Meeting Times

M/W/F 11:30AM-12:25PM

Classroom: TAR 103

Contact Information

Carolyn Johnson
accentcarolyn@gmail.com

Professor Brian LeTraunik
Office: TAR Room 215
Office Phone: 409-880-8154
E-Mail: brian.letraunik@lamar.edu
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 9:00AM-10:00AM
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
TEXTBOOK:

August: Osage County by Tracy Letts

Proof by David Auburn

Doubt by John Patrick Shanley

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman, et.al

The Stanislavski System: The Professional Training of an Actor by Sonia Moore

Course Policies

Rehearsal:

It may be necessary, especially for the final performance, that outside rehearsal will be needed. Please be courteous to your partners and devote the time that is needed. The professor will make himself available to attend outside rehearsals, but this time MUST BE ARRANGED AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

You are required to attend the following Lamar Theatre/Dance Productions:

Luna Gale
October 3-6
Studio Theatre

Permanent Collection
November 7-10
University Theatre

Fall and Recovery
November 22-24
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 and Dance majors receive one free ticket to each performance, and one additional if working on or backstage on the production. Tickets will go on sale the Monday prior to each production. Tickets may be purchased online at the LU Marketplace at www.lamar.edu/ltdtix. In order to receive the $7 ticket price, student tickets must be purchased online. Tickets may also be purchased in the lobby of the theatre one hour prior to the performance. It is highly recommended that tickets be purchased 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.

Attendance: Attendance for this course 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. Please use them wisely. Each subsequent absence after these three 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). YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR ATTENDANCE.

Additional Information:

- Scenes/Monologues: All scenes and monologues 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.
- Physical Contact: Due to the nature of this course, it may be necessary to be in close physical contact with the professor or fellow students. If you have a problem with this, it is your responsibility to alert the professor as soon as possible. If you do not alert the professor, it will be assumed you are comfortable with the physical nature of the course. Likewise, if you have any medical conditions, injuries or physical limitations that will hinder you from fully participating in class, please alert the professor to those immediately.
- It is highly recommended that students have a filled water bottle with them during class. No other food or drink will be allowed.
- Cell phones must be silenced during class. If your cell phone goes off during class, it will be considered as one of your lates.
- 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.

Accreditation Standards

N/A

Evaluation

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Three (3) response papers of mainstage productions and dance concert (150 points each).
2. Monologue (100 points)
3. Midterm (100 points)
4. Final performance (250 points)
5. In class participation (100 points).

Grades are assessed on the following scale:
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!

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 group 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.

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 in order 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

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 the Records Office. For additional help, contact the academic advisor or the Records Office at registration@lamar.edu. Students may not drop a course during the last 20 percent of the term. Students should check the academic calendar at https://www.lamar.edu/academic-calendar for specific dates.

**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.

Additional information is available at the DRC website (http://www.lamar.edu/disability-resource-center/).

**Academic Support**

Academic Support can be located at 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**

*Lamar University recognizes that students may experience challenges that hinder success in their academics and/or college experience. We believe in giving all students access to resources that allow them to overcome these challenges.* If you are struggling with stress, procrastination, anger management, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and/or eating disorders, please reach out to our counseling professionals at the Student Health Center at 880-8466 to call for an appointment or visit our website https://www.lamar.edu/students/student-engagement/student-health-center/index.html for more information about our services.

*Students who faces challenges securing food or housing, tuition and/or books and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the LU Strong program. The program is located in the Setzer Student Center, Room 230 at 409-880-8458 or at lustrong@lamar.edu. Furthermore, please notify your professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any additional resources they may possess.*

*Your information and situation will be treated with the utmost privacy and is protected by Texas law. These services are available to all currently enrolled students at Lamar University and Lamar Institute of Technology.*

*Information on Student Services can be located at 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 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 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.eduacademic-support/code-of-conduct.html](https://students.lamar.eduacademic-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 name 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.eduit-services-and-support/index.html](http://students.lamar.eduit-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.
Attendance Verification

Students must complete an Attendance Verification Quiz for ALL COURSES - both on-campus and online - in which they are enrolled each term by the third class day to comply with U.S. Department of Education attendance requirements. Failure to complete this quiz by the deadline may result in loss of course enrollment and/or financial aid. The quiz is located in EVERY COURSE through LULearn (Blackboard) even if the course meets on campus.

Course Subject Outline

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

August

Mon 26-Syllabus

Wed 28-Acting basics

Fri 30-Discuss Proof

September

Mon 2-LABOR DAY. NO CLASS.

Wed 4-Work together on monologue from Proof

Fri 6-To library- find two monologues

Mon 9-Second monologue from Proof

Wed 11-Bring in monologues

Fri 13-First monologues- basic analyses

Mon 16-Working monologues/ Acting basics

Wed 18-First monologues on their feet/ work
Fri 20-Continue monologue work

Mon 23-TBD

Wed 25-TBD

Fri 27-TBD

Mon 30- Spolin Exercises

October

Wed 2-Spolin Exercises

Fri 4- In-Class Work

Mon 7- Luna Gale papers due. Discuss Luna Gale

Wed 9-In-Class Work

Fri 11-In-Class Work

Mon 14-In-Class Work

Wed 16-In-Class Work

Fri 18-MIDTERM PERFORMANCE

Mon 21-Actor Movement

Wed 23-Actor Movement

Fri 25-Actor Movement
Mon 28-Actor Voice

Wed 30-Actor Voice

November

Fri 1-Actor Voice

Mon 4-Assign Final Scene

Wed 6-TBA

Fri 8-TBA

Mon 11-Permanent Collection papers due. Discuss Permanent Collection

Wed 13-TBA

Fri 15-TBA

Mon 18-Rehearse Final

Wed 20-Rehearse Final

Fri 22-Rehearse Final

Mon 25-Fall and Recovery papers due. Discuss Fall and Recovery

Wed 27-Rehearse Final

Fri 29-THANKSGIVING. NO CLASS
December

Mon 2-Final Rehearsal

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday December 4, 8:00am-10:30am

Additional Items