# Acting I - Fundamentals of Acting

**THEA-1351**

Spring 2019  Section 01  3 Credits  01/22/2019 to 05/14/2019  Modified 01/15/2019

## Meeting Times

Mon/Wed/Fri 10:20AM-11:15AM

Classroom: Theatre Arts 103

## Contact Information

Professor: Brian LeTraunik

Office: TAR Room 215

Office Phone: 409-880-8154

E-Mail: brian.letraunik@lamar.edu

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:00AM-11:00AM

Or by Appointment

## Catalog Description

Introductory principles and practice for basic acting training, with an emphasis on the methods of Stanislavski. Offered: Fall

## Objectives

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To introduce the students to the basics of acting and performance for the stage.

2. To help the student to become more aware of and comfortable with their physical and vocal instruments.

3. To help the student understand communication and partnership

## Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Have a greater understanding of the process and art of acting for the stage.

2. Collaborate with peers on a theatrical scene.

3. Have a better knowledge of theatrical literature and terminology.
Course Materials

The following plays are required for this course:

August: Osage County by Tracy Letts
Doubt: A Parable by John Patrick Shanley
Proof by David Auburn
The Laramie Project by Kaufman, et al

Course Policies

REHEARSAL: Students will be expected to rehearse outside of class hours. The professor will make himself available to coach and rehearse outside of class, but these hours must be arranged with the professor a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this class is mandatory. Class starts at the scheduled time and lateness will not be tolerated. You are allowed a total of three (3) absences for the semester FOR ANY REASON. THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES! PLEASE USE THEM WISELY. Each subsequent absence after these two will result in your final grade being lowered one letter grade. Being late will be considered half an absence (i.e. late twice=one absence).

Additional Information:

- Participation-10% of your grade will be based on participation. It is not enough to be physically present in the room. You must try and put forth an effort at every class. Don’t worry about right or wrong, success or failure. Most of the work we will be doing is experiential and you must put forth 100% effort to get the full extent of what the techniques have to offer. If you are half-hearted in your attempts you will not only affect the morale of your fellow students, your grade will also suffer.
- Scenes-All scenes must be fully memorized and ready to perform on the day specified. An assignment’s due date is its due date. No exceptions. Failure to accurately and completely memorize an assignment will affect the final grade.
- Cell phones must be silenced during class. If your cell phone goes off during class, it will be taken away and given back at the end of class.
- Show/rehearsal commitments are NOT acceptable excuses for not having work ready.
- Facebook is NOT an appropriate means of communication for class-related issues. I will be happy to be your Facebook friend, but please use email or phone for anything pertaining to class. Any such messages/posts on Facebook will be disregarded.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Because I value your feedback and want to be sure the class best meets your needs, I encourage you to take advantage of online end-of-semester course evaluations.

Evaluation

ASSIGNMENTS:

1-In class mid-term performance, worth 200 points.
2-In class final performance, worth 300 points.
3-Final written character analysis, worth 100 points.

4-Three 2-3 page response papers on mainstage productions, worth 100 points each.

5-In class participation, worth 100 points.

Grades are assessed on the following scale:

A 900-1000 points
B 899-800 points
C 799-700 points
D 699-600 points
F 599 points or lower

In Class Mid Term Performance

Students will perform a brief (1-2 minute) scene from one of the required plays. Students must have fully realized objectives, obstacles, tactics, and given circumstances. The scene must be fully memorized. Partners and scenes will be assigned by the professor.

In Class Final Performance

Students will perform a brief (3-5 minute) scene from one of the required plays. The scene must be fully memorized. The scene must be rehearsed (rehearsal time outside of class is mandatory), with fully realized objectives, obstacles, tactics, and given circumstances. Scene and partners will be assigned by the professor.

Final Written Character Analysis

Students must hand in on the day of the final performance, a 2-3 page analysis of the character being portrayed in the final scene. The paper must be double-spaced, Times New Roman font (12 pt.), with maximum 1 inch margins. Paper should include character’s given circumstances, relationship to the other character(s), objectives, obstacles, and tactics.

