

Course: TA225T Acting I  
Credit: 3 semester hours  
Semester: Fall 2023, Cycles 2 and 3  
Time: Wednesdays, 1:00-4:00 PM  
Location: Greenroom  
Instructor: Brittany Hill  
Office information: East Education Building, Room 228  
Email: [brittany.hill@calvary.edu](mailto:brittany.hill@calvary.edu)

## I. Description

This course will address the academic, practical, and spiritual foundations of theatre with two emphases: (1) how the believer artist impacts the culture and reclaims the art form, and (2) beginning performance techniques and strategies for the actor. It will cover basic relaxation techniques, voice and diction, goal, obstacle, tactics, expectation, and two forms of beginning script analysis. This course will equip the student to deliver believable, natural performances. (\*Interdisciplinary Bible Course) (This course may be taken as a General Education elective)

## II. Objectives

A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Communicate the academic foundations and competencies involved for the actor.
  - a. Program Objectives: 2, 7
  - b. Assignments:
    1. Script analysis
    2. GOTESheet
    3. Character Analysis
2. Develop the practical skills and techniques necessary to the beginning actor.
  - a. Program Objectives: 2, 3, 7
  - b. Assignments:
    1. Rehearsal Ethic
    2. In-class acting exercises
    3. Basic Object Exercise
    4. *WinterShorts* scene performance
3. Develop a coherent, articulate, creative approach through which the student is able to communicate to a fallen world.
  - a. Program Objectives: 1, 4, 5, 6
  - b. Assignments:
    1. Script Analysis

*Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."*

2. GOTESheet
3. Character Analysis
4. Rehearsal Ethic
5. *WinterShorts* scene performance

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will be able to:

1. Write an articulate script analysis and character analysis, demonstrating the fundamental principles of the actor's homework.
  - a. Program Objectives: 2, 6, 7
  - b. Assignments:
    1. Script Analysis
    2. GOTESheet
    3. Character analysis
2. Understand the necessity of physical, analytical, and emotional acting techniques and be able to apply them to rehearsal and performance.
  - a. Program Objectives: 3, 5, 7
  - b. Assignments:
    1. In-class acting exercises
    2. Basic Object Exercise
    3. *WinterShorts* Scene Performance
3. Demonstrate through rehearsal and performance that they have grown as an actor.
  - a. Program Objectives: 4, 5, 7
  - b. Assignments:
    1. In-class acting exercises
    2. Basic Object Exercise
    3. *WinterShorts* Scene Performance

### III. Required Materials

- ❖ *The Bible* is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
- ❖ *Acting One*, Robert Cohen, 4<sup>th</sup> edition
  - Publisher: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, Boston, 2008
  - ISBN 9780073514161
  - Price: \$12.92-34.99

- *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller
  - Dramatists Play Service, Inc. (2007)
  - ISBN-13: 978-0822200161
  - Price: \$7.20 (before buying, please email me; I have 6 copies to lend)
- ❖ *Practical Handbook for the Actor*, Bruder, Cohn, Olnek, Pollack, Previto, Zigler
  - Publisher: Vintage Books, Random House, NY, 1986
  - ISBN -13: 978-0-394-74412-4
  - Price: \$2.20
- ❖ *The Complete Tips: Ideas for Actors* by Jon Jory
  - Publisher: Smith and Kraus, Inc. Lyme, NH. 2013.
  - ISBN# 978-1575258539
  - Price: \$12.84
- ❖ Instructor hand-outs

#### IV. Requirements

##### A. Specific Course Requirements:

- Written script analysis
- Written character analysis
- In-class performance of acting technique exercises
- In-class rehearsals of scene work
- Out-of-class rehearsals of scene work
- Performance of scene work – final exam

##### B. Writing

- All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
- The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview." identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.

