

## Acting II: TPP 4175-002 Spring 2014

**Instructor:** Scott Wells

**Class Time:** TR 9:30 – 10:50

**Program of Study:** Required for all Majors of the Department of Theatre and Dance

**Class Location:** Studio 2, Arts and Letters bldg.. 102

**Instructor Office:** AL 171

**Office Phone:** 561- 297-3810 (Theatre and Dance Department Office)

**Office hours:** TR 8:00am to 9:00am or by appointment

**Instructor Mailbox:** AH 114 (Theatre Dept. Office)

**E-mail:** swells2012@fau.edu

### SYLLABUS

Acting 2 (TPP 4175) 3 credits Prerequisite: TPP 2100 or equivalent Studies and projects in the development of a variety of characters through a scene study approach, each assignment will have defined goals toward specific acting competencies.

**"An actor has to burn inside with an outer ease." - Michael Chekhov**

Course Objectives for the student:

- To explore the Michael Chekov technique.
- To explore the importance of 'action'.
- To develop a sense of 'ease'.
- To generate acting 'relationships'.
- To generate an 'honest' performance.
- To continue developing your actor's toolbox.

Suggested Text:

*Acting is Believing: A Basic Method 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*

By Charles McGraw and Larry D. Clark

ISBN 0-15-501584-2

**Blackboard:** Reading assignments, syllabus, and grades will be available on blackboard.fau.edu

### Attendance Policy

An important theatre value to live by: "Early is on time. On time is late".

**Attendance is MANDATORY. One component of this class is teamwork and it is vital that the team be there—wholly—for one another; we are growing together. Please take care in observing this crucial element of theatre etiquette. FURTHERMORE, you must arrive on time (if not early) and be ready to begin at 3:30pm sharp—dressed and ready to work/ learn. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If you are more than 10 minutes late for class DO NOT come—disruption is not an option and serves only the self, not the team.**

The only excused absences are those due to religious observances, emergency medical treatments, the unfortunate loss of a family member, and obligatory university events (i.e. sports, debates, etc., with proper documentation). Absences due to University events require prior notification; tell me as soon as you know you will be missing class so that the team may move forward and keep you informed.

**Official Attendance Policy of the Department of Theatre and Dance:**

1. Three absences will lower your final grade by one letter.
2. Each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one letter.
3. Five absences will result in automatic failure.
4. Three "tardies" equals one absence.
5. If you arrive to class after roll is taken, it is your responsibility to check in at the end of class to make sure your attendance is recorded.

See University policies in the FAU Student Handbook

<http://www.fau.edu/handbook/>

**Dress Code and Supplies:**

For class bring your textbook and writing materials. Please note that during the semester there will be some classes that require special materials—see the schedule.

Wear clothes that allow for freedom of movement and will not restrict your breathing. Socks are a good choice too, as we will be removing our shoes frequently in this class. Be aware that the floor is dusty and the temperature in Studio 2 fluctuates between hot, cold, and temperate—so keep this in mind. Inappropriate dress may result in the student being restricted from class; thus affecting their grade. KEEP HATS, JEWELRY, PHONES, SKIRTS, and HARD SOLED SHOES off your person and stored to the side of the room when we are on the floor/ workspace. For performances, clothes appropriate to the character may be worn.

For floor work please bring a towel or a thin yoga mat to lie on—bring these with you for every class except for exam/ performance days.

For your convenience, lockers are available. Please see Professor Clarence Brooks for information on how to secure one for the semester.

## CLASS RULES

- No Cell Phones during practice. Turn them OFF and stash them. No texting, picture taking, ringing, or vibrating. If these things occur during practice, you will be marked absent for the day.
- Be aware of your personal hygiene.
- Be prepared to make personal/physical connections with your teammates.
- Respect personal/ physical boundaries, as we will be doing quite a bit of interpersonal contact. If in the course of the practices, you do not feel comfortable engaging in physical contact, please inform the team prior to the exercises.
- Do not take things personally.
- Do not be malicious.
- Do not gossip—what happens in our practice; stays in our practice. We are our own special team.
- Do not EAT or CHEW GUM in class.
- Do not limit your potential by saying “I can’t”—there’s NO SUCH THING.
- Do be constructive, compassionate, and encouraging.