Production Response Papers

Students are required to see the three mainstage productions this semester and write a 2-3 page response paper on each, focusing on the acting in the production, NOT A SYNOPSIS. The paper should be double-spaced, Times New Roman font (12 pt.) with maximum 1 inch margins. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! The productions and dates are as follows:

The Birds
February 7-10
Studio Theatre
The Comedy of Errors
March 21-24
University Theatre

Dance Unleashed: Spring Dance Concert
April 12-14
University Theatre

Performances for the plays are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm. The dance concert performs Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm. Tickets for Lamar students with a valid ID are $7 (limit one ticket per ID). Theatre/Dance majors receive one comp ticket per production. STUDENT TICKETS MAY ONLY BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT lamar.edu/ludtix. Tickets may also be purchased in the lobby of the theatre one hour prior to the performance. It is highly recommended that tickets be reserved or purchased at least 24 hours in advance, as shows do tend to sell out. Performances start promptly on time and if you arrive late, you will not be seated until intermission. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the performance.

Four volunteer ushers are also utilized for each performance. Ushers are required to arrive 45 minutes before the performance. You will be given a task by the house manager (tearing tickets, handing out programs, etc.) and will be required to stay 10 minutes following the performance to pick up any trash. In exchange for your time, you will be allowed to watch the production for free. You can sign up to be an usher starting the Monday before the production. Call the box office at (409) 880-2250 to sign up.

Institutional Policies

Academic Honesty Policy
Lamar University expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include failure of the assignment and/or course up to suspension or expulsion from the university. The penalty may vary by instructor.

Additional information is available on the Academic Policy website (https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/academic-policies.html).

Course Drop Policy
Students may drop a course and receive a grade of "Q" during the penalty-free period of the semester or session. For drops after this penalty-free period, grades are recorded as "Q" or "F," indicating the student was passing or failing at the time of the drop. A grade of "Q" may not be assigned unless an official drop has been processed through the Records Office. Students may drop a course online up to the census day by logging into Self-Service Banner. After the census day, courses must be dropped through
Students with Disability Policy

Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communication building, room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at 409-880-8347 or drc@lamar.edu to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with the DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.


Academic Support

Academic Support can be located at [http://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/index.html](http://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/index.html).

There are many areas (i.e. Advising, Writing Center, etc.) of academic support. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

Student Services

Information on Student Services can be located at [http://students.lamar.edu/index.html](http://students.lamar.edu/index.html). There are many resources (i.e. Course schedules, important phone numbers, etc.) available. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

Academic Continuity Policy

In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to check Lamar University's website and login to LU Connect for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at the Office of Environmental Health/Safety and Risk Management [https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html](https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html) webpage.

Severe Weather

Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.

Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

If you are in a multi-story building and you cannot get to the ground floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.

Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence/Active Shooter

CALL - 7777 from a campus phone (Text 409-241-8002 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 911 from either a campus or cell phone will contact the City of Beaumont dispatch rather than the LU police.

AVOID - If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
DENY - Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.

DEFEND - Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Copyright Policy Statement

Copyright is defined as the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship which are subject to copyright law. As an institution of higher learning that values intellectual integrity, Lamar University prohibits the distribution of published materials (print or electronic) in violation of copyright law.

LU Connect Portal

Students are asked to obtain a Lamar Electronic Account username and password so they can log onto the LU CONNECT website. Students may get information on how to get into the LU CONNECT website from the University’s homepage (http://www.lamar.edu) by clicking on the LU CONNECT link on the left top corner of the screen. Follow the steps to secure your LU CONNECT username and password.

LU Learn/Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS)

Students will utilize the Lamar University’s Learning Management System (LMS), Blackboard, for online courses. For Blackboard technical support go to https://blackboardsupport.lamar.edu.

Phone: 866-585-1738

Phone and chat are available 24/7/365

Network Use

ACCEPTABLE USE

Students must respect the integrity and security of Lamar University computer systems and network, and the privacy and preferences of other users. Responsibility for learning about and complying with Lamar University Acceptable Use Policy ultimately rests with the individual. The network may be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, digital media files or freeware, as long as the use complies with copyright law licensing agreements, and campus policies, such as storage space limitations and network bandwidth restrictions. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws.

