Los Angles Mission College, Spring 2013 Theater 200 – Introduction to Acting Section 0477

Day and time: Mondays 12:10-3:20pm
Class Location: INST 1008
Instructors: Guillermo Avilés-Rodríguez
E-mail: avilesgg@lamission.edu (e-mail is my preferred method of communication)
Office Location: LRC 131B
Office Phone: 818-364-7711
Office Drop In Hours: Mondays 3:30pm-6:30pm~Tuesday 12:30-3:30~Wednesday 11:30am-1:30pm~Thursday 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

ADDING POLICY
Students wishing to add the course on the first day of class should sign in on the wait list sheet as they enter the room. At the end of class, I will check the roll sheet and count empty seats and give away all seats with no-shows. All Students must have a signed contract sheet in order to add this class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the art and craft of acting through lecture, demonstration and independent practice. Students will explore an awareness of self on stage through improvisations and character work; including scenes and monologues. Students will analyze scripts and critique plays.

COURSE CONTENT
• Compare and contrast personal and interpersonal discipline in the theatre. Evaluate the value of discipline in the theatre.
• Describe the function of each area of the stage and distinguish each division. Practice crossing the appropriate proscenium stage areas. Compare one type of staging configuration from another.
• Distinguish each standing position of an actor from another. Describe the purpose of each position.
• Differentiate one theater configuration from another and describe the purpose of each.
• Differentiate the various crosses used by the actor. Assess the quality and justification of various types of crosses Demonstrate the various crosses used by the actor.
• Define a task and activity. Describe the importance of the use of props and costumes. Demonstrate the ability to use tasks, activities, costumes and props in a scene.
• Define and describe the parts of a dramatic structure within a scene or play. Analyze a scene for dramatic value. Employ the various parts of dramatic structure into a scene.
• Define stage fright. Explain the symptoms of stage fright. Formulate ways to reduce the symptoms of stage fright.
• Differentiate between different types of monologues. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a staged monologue explore ways to present a well-structured monologue.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will:
• Construct and perform a character based on a script
• Prepare a scene for performance in collaboration with a group of classmates
• Evaluate a live performance using a fixed rubric

REQUIRED MATERIALS
Theater 200 Course Reader (Available at Mission Student Store)
Ink pen (Blue or Black only) Journal/Composition Folder (Available in LA Mission College Bookstore)
Various plays as decided by in class casting (by Instructor)
N.B.: Choosing to not procure required materials may result in your exclusion from the class.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Unless otherwise notified, from this day forward please come to class in loose layered clean and comfortable clothing that you can move in comfortably and **with closed toe shoes**. Hats or head covering of any type are prohibited (see me for religious exceptions). Please be sure to bathe and or ware deodorant to class.

ATTENDANCE

1. Attendance is mandatory and class will begin punctually. Please be on time. Being tardy more than two times equals an absence. An early departure is treated as a tardy.
2. Absences will adversely affect your grade. Participation points, exercises and quizzes cannot be made up. Whenever absences "in hours" exceeds the number of hours the class meets per week, the instructor will exclude the students from the class. Again being tardy more than two times will be treated as an absence.
3. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what was done in class and whether there are any assignment or schedule changes. If written work is due, arrange to deliver the work to me on the day of class; your grade for that assignment will go down a full grade (from the grade you get on your assignment) for each day it is late (A to B to C etc.) All requests to make up work must be made in writing.
4. It is recommended that you enroll your cell phone number in LA Mission's AlertU system. This is an emergency notification system whereby you will be contacted via cell phone should there be a campus emergency or closure. Go to http://www.lamission.edu/students/ on the top left to enter your cell phone number. You will need to text the system with a "Y", after you get a confirmation text from the system to complete enrolment.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Your overall grade is based on quality of class participation, performances, written work, and exam results.

N.B. Acting can be a highly subjective art form. To avoid any confusion I will provide you with a rubric that will clearly outline the expectations for all in class performances. Furthermore I will be solely responsible for assigning your grade for all your performances regardless of what response the class gives. Your feelings about a given performance's quality are important but not germane to the grade you receive.

