

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**THET-101**  
**Introduction to Acting**  
**3 Semester Hours**  
**Fine Arts and Humanities Core Course**

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

An introduction to the actor's art through exercises, improvisations and scripted work designed to boost self confidence in oral and physical communication skills as well as foster imaginative responses to the creative theatre process. (3 hours weekly)

**Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning**

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Incorporate breath and body relaxation techniques into a physical warm up routine for rehearsals and performances onstage.
2. Demonstrate a commitment to the concept of theatrical "Ensemble" through attendance, punctuality and mental readiness in the rehearsal and performance process.
3. Apply basic director/actor rehearsal vocabulary to the rehearsal process
4. Investigate basic sensory work in the actor's process through exercises
5. Improvise truthfully within the structure of open scene work
6. Distinguish between the playing of emotion or state of being and playing actions
7. Engage in the acting cycle of giving and receiving information as well as increasing listening skills onstage by objectively restating, in his/her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.
8. Engage in clear, honest and constructive communication with members of the class, applying constructive feedback from instructor and classmates.
9. Perform a short monologue and/or open ended scene from memory, communicating the abstract or concrete idea so that the audience clearly perceives the intended message.
10. Demonstrate appreciation of the art of acting by exhibiting correct theatre etiquette during live professional productions, writing response papers about performances and actively participating in class discussions of performances.
11. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the audience can understand. This will include diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pace, pitch, and volume.

**Major Topics**

- I. Physical and Mental Preparation for Acting
  - A. Breathing exercises
  - B. Stretching exercises
  - C. Vocal warm-ups

- D. Concentration exercises
  - E. Sense Memory exercises
- II. Partnering Onstage in Open Ended Scene Work
- A. Playing emotion
  - B. Playing action
  - C. Listening skills
  - D. Improvisation skills
  - E. Performance skills
- III. Communication and Criticism
- A. Theatre etiquette
  - B. Critiquing professional performances
  - C. Feedback for in-class projects
  - D. Director/Actor rehearsal vocabulary

### **Course Requirements**

**Grading/Exams:** Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, and will include the following:

1. Clearly communicated performances of open ended scenes and/or monologues
2. Comfortable clothing and shoes that are safe for movement work (no open toes and no heavy boots)
3. Attendance at two professional performances
4. Written response papers to productions and class projects
5. Active class participation.
6. Serving as an usher for one student or professional production.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a Fine Arts and Humanities Core Course, and an Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, Humanities and Oral Communications Elective.