Acting II
Theatre 351, 3 Credits
Course Syllabus, Spring 2019
Iowa State University

“Inacting requires a creative and compassionate attitude. It must aim to lift life up to a higher level of meaning and not tear it down or demean it. The actor’s search is a generous quest for that larger meaning. That’s why acting is never to be done passively.” ~ Stella Adler, The Art of Acting

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Amanda Petefish-Schrag
Office Hours: M & W 9:30 -11:30 AM, 2:00-3:00PM. Additional hours may be scheduled by appointment.
Office Phone: 515-294-8179
Office Location: 0318 Carver
E-mail: apschrag@iastate.edu

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

Meeting Information:
Time: 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM, T R
Room: Carver 0308

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 and personal acting processes.
- Identify and effectively apply specialized acting principles, techniques, and theories in practical acting situations and personal acting processes.

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
* Oral and written critiques and reflections
* Performances

A substantial amount of time must be spent outside of class reading, rehearsing, and reflecting on the student’s individual acting process.

Course Evaluation:
Preparation (including daily posts/assignments), Attendance, & Engaged Participation 20%
Acting Quiz and Critiques (posted in Canvas) 10%
Note: Acting 351 students must attend the following ISU theatre productions: Sense and Sensibility, Godspell, Iowa Odyssey
Actor’s Analysis Assignments 30%
Performance Workshops/Reflections 35%
Monologue Portfolio Preparation; Monologue Performance (Optional) 5%
Attendance and Participation: 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. Plan to be on time, dressed in comfortable clothes and shoes that allow you to move, bend, sit on the floor, etc. 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.

A note on electronics: To allow for full engagement in class activities, cell phones and other electronic devices must be silenced and put away before the start of each class session.

Students are allowed two unexcused absence in the course. Each subsequent unexcused absence will lower the “Preparation and Participation” grade by 15%. It is possible to achieve negative points in this category. Arriving late to class more than once will impact your attendance grade.

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.”

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 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 (all productions in Fisher Theatre):

- Sense & Sensibility: Feb. 22, 23 and March 1, 2 @ 7:30 pm.; Feb. 24 & March 3 @ 2 pm.;
- Godspell: April 5, 6, 12, 13 @ 7:30 pm.; April 7 and 14 @ 2 pm.;
- Iowa Odyssey: April 26, 27 @ 7:30 pm.; April 28 @ 2 pm.

Tickets can be purchased at the Stephens box office. You can see shows in Fisher Theater for free by signing up to usher in the Main Theatre Office.

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. Demonstrates 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. Demonstrates 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 improvement in skills and knowledge during semester.

D- to D+ = 60-69% Below average work: Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation. Seldom contributes to class, and/or may demonstrate 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. Does not contribute to class and/or may demonstrate 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+)

Final grades will be submitted to the registrar by 10am on the Monday after final exams. After this date and time, a grade will only be changed if there has been a mistake on the instructor’s part.
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. 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: 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, 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
**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

**T 1/15**  
Introduction to course/ The Ethics of Acting

**R 1/17**  
Foundations: Discipline and the Creative State

**1/22 & 1/24**  
KC ACTF Week (We will not meet as a group this week – complete independent work)  
**Assigned Reading and Responses Due 1/27 @ 11:59PM**  
Obtain Assigned Play - Begin Reading (Play read by 2/1)  
Prepare for Terminology Exam

**T 1/29**  
Foundations: Introduction to Character Function Analysis; **Terminology Quiz**

**R 1/31**  
Foundations: Introduction to Context Analysis

**T 2/5**  
Internal Approaches: Character Mind, Action, and Emotion; Introduction to Character Psychology Analysis

**R 2/7**  
Internal Approaches: Character Mind, Action, and Emotion; Introduction to Character Mental/Moral Traits Analysis  
**Character Function and Context Analysis Due**

**T 2/12**  
Internal Approaches: Character Mind, Action, and Emotion; Scene Assignments

**R 2/14**  
Internal Approaches: Dual Objectives  
**Character Psychology and Mental/Moral Traits Analysis Due**

**T 2/19 & R 2/21**  
**Scene Workshops**

**T 2/26 & R 2/28**  
**Scene Workshops**

**T 3/5**  
**Scene Workshops**

**R 3/7**  
External Approaches: Centers; Intro Character Physical Analysis  
**Process Reflection One Due** (Friday, 3/8)

**T 3/12**  
**Individual Meetings: Sense and Sensibility Posts Due**

**R 3/14**  
**Individual Meetings**

**SPRING BREAK**

**T 3/26**  
External Approaches: Metaphor, Symbol; **Character Physical Analysis Due**  
Intro Character Collage Analysis

**R 3/28**  
External Approaches: Gesture and Archetype; Scene Assignments

**T 4/2**  
Actor Type Discussion; **Character Collage Due**

**R 4/4**  
Process to Portfolio

**T 4/9**  
Process to Portfolio; **Headshot Reaction Assignment Due**

**R 4/11**  
**Scene Workshops**

**T 4/16**  
**Scene Workshops**;  
**W 4/18**  
**Scene Workshops; Godspell Posts Due**

**T 4/23**  
**Scene Workshops**

**R 4/25**  
Portfolio Workshops/Check-In; **Process Reflection Two Due**

**T 4/30**  
**Monologue Portfolio Presentations (Optional) /Critiques**

**R 5/2**  
**Monologue Portfolio Presentations (Optional) /Critiques; Iowa Odyssey Posts Due**

**Final Exam Period** - Monday, May 6, 9:45 - 11:45 a.m. - Cold Reading Exercise