1. In Class Exercise .....15 points
2. Reader Assignments……20 points
3. Final Showing of Scene Exercise…….....10 points
4. Quizzes (4 at 5pt each) .....20 points
5. Midterm: Final Showing of Monologue ..... 15 points
6. Final: Showing of Scene/Monologue……..10 points
7. Participation……10 Points

TOTAL ..... 100 points

A: 94-100	B-: 80-83	D+: 67-69
A-: 90-93	C+: 77-79	D: 64-66
B+: 87-89	C: 74-76	D-: 60-63
B: 84-86	C-: 70-73	F: 60- >

ELECTRONIC DEVICES/ AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING

Cell phones, cameras, audio recorders, I-Phones, laptops, Blackberries, e-readers, and any other electronic communication devices are not allowed in class at any time and must be stored away and turned off before the beginning class. Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device without prior consent of the instructor. Any student violating this section is subject to disciplinary action. If your phone goes off during class you will be asked to leave class and will not receive participation credit for that day. If you are expecting a call for some sort of emergency, please speak with the instructor prior to the beginning of class. **During breaks, please step outside of class to check your email and/or to text.**

PARTICIPATION

I will also take into account the quality of your participation in class, and may adjust your grade either up a step

(i.e., B+ to A-) or down a step (i.e., A- to B+) based on how you have engaged with and contributed to the classroom community. Using cell phones, checking the time on your cell phone, checking to see if you turned off your cell phone, eating, putting your feet up on the furniture, or otherwise distracting from learning during class time are all examples of poor participation.

PROPS
Guns, knives, or weapons of any kind must be cleared first with the Mission Sheriff's Office on campus and then with instructor at least a week before scene showing.

EXTRA CREDIT
Extra Credit opportunities often arise in this class but they are not guaranteed. Please be careful about getting yourself in a situation where you will need extra credit to pass this class.

MAKE UP
No make-up is available for a missed presentation. Students wishing to make up other assignments for any reason will need to turn in a one-page typed written request along with any supporting documentation. No make-up assignments will be given to any student without this written request.

THE ENSEMBLE SPIRIT
Together as a class we will become a bit of a theatre ensemble, a group that helps each other create work. Plays and theatre work are fun and full of passion, but they can be a little scary and a little challenging, and none of us are perfect at it. It can feel risky, but I want to encourage you to take risks, and to make each other feel safe to take risks. This is our opportunity to create a safe space. Of course this means being courteous in terms of cell phone use, texting, eating, and so forth. But in a larger sense, please do everything you can to positively support each other, in the way you give each other respect and attention, in the way you collaborate with each other, and with the way you share your energy and sense of spirit with each other.

A NOTE ON MATERIAL WE READ, WATCH, AND CREATE
Some of the material we are reading or viewing in this course deals frankly, but not gratuitously, with issues of violence and sexuality. If you have concerns about this, please see me in advance. In the original material that you will create in your exercise, you may want to explore certain mature issues. I encourage this. However, in your exploration, please be as respectful of your audience as possible, and do not look to purposefully shock or offend your spectators. Almost always, this will not be the best way to tell the story that you want to tell.

HARASSMENT
This course requires that all members of the class be respectful in ALL areas of communication. Be respectful of physical boundaries, new ideas, and cultural perspectives and treat all the way you wish to be treated. This course may sometimes require physical touching between students (only when it is appropriate in the context of training and learning- i.e. Theatre Improvisation Games.) If any student feels that she/he will not feel comfortable in a course that involves some physical contact, please discuss this with the instructor as soon a possible. If you decide to continue with the course please, at any time, communicate to other students or to the instructor whether you want to participate with the exercise/demonstration that requires touching. There is no stigma attached to stepping out of participating for any reason.

PHYSICAL OR LEARNING DISABILITIES
If any student feels they may need an accommodation for any type of disability, please inform the instructor. If you have any injuries or physical problems that are permanent or temporary that might affect your participation in some exercises--please tell the instructor as soon as possible. You are the best judge of your physical limits and are encouraged to take care of yourself. If you require an accommodation for a disability in order to complete the goals of the course, please go to the campus DSP&S office (located on the first floor of the Instructional Building (INST 1018) to obtain an official accommodation prior to the second-class meeting. Please present accommodation

paperwork provided by the DSP&S office to the instructor before the beginning of the second session. No accommodations are provided to any student without proper documentation from DSP&S. Please see the instructor if you have any questions.

PLAGIARISM
When you write you are doing something good and important to your growth as both a writer and a student. When you use another writer's words or ideas when you write and you don't give them credit you are guilty of plagiarism. I reserve the right to determine if cheating or plagiarism has occurred; if it has then you will receive an "F" on the assignment or exam, and you may receive an "F" for the course.

CHILDREN, GUESTS AND ANIMALS
Due to insurance limitations and other concerns children, guests and animals are not allowed in the classroom without instructor's prior consent. (Registered dogs that help people with physical challenges are exempt).

STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18
It is a requirement of this course for all students under the age of 18 to bring parents and set up a time to meet with Instructor before the end of the second week of classes. Failure to meet this requirement will result in you being dropped from the class by the instructor.

A NOTE ON THE SYLLABUS
This syllabus is a contract between the Individual Student and the Instructor. If you are in the class, you are agreeing to follow the requirements of the syllabus. As your instructor, I agree to do my best to help you to succeed in the course. To that end, I expect you to meet with me at the first sign that I am not teaching you to your satisfaction. Indeed, if you need to see me for whatever reason, please do. This syllabus is subject to revision with prior notification to the student by the instructor.

