

TH 444 ACTING 4 - Comedy and Film
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
1:00 -1:50 PM
Rojo Room 236

Instructor: Christian Tripp
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Office Hours
By appointment only via Zoom or in person.

Prerequisite

- **TH 242 and TH 441**
- **Theatre Major AND Permission of Instructor**

Required Texts

- *Must see department shows:* <https://ua.universitytickets.com/>
- *The Colored Museum January 31-February 6, 2022*
- *Baskerville March 28-April 3, 2022*
- *Legally Blonde April 13-15, 21-24, 2022*
- *Student selected monologues and scenes. All found online or in the Gorgas Library.*

Other Course Materials

- *Actions: The Actor's Thesaurus* by Marina Caldarone & Maggie Lloyd Williams
- Patsy Rodenburg *The Actor Speaks*
- Stanislavski in *Rehearsal*
- *Story* by Robert McKee
- *On Writing* by Stephen King

Course Description

This course provides an in- depth exploration of classical British and American Comedy and an extended module of Acting for the Camera. Playwrights to be studied: The Greeks, Oscar Wilde and Noel Coward. Additionally, we will explore classical American 20th Century Comedy including Vaudeville, Stand- Up, and the modern Sit-Com. A broader working knowledge of these periods will include specific research into the times themselves.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students shall dissect the musical structure of rhetoric and jokes in order to create their own.
- The class shall analyze ancient, classical, and modern orators.

- As a group we shall survey how comedy throughout history has changed and how we can learn from it.
- We shall distinguish the different staples of film acting and simplify their motives.

Assignments

- **Greek Report 85 pts** - Students will be assigned a topic to research and deliver a 2 minute oral report on.
- **Greek Monologue 85 pts** - Students will dissect the rhetoric and musicality of a monologue from antiquity.
- **Coward or Wilde Scene 85 pts** - Students will take part in scenes, either from Coward or Wilde plays, to discover their musicality.
- **60 Second Stand up 85 pts** - Students will create their own 60 second stand up routine, applying what they have learned about structure and musicality.
- **Baseline 85 pts** - Students will bring in 30 seconds of a monologue from a favorite film. This will be filmed once more at the end of the course.
- **Cop 85 pts** - 30 second scenes from a televised or cop drama.
- **Jargon 85 pts** - 30 second scenes from a televised drama with heightened legal or scientific language.
- **Sitcom 85 pts** - 30 second scenes from a televised sitcom.
- **Cold Read 85 pts** - Students will take part in, and develop, the craft of cold readings with provided sides.
- **Final Process Paper 85 pts** - The final will be a short chart detailing the students learned techniques and processes. This isn't an opinion piece. What did you learn that you didn't know before, what can you take going forward?
- **Three Play Reviews 50 pts each** - After the viewing each of the UATD theatrical performances, students must write a 1 page response paper identifying a singular performer that they admired. Prompt: Pick a performer - What about that performer

caught your attention? What can you learn from that performer? What was a success in their performance to you? Reviews will be submitted to me via email.

Grading Policy:

Total = 1000

Grade Ranges

980-1000 = A+

940-979 = A

900-939 = A-

870-899 = B+

840-869 = B

800-839 = B-

770-799 = C+

740-769 = C

700-739 = C -

670-699 = D+

640-669 = D

600-669 = D -

0-599 = F

MLA Format: 7th edition of the *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

- Use a clear typeface (Arial or Times New Roman) in a readable size (at least 11 point).
- Justify the text to the left margin, leaving the right margin ragged.
- Leave 1" margins on the top, bottom, left, and right.
- Indent the first word in a paragraph by 0.5". Indent set-off quotations by 1".
- Use double spacing throughout.
- Use single spaces after full stops, commas, exclamation marks, etc.
- There is no need for a title page; at the top of the first page (1" margin, flush left), type your name, your instructor's name, the course number, and the date on separate, double-spaced lines.
- The title of your paper should then be centered on the first page. There is no need for it to be highlighted in bold or italics or for it to appear in capitals.
- Page numbers appear in the top, right-hand corner with a 0.5" margin from the top and with a flush right margin. It is good practice to include your last name before the page number in the event that pages go astray. Do not use the abbreviation *p.* before the page number or add any other mark or symbol.

- Good grammar, punctuation, and spelling are essential parts of your paper. There is no room for basic typos at this level. My advice is to check and check again, and don't just rely on your word processor's spell checker.

Late Work:

Being late for an actor is a missed opportunity for an actor.

It is expected that sometimes circumstances will arise that result in unavoidable delays to your work. You can show your professionalism in these circumstances by contacting the instructor in advance and letting them know what's going on and working towards a resolution for the situation. Work turned in without this kind of communication will be accepted up to one week late with a reduction, a penalty of letter per day, in the grade for the assignment.

Clothing:

Students should wear clothing that allows for freedom of movement. Appropriate shoes are a must for this work. Close toed shoes are a requirement for this course.

Cell Phones:

Phones in class must be kept on silent and away. Phones going off in our class disrupts everyone's work. If you need your phone on for any reason just simply let me know.

Attendance:

Daily attendance is required and is critical to your success in this course. This course has a collaborative nature and requires both your physical and your intellectual presence. Accordingly, if you miss more than three (3) classes, your final grade will be lowered for each additional absence. This does not mean that you have three "freebies." This means that you have three separate days in which to handle those inevitable days when you are sick or are otherwise unable to attend class. Use them judiciously. Besides, the classes will prove to be a joy and you wouldn't want to miss them anyway.