## Graded Assignments and Due Dates (subject to change at instructors discretion)

1. Midterm Monologue choice and play summary—Write a 500 word summary discussing what monologue you chose and why and include a brief summary of the play; characters, relationships, and given circumstances. Be sure to include why this character is ‘right’ for you. **DUE 1/9/14 bring in the play for discussion!**
2. Midterm Performance—For your midterm you will perform a monologue that you will select. The monologue will be from a play written in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to present and will be two minutes in length. You may use costumes and limited props to heighten the production value; however, the focus will be on implementing the acting tools we have practiced up to this point. **DUE 2/25/14**
3. Midterm Paperwork—You will be required to submit your scored speech that will accompany your performance. The score is to show your beats with objectives, obstacles, action, and quality of action. **DUE 2/25/14**

## LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT RECEIVING AN “F” 2/28/14

4. Critique Papers—You will be required to see the two main-stage productions for the FAU department during the semester and write a 2-3 pages critique paper for both shows. Choose one actor in particular and critique their relationship based on what we have discussed in class.

**Two Gentlemen of Verona** by William Shakespeare February 14 - February 23, 2013 | Studio One Theatre **DUE 2/27/14**

**Rhinoceros** by Eugene Ionesco April 4 - April 13, 2013 | Studio One Theatre **DUE 4/17/14**

**DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE PLAY.** Be sure to attach your ticket stub to your paper when turning it in. For extra credit, you may also due the same assignment for the student/ Alpha Psi Omega productions.

**YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN FOR ACQUIRING PERFORMANCE/ RESERVATION INFORMATION—BE SELF-SUFFICIENT!**

5. Final Performance—A scene to be assigned by the instructor. You may use costumes and limited props. Your grade will be determined by how successful you were able to communicate an “honest” relationship. **DUE 4/22/14**
6. Final Paperwork—You will be required to write a paper that will accompany your performance. The paper (1000 words) is to discuss what discoveries you made about your characters’ relationships and how the class contributed to these discoveries. **DUE FINAL EXAM 4/29/14 7:45am - 10:15am.**

**Grading Policy**

Assignments are weighted in your final grade.

Commitment (Participation/ Preparedness/ Attitude) =	45 %
Monologue Summary =	5 %
Midterm Performance =	10 %
Midterm Paperwork =	10 %
Critique Papers (1 and 2) = 5 % each (Total: 10%)	10 %
Final Performance =	10 %
Final Paperwork =	10 %

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Total: 100%

**Late work:**

**Late work will not be accepted. This includes performances; if you miss a day where you are supposed to present a monologue or scene, you will lose the points for the assignment. If you have an excused absence, and cannot make a performance date, you can make up the performance on a different date. I determine what is considered an excused absence. If you cannot make class when a written assignment is due, you must put the assignment in my mailbox in the Department of Theatre and Dance (AH 114). E-mailed work will only be accepted if it is received BEFORE class starts—make sure it is time stamped properly.**

**University Policy on Absences and Incompletes:**

Students will not be penalized for absences due to participation in University-approved activities, but proof of involvement must be provided. Reasonable accommodation will be made for student absences due to religious observance(s). Also, note that grades of Incomplete ("I") are reserved only for students who are passing the course but have not completed all the required course work because of exceptional circumstances. Incompletes should be pre-arranged with the instructor before the end of the term.

**University Policies****Students with Disabilities:**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures.*

**The FAU Code of Academic Integrity:**

*Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at <http://www/fau/edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001 Code of Academic Integrity.pdf>*

**DO NOT CHEAT!** This is a class rooted in personal expression and imagination; therefore copying someone else's ideas and/ or words is counterproductive. Have fun being and exploring your expressive selves.

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**Grading Scale**

93-100 = A  
90 - 92 = A-  
87 - 89 = B+  
83 - 86 = B  
80 - 82 = B-  
77 - 79 = C+  
73 - 76 = C  
70 - 72 = C-  
67 - 69 = D+  
63 - 66 = D  
60 - 62 = D-  
> 60 = F

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**All Theatre Majors are required to maintain at least a grade of C in their classes**

TPP 4175-002 Syllabus Acknowledgement  
Spring 2014

I have read and understand the terms outlined in this syllabus.

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(print name)

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(date)

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(signature)

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