UNACCEPTABLE USE

The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Advertising and sponsorships on Lamar University websites is restricted. In addition, students may not permit other persons to use their usernames, passwords, accounts or disk space, or disclose their usernames, passwords or account information to any third party. Students may not log on to someone else's account, internet address, or other network codes, or attempt to access another user's files. Students may not create false or dummy accounts to impersonate someone else. Students may not try to gain unauthorized access ("hacking") to the files or computer systems of any other person or organization. Students may not impersonate another person by forging e-mail, web pages or other electronic media. Students who maliciously access, alter, delete, damage or destroy any computer system, computer network, computer program, or data will be subject to disciplinary action by Lamar University, and criminal prosecution as well. Students may not disrupt or attempt to disrupt network traffic, and they may not attempt to monitor or capture network traffic in any way. Finally, students may not intentionally create, store, display, print or transmit information that violates the university’s Sexual Harassment Policy.

Netiquette (Online Etiquette) Statement

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Lamar provides access to network resources, including the Internet, in order to support learning and to prepare students for the 21st century world. Students, however, are expected to adhere to the Lamar University Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks. More comprehensive student code of conduct can be found at https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/code-of-conduct.html.
GENERAL GUIDELINES TO RESPECT ALL PARTICIPANTS

- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others.

GUIDELINES WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS (EMAIL, DISCUSSIONS, BLOGGING, AND ETC.)

- Always sign your names to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting).
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
- Always think before you write.
- Respond respectfully.
- Use appropriate grammar and structure.
- Spell-check your postings.
- Use short paragraphs focused on one idea.
- Use appropriate business language at all times.

Technical Support

Technical Support can be located at http://students.lamar.edu/it-services-and-support/index.html.

Phone: 409-880-2222
Email: servicedesk@lamar.edu

Hours of Operation (CST):
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Course Subject Outline

COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change- all performance dates should remain the same unless there are extenuating circumstances).

January

Weds 23- Syllabus info

Fri 25-What is Acting?

Mon 28-Discuss August: Osage County

Weds 30-Theatre/Acting Basics

February

Fri 1-Discuss Doubt: A Parable
Mon 4-Theatre/Acting Basics

Wed 6-Discuss Proof

Fri 8-Theatre/Acting Basics

Mon 11- *The Birds* paper due. Discuss *The Birds*

Weds 13-Discuss The Laramie Project

Fri 15-Intro to Stanislavsky

Mon 18-Intro to Stanislavsky

Wed 20-MID-TERM PARTNERS AND SCENES ASSIGNED. Spolin Exercises

Fri 22-Spolin Exercises

Mon 25-In Class Work

Weds 27-In Class Work

March

Fri 1-In Class Work

Mon 4-In Class Work

Weds 6-In Class Work

Fri 8-MIDTERM PERFORMANCES
November

Thurs 2-MID-TERM PERFORMANCES

Mon 11-NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK

Weds 13-NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK

Fri 15-NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK

Mon 18- Actor Movement

Wed 20- Actor Movement

Fri 22-Actor Voice

Mon 25- *The Comedy of Errors* paper due. Discuss *The Comedy of Errors*

Weds 27-Character Analysis

Fri 29-FINAL SCENES AND PARTNERS ASSIGNED. TBA

APRIL

Mon 1-TBA

Wed 3-TBA

Fri 5-TBA

Mon 8-In Class Work

Weds 10-In Class Work
Fri 12-In Class Work

Mon 15- *Dance Unleashed* paper due. Discuss *Dance Unleashed*

Wed 17-In Class Work

Fri 19-NO CLASS. GOOD FRIDAY

Mon 22-In Class Work

Weds 24-In Class Work

Fri 26-In Class Work

Mon 29-In Class Work

May

Weds 1-In Class Work

Fri 3-In Class Work

Mon 6-In Class Work

FINAL EXAM: Monday May 13, 11:00am-1:30 pm

Additional Items