N.B.
A new state policy in effect as of Summer 2012 limits students to one (1) attempt per course. Receiving a grade or "W" for a course counts as an attempt, regardless of when the course was taken. Withdrawal before the drop deadline will help you avoid a "W" on your transcript. This is also addressed in your Spring 2013 Schedule of Classes.

COLLEGE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
Admissions and Records: Students can register for classes, update contact information, request transcripts, file petitions for graduation, and drop classes at this office. For more information call 818-833-3322 or visit: http://www.lamission.edu/admissions/

Assessment Center: Offers student assessments in English, English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) and Mathematics. Please contact the Assessment Center at (818) 364-7613 for more information or visit http://www.lamission.edu/assessment/

Bookstore: For hours of operation, book availability, buybacks, and other information call 818-364-7767 or 7768 or visit http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/default.asp

Counseling Department Office: For appointments and information call 818-364-7655 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/counseling/

Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S): For appointments, eligibility and information call 818-364-7732 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/dsps/

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS): For appointments, eligibility and information

call 818-364-7645 or visit http://www.lamission.edu/eops/

Week	DATE	FOCUS	NOTES
1	2/4	Syllabus: Introductions, Expectations, Theories	
2	2/11	Warm Ups Memorization Techniques & Principles	Reader Assignment #1 Due
3	2/18	**No Class**	**President's Day**
4	2/25	Exploration of non-verbal communication	Reader Assignment #2 Due
5	3/4	An introduction of Theatre vocabulary and conventions	Quiz #2
6	3/11	Elements of speech, dialogues	Reader Assignment #3 Due
7	3/18	Exploration of Physical Characteristics	Final Showing of Monologue
8	3/25	Final showing of Group Scene	Midterm Presentation
9	4/1	**Spring Break**	**No Class**
10	4/8	Tactics and motivated sequence	August: Osage County Discussion/Quiz
11	4/15	Script Analysis	Final Showing Monologue/Scene
12	4/22	A look at the power of instinct and pure impulse	Quiz #3
13	4/29	Final showing of group scene (off book)	Presentation Reader Assignment #3
14	5/6	Rehearsal	Quiz #4
15	5/13	In preparation for final/Stumble Through	Presentation in Space
16	5/27	**No Class**	**Memorial Day**
May 29th FINAL 3:00-5:00			

2012-13Term Dates

Summer 2012 Period Begins Summer 2012 Ends	**6/11/12 Mon** **8/26/12 Sun** **actual summer instruction schedules vary by campus**
Fall Instruction Begins Fall Finals End	**8/27/12 Monday** **12/16/12 Sunday**
Winter Instruction Begins Winter Instruction Ends	**1/2/13 Wednesday** **2/3/13 Sunday**
Spring Instruction Begins Spring Finals End	**2/4/13 Monday** **6/3/13 Monday**
Summer 2013 Period Begins Summer 2013 Period Ends	**6/10/13 Mon** **8/18/13 Sunday** **actual summer instruction schedules vary by campus**

LACCD Holidays and Non-Instruction Days

July 4, 2012	Wednesday	Independence Day
September 3, 2012	Monday	Labor Day
November 12, 2012	Monday	Veteran's Day
November 22, 2012	Thursday	Thanksgiving
November 23, 2012	Friday	Thanksgiving
November 24, 2012	Saturday	Non-Instruction
November 25, 2012	Sunday	Non-Instruction
December 24, 2012	Monday	Holiday
December 25, 2012	Tuesday	Holiday
December 26, 2012	Wednesday	Non-Instruction
December 27, 2012	Thursday	Non-Instruction
December 28, 2012	Friday	Holiday
December 29, 2012	Saturday	Non-Instruction
December 30, 2012	Sunday	Non-Instruction
December 31, 2012	Monday	Holiday
January 1, 2013	Tuesday	Holiday
January 21, 2013	Monday	Martin Luther King
February 15, 2013	Friday	President's
February 16, 2013	Saturday	Non-Instruction
February 17, 2013	Sunday	Non-Instruction
February 18, 2013	Monday	President's
March 28, 2013	Thursday	Non-Instruction
March 29, 2013	Friday	Spring Break
March 30, 2013	Saturday	Spring Break
March 31, 2013	Sunday	Spring Break
April 1, 2013	Monday	Cesar Chavez
April 2, 2013	Tuesday	Spring Break
April 3, 2013	Wednesday	Spring Break
April 4, 2013	Thursday	Spring Break
April 5, 2013	Friday	Spring Break
May 27, 2013	Monday	Memorial Day
July 4, 2013	Thursday	Independence Day