

THE 115: BASIC ACTING – BLOCK 1, FALL 2019

Class Location: Armstrong 60, Plumb-Fleming Studio Theatre

Class Hours: M/T/W 12-3 & TH/F 12:30-3 (except W 8/28 1-3)

Instructor: Scott Bradley (pronouns: he/him/his)

Office: Armstrong 48B

Office Hours: Tue 3-4pm & by appointment

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**This syllabus may be subject to change*

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

1. In the event of fire or a building evacuation, please exit through the north side of the building (the “front”) and gather as a group in the grass outside of Mercer Hall.
2. In the event of a tornado or severe weather emergency, go to the greenroom hallway.
3. In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 (9-911 from a campus phone) and then call public safety at x4299. Send someone to wait at the front and rear entrances to the building to guide first responders to the classroom.
4. In the event of a violent weapons incident, lock and barricade doors, turn off lights, close window blinds, get low and stay behind cover (desks, walls, etc.). Silence cell phones and stay quiet. Stay put until notified by safety officials that it is safe to leave.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course will be an introductory study of the work of the actor. It will serve as introduction to theatre, improvisation, character work, and the life of a theatre artist.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To nurture the anthropological nature of character study and performance.
- To analyze a character and a play.
- To gain new perspective on what it takes to be an actor.
- To acquire the awareness of the dynamics in a dramatic situation.
- To fully explore the elements of given circumstances, objectives, actions, and tactics as you explore a piece of text.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: (*Knowledge, Inquiry, Communication*)

- speak and write more clearly, listen and read more actively, imagine more intentionally, breathe more deeply, and engage and collaborate more fully with others in creative expression, ensemble activities, and theatrical performance
- connect with diverse ideas and with people, characters, and entities whose experiences may differ from their own and who may be separated from them by time, space, culture, or circumstances

COURSE SUMMARY STATEMENT

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphases on communication, intercultural literacy, citizenship, and well-being. (<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/about-cornell/mission/index.shtml>).

This Course also supports the Mission Statement and Learning Outcomes of the Department of Theatre with emphases on knowledge & application, collaboration, and well-being (<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/theatre/mission-outcomes/index.shtml>).

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance and Tardiness

- Because much of the work for this course is completed in class you can only learn from critical discussion of your and your classmates' work, **attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class period by the instructor**. If you arrive once class has begun you will be marked as late. It is the nature of this class that latecomers disrupt the concentration of the working ensemble often to the degree that an entire session may be lost. Therefore, **two episodes of lateness will be counted as an absence**.
- Each absence will result in a loss of one-half letter grade for the course. If you have an excused absence, contact the instructor before the absence if possible, or immediately after missing class in an emergency. Excused absences include serious illness (with valid doctor's excuse), school-sanctioned activities (athletic team travel, theatre production matinee), death in the family, etc. Final approval of absence rests with instructor. NOTE: Prolonged absences from class, excused or otherwise, will have a detrimental effect on your grade.
- The student is responsible for any work that is missed due to an absence or lateness. The student will be expected to get the notes, find out about assignments, and hand in all assignments on the date they are due. No extra credit opportunities (to make up missed work) or extensions will be given.
- Absences also affect your participation grade and include not showing up for a rehearsal with your scene partner(s) both inside and outside of class. Because this class is participation-oriented, attendance and commitment are expected.
- **YOU HAVE ONE CLASS. I EXPECT YOU TO PRIORITIZE IT.**
- Please remember the College policy states that students can be dropped from a course if they are not present at the beginning of the first meeting. If you do not think you can comply with any of these policies, you should not take the class.

B. Acting Response Paper (*Communication*)

You will need to answer the following questions:

1. What do you know about your artistic instrument now that you didn't before this class? How did you discover this? What surprises you?
2. What exercises resonated with you and why?
3. What exercises were challenging and why?
4. What did you learn from observing other students?
5. How will you take what you learned in this class and apply it to your course of study here at Cornell?

Use examples from class, as well as from any readings and books. It should be double spaced and should be between 3-4 pages in length. Please be sure to include the following as examples:

1. A detailed description of all the exercises, warm-ups, and activities
2. The purpose/objective of each exercise, warm-up, and activity

This will be due on the final day of class.

