and the overall effectiveness of the showcase. You will turn in a list of what you did specifically to support the showcase. This list will be signed by you and the rest of your classmates.

Grading Scale:

1000-900 A

899-800 B

799-700 C

699-600 D

599-0 F

All students should be familiar with the *elearning* website: <http://elearning.tamu.edu>, since some important communication for this course will take place there.

Policies:

Class Materials: Please come to every class dressed appropriately for the day, with your copies of the text reading that is due that day and the proper note-taking materials—paper and pencil. **You may not take performance notes on your laptop, tablet or phone.**

Attendance: Is taken every day at the start of class. Lateness will not be tolerated. You are to be on time to class. If the door to the classroom is closed, assume that you are docked an unexcused absence. Two unexcused absences equals a full drop in your letter grade in the class. More than four unexcused absences will result in your being dropped from the class.

Work missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up.

Academic Integrity:

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

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| January 20: In-class Auditions | January 22: In-class Audition Evaluations |
| January 27: In-class Audition Evaluations and Showcase Production Meeting | January 29: Class Discussion: Cohen Text: Ch 12-19 |
| February 3: Class Casting Assignment Due | February 5: Building a monologue file: Contemporary Dramatic |
| February 10: Building a monologue file: Contemporary Comedic | February 12: Building a monologue file: Classic Dramatic |
| February 17: Building a monologue file: Classic Comedic | February 19: Building a monologue file: Avant-Garde |
| February 24: Class Discussion: Cohen Text: Ch 20-21 and Showcase Production Meeting Monologue File due in class | February 26: Understanding the Industry: Houston—Bree Bridger and others TBA |
| March 3: Resumes due in class | February 5: Understanding the Industry: Chicago—Rohan Sinha |
| March 10: Class Discussion: Cohen Text: Ch 22-26 | March 12: Understanding the Industry: Los Angeles—TBA |
| March 24: Revised Resumes due in class and preview headshot proofs | March 26: Understanding the Industry: NYC—TBA |
| March 31: Headshots due in class and Showcase Production Meeting | April 2: Performing Monologues: Round 1 |
| April 7: Performing Monologues: Round 1 | April 9: Performing Monologues: Round 1 |
| April 14: Performing Monologues: Round 2 | April 16: Performing Monologues: Round 2 |
| April 21: Performing Monologues: Round 2 | April 23: Class Discussion: Bogart and Brook |
| April 28: Class Discussion: Bogart and Brook Performance Response due online 12:30pm | April 30: Class Discussion: Bogart and Brook Last Day of Class |