Tardiness Policy:

The same rules apply as for attendance. Lateness is highly disruptive to the teacher and the students. You are expected to be here on time. The rule of thumb is this: if you're not here when I take attendance, you're late. And three lates equals one absence. Obviously, there will be special circumstances, but they should be very few and far between.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

Disclaimer: This syllabus may change, if needs warrant essential changes; no changes will be made to official policies or to grading criteria (except to clarify something you might not understand). Please note that any essential changes are announced in class and posted in Blackboard.

1/12 Intro, What is “Style” Greek intro (soap box, politics, war, theatre, musicality commands attention) (USE Medea Sph) Pointing, Suspension, Climaxing “Medea” “Trojan Women”
Marking script

HW: Greek Reports- 2 min max

1/14 Greek Reports Due

- 1) Politics/ Class/ Current Events**
- 2) Occupations and level of respect**
- 3) Manners/ Etiquette/ Protocol- Who flaunted?**
- 4) Recreation- Sports, Dance, Social, etc- demonst teach**
- 5) MUSIC (play), Arts, Culture, Food**
- 6) Clothing and Accessories**
- 7) Architecture, Furniture (how used- pictures and demonstration)**

HW: Prime min questions- discuss

HW: 60 sec Soapbox FOR WEDS and Greek spch (given)

Choose Greek and phrase argument

Greek Monologues:

The Persians

Antigone

Elektra

Agamemnon

Medea

Ajax

The Eumenides

Trojan Women

Oedipus Rex

Hecuba

The Frogs

The Bacchae

1/17 Off - MLK

1/19 Discuss PM Questions

Play orators (Shaw, MLK, FDR, JFK, MX, Jjackson, Macarthur, etc

1/21 Greek 1a (Music Stands Demo)

1/ 24 Greek 1b

1/26 Greek 1c

HW: Find scene and partner for Coward or Wilde

1/28 Perform Greeks

1/31 Listen to COWARD on Spotify (with Dogs and Englishmen) Staccato/ legat; champagne; musicality/muscularity, Self aware- wit/irony; wink to aud

HW: Work musicality w partner, Learn “Mrs. Worthington”

2/2 “Mrs. Worthington...” Text Work C/W A- pointing, polysyllabic snappers, use coward song, etc...Marking script

HW: off book

2/4 Text Work #2

2/7 C/W Exercises: Sing Scene, Who is higher- status, Everyone applaud and bow each quip, “Mask”- what do you want to do, then mask, (Mask= balloon- how far can you stretch?)

Due: The Colored Museum Play Review via email.

2/9 C/W #2

2/11 C/W #3

HW: Prep scene for Monday

2/14 SHOW C/W - Talk Marx Bros- catskills- vaudeville.

HW: Memorize Who’s on First w partner

2/16 Show “Who’s on First” / Marx Bros - Show Stooges (Slowly I turn), Who’s On First, Lucy
HW: Marx, Stooges, Lucy, Seinfeld, Jackie Mason, Red Foxx, Rock, Williams, Martin/ Lewis, Carlin, Burr, Chapelle,

2/18 Stand Up Breakdown Continued

HW: 60 Seconds of material

2/21 Joke Writing

HW - 60 Seconds of material

2/23 Stand Up Day

Due: 60 Seconds of material

2/25 Film Watch: Harvey, Shawshank, Streep Deer Hunter

HW: Film Audition (30 sec BASELINE)

2/25 Film Audition (BASELINE) and discuss

HW: 30 sec scenes. SCENE 1- FILM DRAMA (Over Shoulder)

2/28 “In Love With Camera”- Dream being watched and beautiful/ schmuck

Start See/Feel Want (before/ after); transitions!

HW: Practice

3/2 Scenework: See/Feel/Want (before/ after); transitions!

HW: Eye Masks

3/4 Eye Exercise

3/7 Eye Exercise

3/9 Listening and Constant Thought Improv (transitions)- A

3/11 **SETC**

Spring Break

3/21 Listening and Constant Thought Improv (transitions)- B

3/23 SCENE #2: Cop Drama

3/25 SCENE #2: Cop Drama

3/28 SCENE #3 Jargon

3/30 SCENE #3 Jargon

4/1 SCENE #4 Sitcom

4/4 SCENE #4 Sitcom

Due: Baskerville Play Review via email.

4/6 Cold Readings

4/8 Honors day - off

4/11 Cold Readings

4/13 Cold Reading Audition

4/15 Cold Readings Audition

4/18 Re- Film Baseline and watch

HW: Select a Shakespeare Monologue

4/20 Re- Film Baseline and watch

4/22 Shakespeare on Camera

4/24 Due: Legally Blonde Play Review via email

4/25 Shakespeare on Camera

4/27 Shakespeare on Camera

Academic Misconduct/Cheating:

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) provided in the Online Catalog.

Disabilities Policy:

Contact the [Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Guidelines:

Please see the latest [Severe Weather Guidelines](#) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations:

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the [UAct website](#).

Religious Observations: Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at [Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines](#).

UAct Statement: The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Wellness Resource

College can be a stressful time

If you or someone you know is facing a challenging time or dealing with academic or personal stress, anxiety, depression, or other concerns, we strongly encourage and support you to seek assistance or to help friends find the care that they may [need](#).

Also, If you are experiencing a personal crisis and need urgent assistance, you can also contact the following resources:

Counseling Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-3863).

- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak with the on-call counselor).
- You may also text BAMA to 741-741 to text with a trained volunteer.

Women and Gender Resource Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-5040).
- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak to the on-call advocate for the WGRC)