No emailed assignments will be accepted. All response papers must be stapled or they will not be accepted.

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C. Monologues and Open Scene Work (*Knowledge, Inquiry*)

This is an acting class. You will be expected to find a monologue and work on it through-out the 18 days. We will go over what a monologue is on the first day. You will be graded on your ability to find, memorize, utilize the exercises from class, and perform these pieces. *You should read the play from which the monologue/scene is from and know the context of the piece.*

Please note that if we meet for only a portion of the allotted class time. I do this so you have time before class to meet with your scene partner and use the space for rehearsal. Please utilize this class time well.

GRADING

Grading will be out of a total of 1000 points:

Acting Response Paper	200
Monologue First Round	100
Open Scenes	100
Lip Sync Battle	50
Stranger Observation	50
Final Presentation	200
Attendance/Participation	300

Performance/Presentation grades will be determined by the following criteria:

- Commitment to the text – Memorization & Exploration
- Commitment to the partner(s) – Rehearsal and Connection
- Commitment to the concepts discussed in class – Participation and being Present
- Commitment to the process – Growth and Improvement

CLOTHING

Actors must wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing that is durable and allows for the complete freedom of movement. All classes will start with a physical and vocal warm-up. Hats, earrings, studs, watches, and other jewelry and accessories can be restrictive and dangerous and should be removed upon arrival. Phones must be turned off. Also, the classroom temperature is often a bit cool, so consider bringing an extra sweatshirt for warmth.

Any student arriving to class in clothing deemed inappropriate will be asked to leave and change before returning to class. You will be marked down as late or potentially absent.

PHYSICAL CONTACT

There will be touching and contact between students and teacher. If you ever feel uncomfortable or have any concerns, please speak with the instructor. Also, because of the physical aspect of the class work, it is courteous to practice a certain degree of personal hygiene in order to maintain cleanliness and comfort in the classroom. Please arrive to class clean. Deodorants and fresh breath allow greater freedom for interaction; however, perfumes and colognes should be avoided due to allergies and such. If this is a problem, speak to the instructor

CELL PHONE POLICY

I DON'T WANT TO SEE OR HEAR THEM OR FEEL THEM VIBRATE. PUT THEM AWAY. EVERY TIME I HEAR OR SEE ONE I WILL DEDUCT PARTICIPATION POINTS FROM EVERYONE.

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POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgment of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Compass, our student handbook, under the heading "Academic Policies – Honesty in Academic Work."

POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS

This class looks to bring together, in common pursuit of its educational goals, persons of many nations, races, and creeds. In no aspect of this course shall there be differences in the treatment of persons because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual, and that equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

Cornell College is committed to providing equal opportunities to all students. Students who need accommodations for learning disabilities must provide documentation from a professional qualified to diagnose learning disabilities. For more information see cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml . Students requesting services may schedule a meeting with the disabilities services coordinator as early as possible to discuss their needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan. Ideally, this meeting would take place well before the start of classes. At the beginning of each course, the student must notify the instructor within the first three days of the term of any accommodations needed for the duration of the course.

DROP POLICY

<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/registrar/registration-information/adding-and-dropping-classes.shtml>

THINGS TO BRING TO EVERY CLASS

- A notebook to take notes
- All Assignments on the Date they are Due (this includes both paper and presentation assignments)
- A readiness to participate, a willingness to share, and a support for the work of others

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES (PLEASE SEE THE CALENDAR & HAND OUTS)

Aug/Sept 2019 Basic Acting Calendar

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	25		26		27		28		29		30		31
		Course Intro & Group Dynamics		Stage terminology & Spacial exercises		Focus: Physicality		Monologue meetings		LIP SYNC PRESENTATIONS			
	1		2		3		4		5		6		7
		MONOLOGUES DUE		Improvisation, Rehearse Open Scenes		Focus: Voice		Improvisation, Rehearse Open Scenes		OPEN SCENES DUE			
	8		9		10		11		12		13		14
		STRANGER OBSERVATIONS DUE		Partner Work & Presentations		Focus: Interpreting Text		Rehearse Monologues		Focus: OtherWorld Applications			
	15		16		17		18		19		20		21
		Exercises: TBD		FINAL MONOLOGUES DUE		RESPONSE PAPERS DUE							