

Crafton Hills College Course Outline

1. **Discipline:** Theatre Arts
2. **Department:** Fine Arts
3. **Course Title:** Acting Fundamentals
4. **Course I.D.:** THART 120
5. **Prerequisite(s):** None
Co-requisite(s): None
Departmental Recommendation(s): None
6. **Semester Units:** 3
7. **Minimum Semester Hours:**
Lecture: 48 **Lab:** 0 **Clinic:** 0 **Field:** 0
8. **Need for the Course:**
 - A. This course applies to the associate degree and transfers to UC and CSU system
 - B. This course fulfills an associate degree requirement for theater arts majors.
 - C. This course is representative of the variety of course offering necessary to maintain a comprehensive community college theatre arts program.
9. **Goals For The Course**
 - A. To introduce students to the theatre
 - B. To promote student self-discovery through the exploration of creative expression.
 - C. To form the basis for any further study of acting and the theatre arts.
10. **Catalog Description:**

Introductory instruction in acting techniques. Exercises in improvisation, theatre games and exercises to develop flexibility, imagination, agility, expressiveness and awareness of body movement. Exploration of the basics of text analysis of plays, characterization and scene work.
11. **Schedule Description**

Introductory instruction in acting techniques.
12. **Entrance Skills:**
 - A. **Requisite Skills:** None
 - B. **Recommended Skills:** None

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Last Updated: 02/16/05

Board Approved: 04/14/05

Semester Effective: Fall 2005

13. Course Objectives:

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- A. Analyze a play text and prepare a plan to dramatize the text in acted-out scenes on stage.
- B. View and then imitate actions from everyday life as a basis for creating reality on stage.
- C. Internalize the psychophysical techniques of the Stanislavski system in order to create believable characters, realities and interplay on stage.
- D. Co-operate with others in the process of producing theatre work.
- E. Prepare exercises for class to demonstrate skill in basic Stanislavski techniques.

14. Representative Texts and Instructional Materials:

Moore, S. (2002) *The Stanislavski System*, New York, NY: Penguin Books.

Hagen, U. (1973) *Respect For Acting* New York, NY: Wiley Publishing Inc.

Spolin, V. (2000) *Improvisation For The Theater (3/e)*. Evanston Illinois: Northwestern University Press

Play scripts, such as *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, that are appropriate for scene work with beginning actors.

15. Course Content:

- A. Basic skills in the Stanislavski process of acting such as relaxation, concentration of attention, imagination, communion, adaptation and emotional memory.
- B. The use of theater games and improvisations in order to develop the basic skills in the Stanislavski process of acting and to develop the ability to work on stage with others.
- C. The analysis of scenes from plays in terms of a character's objective, obstacles and actions in order to create a score for one's performance on stage.
- D. The use of scene work in order to learn the elements of the rehearsal process used in play production including the memorization of dialogue, the development of characterization, the process of practicing with a scene partner, the process of charting out physical movement (blocking) in a scene and the performance of the scene on stage in class.

16. Methods of Instruction

- A. Demonstrations of scene work by students in class.
- B. Group exercises
- C. Guided individual exercises in class to develop specific techniques
- D. Constructive criticism of work on exercises and in performance work
- E. Lecture
- F. Video tapes of the work of professional actors.

17. Assignments and Methods of Evaluation:

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Grades are based on the student's proficiency in a series of specific exercises to develop skills, written or verbal analysis of play scripts, scene presentations and class participation in group discussions and group exercises.

- A. Individual preparation and proficiency on specific assigned theater games and improvisations to develop basic acting skills and then the proficiency in using these specific skills as demonstrated in class on prepared scenes or other assigned demonstrations by the student. (70-90%)
- B. Written or oral analyses of assigned play texts. (5-15%)
- C. Participation. (0-10%)

18. Distributed Education Methods of Instruction: None