

# Course Outline

**THET-181**

**Acting I**

**3 Credits**

**Arts and Humanities Core Course**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

An introduction to the art and craft of Acting, focusing on the actor's inner and outer resources including physical and vocal response, concentration, imagination, and sensory awareness. Also includes beginning level work on character creation through improvisation, performance and script analysis. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (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. Center and focus inward to prepare for creative work through relaxation, physical warm-ups and mental readiness.
2. Demonstrate commitment to the work ethic of "ensemble" through attendance, punctuality, concentration, trust and preparation.
3. Release physical and vocal impulses that arise while playing an action or responding to another's reaction.
4. Play an action truthfully with courage and emotional commitment to achieve a goal.
5. Investigate one's own sense memory and emotional memory, on a basic level, as an interior source for character imagery and inspiration.
6. Integrate, on a basic level, Stanislavsky's method of creating a role through elementary scoring of the text with goals, obstacles, tactics and expectations.
7. Analyze scripts from world stage literature for given circumstances, character traits and character motivations.
8. Memorize and perform assigned short monologues and/or scenes from world stage literature appropriate to the age and gender of the acting student.
9. Adjust one's performance by integrating direction and constructive criticism.
10. Integrate actor/director vocabulary terms into the rehearsal process and identify the various parts of the theatre's physical structure.
11. Assess and critique both professional theatre performances and in-class peer performances, on a basic level, through directed response questions.
12. Demonstrate correct theatre etiquette as an audience member.
13. Demonstrate active listening skills by objectively restating, in his/her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.
14. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the receiver(s) can understand. This will include diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pace, pitch, and volume.
15. Communicate an abstract or concrete idea so that the receiver(s) clearly perceives the intended message.
16. Effectively deliver a formal oral presentation in front of a group.
17. Demonstrate the ability to communicate using appropriate language.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Theatre Vocabulary
  - A. Terms relating to the theatre's physical structure
  - B. Terms relating to the actor's voice and body
  - C. Terms relating to the Actor's creative process in building a character
  - D. Terms relating to blocking
  - E. Other theatre artists
- II. Preparation for the Creative Process
  - A. Relaxation
  - B. Physical Awareness and Warm-up Exercises
  - C. Vocal Awareness and Warm-up Exercises
  - D. Concentration exercises
  - E. Trust exercises
  - F. Building Ensemble
  - G. Memorization techniques
- III. The Creative Process
  - A. Impulse
  - B. Action
  - C. Sensory Awareness
  - D. Imagination
  - E. Listening Skills
  - F. Emotional Life
  - G. Improvisation
  - H. Rehearsals
  - I. Performance
- IV. Script Analysis
  - A. Given Circumstances
  - B. The Stanislavsky System
  - C. Beat changes (Goal, Obstacle, Tactic, Expectation)
  - D. Character Analysis
- V. Observing and Evaluating Performances
  - A. Constructive Peer Criticism
  - B. Critiquing Professional Theatre Production
  - C. Audience Etiquette

## **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member and will include the following:

- A. Clearly communicated performances of monologues and/or scenes
- B. Well prepared written assignments for class projects
- C. Attendance at two theatre productions
- D. Classroom attendance/punctuality and active participation
- E. Appropriate clothing and shoes that are safe and conducive to movement work

## **Other course information**

This course is an Arts and Humanities core course and an Arts, Humanities and Arts and Sciences elective. It is also an Oral Communications course.