



Course Syllabus

DRAM 1351 – Acting 1

Catalog Description: An introduction to the fundamental principles and tools of acting as used in auditions, rehearsals, and performances. This may include ensemble performing, character and script analysis, and basic theater terminology. This exploration will emphasize the development of the actor's instrument: voice, body and imagination.

Lecture hours = 3, Lab hours = 0

Prerequisites: NA

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours per Week: 3

Lab Hours per Week: 9

Contact Hours per Semester: 96

State Approval Code: 50.0506.51 26

Class section meeting time:

Core Components and Related College Student Learning Outcomes

This course counts as part of the academic requirements of the Panola College Core Curriculum and an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. Yes No: If no, skip to Instructional Goals.

The items below marked with an X reflect the state-mandated outcomes for this course **IF this is a CORE course:**

- Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information
 - CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information
 - CT2: Gather and assess information relevant to a question
 - CT3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information
- Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
 - CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication
 - CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication
 - CS3: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
 - EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion
 - EQS2: Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion

- Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
 - TW1: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team
 - TW2: Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal
- Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
 - PR1: Evaluate choices and actions and relate consequences to decision-making
- Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
 - SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence
 - SR2: Identify civic responsibility
 - SR3: Engage in regional, national, and global communities

Instructional Goals and Purposes:

The purpose of this course is to focus on the physical, mental, and vocal aspects of acting. Emphasis will be placed on the relaxing and utilizing the body, voice, and imagination as the primary means of storytelling and communication with the audience. Techniques used will focus on scene breakdown and scoring, character analysis, and the physicalization of character objectives, obstacles, actions, and environmental influences. The student will come to learn that character action is the foundation of character development and complexity. You will engage in a series of exercise designed to lead you, experientially, towards a full commitment to the pursuit of a specific, defined intention, within the context of a specific and defined relationship, which is the foundation of acting. You will be invited to use this visceral understanding of the principles of intention and relationship in the crafting of a deeply personal, physically engaged analyses of scenes.

Learning Outcomes: *[from the ACGM catalog]*

After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze scripts from the viewpoint of the actor.
2. Analyze, develop, and perform a character.
3. Demonstrate effective and safe use of the voice and body.
4. Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of theater.
5. Perform at an appropriately skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes and final projects, which may include participation in plays.

Course Content:

A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Objectives section of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Different styles and methods of acting processes
2. Script and Character analysis methodologies including scoring, verbing, and line-by-line analysis
3. Vocal and physical warm-up techniques
4. Theatre Acting Vocabulary

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery: Lecture and practice of theories in a face-to-face and rehearsal environments and online Canvas content.

Major Assignments / Assessments:

The following items will be assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

Assignments

1. Execution of theatre acting exercises
2. Written evaluations of various acting methodologies
3. Online Discussions
4. Rehearsal Practices

Assessment(s):

1. Exams and Quizzes
2. Performance Evaluation
3. Project

Course Grade:

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- Exams and Quizzes –25%
- Performance Evaluation – 50%
- Written Evaluations –15%
- Participation and Attendance – 10%

Texts, Materials, and Supplies:

- The Actor's Checklist
- Movement clothes

Required Readings:

- Weekly Assigned Essays by Theatre Acting Theorists provided in Canvas
- An Actor Prepares - Stanislavski

Recommended Readings:

- A Challenge for the Actor – Uta Hagen
- Twentieth Century Acting – Hodge
- Improvisation for the Theatre - Spolin

Other:

- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings:
<http://www.panolacollegestore.com>
- For testing services, use the following link: <http://www.panola.edu/elearning/testing.html>

- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Administration Building or go to <http://www.panola.edu/student-success/disability-support-services/> for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student's responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
- Student Handbook, *The Pathfinder*: <http://www.panola.edu/student-success/documents/pathfinder.pdf>