##### C. Quizzes

- *Practical Handbook for the Actor* Reading Quiz

##### D. Exams

- *WinterShorts* Scene Performance

#### V. Methods

- A. reading and then watching the performance of a play for script analysis
- B. class discussion
- C. character analysis on the character being performed in the chosen scene work
- D. lecture
- E. preparation for acting – physical flexibility, voice and diction, relaxation techniques, warm-up exercises
- F. rehearsal critiques
- G. performance critiques
- H. evaluations of in-class acting exercises

## VI. Grading

- script analysis 20%
- character analysis 20%
- rehearsal ethic 20%
- performance critique (final exam) 20%
- in-class acting exercises 15%
- *Practical Handbook for the Actor Quiz* 5%
- grading scale
  - A 100-93
  - A- 92-90
  - B+ 89-87
  - B 86-83
  - B- 82-80
  - C+ 79-77
  - C 76-73
  - C- 72-70
  - D+ 69-67
  - D 66-63
  - D- 62-60
  - F 59 and below.

\* Please note that some of the materials assigned for class contain occasionally inappropriate language. Although this language is not pervasive, it is not condoned in class, nor do I approve of it; however, the ideas presented in these materials are so powerful as to warrant a sifting of their contents to separate the wheat from the chaff. There is a constant tension for the believer artist in regard to how best to honor God, how best to be culturally relevant, how best to offer hope where the world offers despair. This tension is, however, inherent for any believer, but particularly so for the artist. If any of you think this material could be potentially offensive, please contact me ahead of class.

## VII. Class Schedule

\*What follows is only a tentative schedule

Week	Assignment	Topic
1	Relaxation techniques, voice and diction exercises, tongue twisters; memorize assigned tongue twister for next week Theatre games, trust exercises Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>p. ix-10 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> </ul> Discuss scene selection and direction	Theatre, the Christian World View, and impacting the culture
2	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>All My Sons</i></li> <li>p. 11-18 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li><i>Tips: Basics</i>, p. 17-29</li> </ul> Watch <i>All My Sons</i> in class Go over script analysis handout Tongue twister performance and competition	The Job of the Actor  Script Analysis  Rehearsal ethic
3	<b>LABOR DAY</b>  <b>Class Scene #1 Assigned</b>	
4	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19-39 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li><i>Tips: The Inside</i>, p. 32-36</li> </ul> <b>Copies of Directing Class Scenes Available Today!</b>	Physical Action Analyzing a Scene Script Analysis
5	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part One and lesson 1 in text, <i>Acting One</i>, p. 1-11</li> <li>Read p. 40-47 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li><i>Tips: Technique</i>, p. 38-63</li> </ul> <b>Script analysis on <i>All My Sons</i> due</b> Acting exercises – the Basic Object Exercise handout; watch Uta Hagen BOE	Preparation for Acting  The Truth of the Moment
	WinterShorts scripts available in Library	
6	Reading assignments for class today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lesson 2 in <i>Acting One</i>, p. 13-18 for discussion next week</li> <li>p. 48-54 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li><i>Tips: Technique</i>, p. 64-88</li> </ul> <b>Performances of basic object exercise</b>	What is Acting?  Externals
7	Reading assignments for class today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lesson 3, p. 21-27 in <i>Acting One</i></li> <li>p. 55-58 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li><i>Tips: Adding Dimension</i>, p. 90-103</li> </ul>	Goal and Obstacle Preparing for a Scene

