
THEATER ARTS in Spring 2021 (DR2000)

Course Code	DR2000	Professor(s)	Seiichi Shiomi
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	W: 15:20-18:15 in C-104	Office Hours	By request
Credits	4	Email	sshiodmi@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

"Acting is living truthfully under imaginary circumstances." — Sanford Meisner

This course is a practical workshop designed to introduce students to the basic tools of acting through individual/group exercises, improvisation and scene/monologue work.

Throughout the semester, students will explore *Method Acting* inspired by Constantin Stanislavski and further developed by the American pioneers: Lee Strasberg, Stella Adler, Uta Hagen and Sanford Meisner. Since its first application at the beginning of the last century, Method Acting remains a major influence on acting training all over the world; and it continues to help actors to achieve truthful and memorable performances both on stage and on screen.

Method Acting training will feature exercises in communication/listening, improvisation, imagination/visualization, emotional preparation, sense memory/physical awareness, relaxation/warm-up, as well as actions and given Circumstances through script-analysis and character work.

This course will help students to understand acting as an organic process of creativity; it will also shed light on the commitment, discipline and passion that are required of the actor in order to become a true, authentic artist.

Students will be assigned scenes to be performed at the end of the semester (final exam).

Course Learning Outcomes

Analyzing scenes in a clear and organic way
Using imagination to enhance their performance
Accessing their emotional resources

Building believable characters
Creating truthful moments both on stage and screen
Relaxing/preparing before performing
Giving actors helpful and productive comments as a director

General Education

Course Outline

Week I - VI: online classes

JANUARY

Week I – 18th – 22nd

Wednesday 20th - Session I

Introduction to acting basics

January 24th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II – 25th – 29th

Wednesday 27th - Session II

Script Analysis I

FEBRUARY

Week III – 1st – 5th

Wednesday 3rd- Session III

Script Analysis II

Week IV – 8th – 12th

February 8th – 10th: Mini break 1 (no classes)

Week V - XV: on-site classes

Week V – 15th – 19th

Wednesday 17th- Session IV

Group exercises

Improvisation I

Circumstance 1: Place

Week VI – 22nd – 26th

February 24th – 28th: Mini break 2 (no classes)

MARCH

Week VII – 1st – 5th

Wednesday 3rd - Session V

Improvisation II

Circumstance 2 & 3: Relationship & Action/Situation

Week VIII – 8th –12th

Wednesday 10th - Session VI

Mid-term exam

Repetition exercise I

Week IX – 15th – 19th

Wednesday 17th - Session VII

Repetition exercise II

March 17th: Mid-semester

March 19th: Mid-semester grades due

Week X – 22nd – 26th

Wednesday 24th - Session VIII

Emotional preparation

Week XI – 29th – 2nd

Wednesday 31st - Session IX

Character I

April 2nd: last day to withdraw from a course.

Last day to choose the CR/NC grading option

APRIL

Week XII – 5th – 9th

April 5th: Easter Monday (no classes)

April 6th: Faculty retreat (no classes)

Wednesday 7th - Session X

Character II

Week XIII – 12th – 16th

Wednesday 14th - Session XI

Individual rehearsals I

Week XIV – 19th – 23rd

Wednesday 21st - Session XII

Individual rehearsals II

Week XV – 26th – 30th

Wednesday 28th - Session XIII

Dress rehearsal

April 28th: Last day of classes

April 29th – May 2nd: Reading days (May 1st: holiday)

May 3rd – 12th: Final Exams

May 26th: all grades due

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Attendance/active participation in class: 40 %

Students are expected to participate in all the exercises and discussions in class with commitment and enthusiasm. (The use of any mobile device is strongly discouraged during class time; it may potentially be interpreted as lack of participation or commitment).

Mid-term exam: 25 %

Improvised scenes or exercises will be evaluated on the basis of how well students have learned about the essential tools of acting.

Final exam: 35 %

Scenes need to be thoroughly rehearsed with their scene partners before the final performance; the commitment to the work that students demonstrate prior to and during the performance is the main criterion for good grades.

Other