	Acting exercises (in class)	
	WinterShorts Auditions 6:00-10:00 PM	
8	In class movement exercises <b>Practical Handbook</b> quiz 1	
	<b>NO CLASS</b> <b>FALL BREAK</b>	
#9	Movement exercises Stage Combat Class Scene #1 Performance	
#10	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lesson 4 in <i>Acting One</i>, p. 29-37</li> <li>• p. 59-64 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li>• <b>Tips:</b> The Work Needs and State of Being, p. 106-118</li> </ul> Acting exercises (in class) Memorize the two scenes, “What did you do last night?” p. 40 and “I’m going away” p. 44 for use in contentless scenes on 10/22	Acting with the “Other” Troubleshooting
#11	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lesson 5 in <i>Acting One</i>, p. 39-44</li> <li>• p. 65-68 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li>• <b>Tips:</b> Stations on the Line and Building the Role, p. 120-140</li> </ul> Acting exercises (in class) – contentless scenes ( <b>make sure these are memorized!!!</b> ) Out-of-class rehearsal of performance scene	Beginning to Act The Tools of the Craft
#12	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lesson 6 and 7 in <i>Acting One</i></li> <li>• p. 69-75 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li>• <b>Tips:</b> The Director and No-nos p. 142-161</li> </ul> Memorize any three of the excerpted speeches on p. 56-7 for use on 11/20	Tactics, Expectation Pitfalls of working in the real world The Emotional Trap The Myth of Character
	AUDITIONS for Spring Play	
	CALLBACKS for Spring Play	
#13	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lesson 8-9 in <i>Acting One</i></li> <li>• p. 76-81 in <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li>• <b>Tips:</b> People Stuff and Character, p. 164-180</li> </ul> Go over GOTEsheet and character analysis handouts Performance: short speeches, p. 56-7	GOTE, Preparing a Role Keeping the Theare Clean Conclusion

Week	Assignment	Topic
#14	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesson 10, 11, and 12 in <i>Acting One</i></li> <li>• Quiz on <i>Practical Handbook</i></li> <li>• <i>Tips</i>: Comedy and Strategy, p.182-195</li> </ul> <b>Dress rehearsals – in class scene performance</b> <b>GOTESheets and character analysis due</b> Memorize the scene (contingent upon your gender!) in “The Gentleman Caller” on p. 76-78 for use in exercises on 11/15	Rehearsing Staging the Scene Choices
	<b>10:00 am-10:30 pm</b> <b>Technical Load-in</b> <b>Final Dress Rehearsals</b> <b>WinterShorts Performance</b>	
#15	Reading assignments for class today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lesson 13 in <i>Acting One</i>, p. 69-79</li> <li>• <i>Tips</i>: Movement in Space and Veterans, p. 220-237</li> </ul> <b>Dress rehearsals – in class scene performance</b>	Performing
#16	Course critique/Acting Recital debrief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read ch.14 in <i>Acting One</i> for discussion in class today</li> </ul> Performance: “Gentleman Caller” exercise	Evaluation and Improvement

## Policies

A great story is about someone who wants something so badly they overcome conflict and obstacles to get it! You’re here to get an education, right? There are *so* many obstacles to getting an education - money, time, the draw of relationships, cars that only work when it’s over fifty degrees, coming down with chicken pox, ad infinitum! Just don’t let attendance be the obstacle that gets you!

Theatre and creativity are hands-on activities; your presence in class is important. Theatre classes need you as much as you need them! The trust and dynamic necessary to creating good theatre doesn’t happen in a vacuum. These courses are hands-on, minds and bodies engaged, full steam ahead!

- ❖ Calvary University has no official attendance policy. Students are responsible to the class instructor for work missed during an absence for any cause. When classes are missed due to official school sponsored events or functions the sponsoring faculty should submit a list of affected students to the Academic Office who will then make the list available to all instructors to verify excused absences.
- ❖ Class Withdrawal: in no case is the cessation of class attendance taken as an intent to withdraw from or drop a course. In order to officially withdraw from a class, the student must notify the Registrar's Office. (Please see the Refund Policy in the Finances section of this catalog for information about withdrawing from a class.)
- ❖ Written Assignments are due via email by midnight of the date assigned, but preferably by class time. Papers and reading assignments must be completed on time. **Work not completed on time will be graded down accordingly.**
  - A paper or written assignment will go down one full grade if it isn't turned in by the due date.
  - After that, the letter grade will go down one full grade every three days the assignment is late.
  - After that time, it will receive no credit.
  - If the student does not complete the final exam (scene work in *WinterShorts*), he/she will automatically fail the class.
  - If the student doesn't participate and/or is not prepared for 9 in-class acting exercises, he/she will automatically fail the class.
- ❖ Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator ([aso@calvary.edu](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- ❖ All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
- ❖ *Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.*
- ❖ The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.