

COURSE OUTLINE

**Theatre Arts 100 (C-ID Number: 151)
Introduction to Acting (C-ID Title: Acting I)**

I. Catalog Statement

Theatre Arts 100 is an acting class designed for the beginner with little or no previous acting experience. Students practice techniques to develop relaxation, concentration, and stage presence in front of an audience. Class work includes group and individual exercises, theatre games, improvisation, and written critique of live theatre productions.

Lecture/Demonstration Units: 2.0

Laboratory Units: 1.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture/Demonstration Hours: 32.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 80.0

Prerequisite: None.

Note: During the semester, students are expected to attend professional and Glendale Community College Theatre Department productions as a part of the learning process about acting.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening-Speaking 4; Math 1.

Minimum requirements are skills at or above English 192, English 120, and ESL 145.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. identify methods of overcoming stage fright;
2. analyze acting elements in a script from the contemporary American theatre;
3. evaluate amateur and professional productions;
4. memorize the content of a scripted drama and demonstrate in a physical performance;

5. demonstrate and memorize the content of a scripted drama into a physical performance;
6. recognize the basic tenets of the art of acting.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours 80

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|---|-----------------|
| A. Acting as an Art Form | Lecture 5 hours |
| 1. History of acting: ancient Greece and Rome to contemporary theatre | |
| 2. Contemporary methods | |
| a. Stanislavski | |
| b. Strasberg | |
| c. Meisner | |
| d. Chekhov | |
| e. Viewpoints | |
| 3. Styles: classical to performance art | |
| 4. Types of stages | |
| a. Arena | |
| b. Thrust | |
| c. Proscenium | |
| d. Black box | |
| e. Experimental | |
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| B. Acting: Basic Skills | Lecture 5 hours |
| 1. Relaxation | Lab 10 hours |
| 2. Breath studies | |
| 3. Concentration | |
| 4. Memorization | |
| 5. Sense memory | |
| 6. Imagination and substitution | |
| 7. Improvisation | |
| 8. Observation | |
| 9. Articulation | |
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| C. Approaching Text | Lecture 5 hours |
| 1. Play and character analysis | Lab 10 hours |
| a. Theme | |
| b. Plot | |
| c. Conflict | |
| d. Human significance and relation to life | |
| e. Research | |
| f. Character biography | |
| 2. Breaking down a script | |
| a. Beats | |
| b. Actions | |
| c. Given circumstances | |
| d. Objective | |

1. Tactics
2. Obstacles
3. Inner life and subtext

- D. Rehearsing Lecture 5 hours
Lab 18 hours
1. Expectations in rehearsal
 - a. Rehearsal ethics and etiquette
 - b. Blocking
 1. Center stage
 2. Stage left
 3. Stage right
 4. Upstage
 5. Downstage
 - c. Notes
 1. Constructive criticism
 2. Writing down notes and blocking
- E. Presentation in Front of an Audience: Lecture 5 hours
Lab 10 hours
1. The audition/interview
 - a. Preparation
 - b. Introduction
 2. In-class showings
 - a. Monologues
 - b. Scenes
 - c. Improvisations
 - d. Individual exercises
 3. The performance
 - a. Stage fright, “going up on lines”
 - b. Audience’s role
- F. Commerce of Acting Lecture 7 hours
1. Opportunities to practice the craft of acting
 - a. Community theatre
 - b. Regional theatre
 - c. Broadway, Off-Broadway, Off-off Broadway
 - d. Site-specific theatre
 - e. Commercial acting
 - f. Acting for the camera
 2. Casting and expectations
 - a. Theatrical headshot
 - b. Credits and resume
 - c. Acting unions
 - d. Booking the job
 - e. Trade papers

V. **Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. lectures and demonstration;
2. instructor-directed practice;
3. student performances;
4. analysis and application of acting methods;
5. discussion and review of acting concepts.

VI. **Out of Class Assignments**

The following assignments may be used in the course:

1. individual project: Memorization (e.g. memorize a monologue, passage from a script, blocking);
2. reading and analyzing (e.g. marking up a playscript, reading textbook for discussion);
3. written assignments related to class concepts and readings (e.g. a personal journal, a critical analysis of a playwright's intent, or socio-political analysis of the time in which a play was written);
4. field activity (e.g. visit a theatre space or attend a play);
5. critique (e.g. critique of a play; play review).

VII. **Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

1. instructor evaluation of in-class performances;
2. critique of projects and assignments;
3. mid-term examinations;
4. quizzes;
5. final project.

VIII. **Textbooks**

Cohen, Robert. *Acting One*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2008. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0-07-351416-1

Golson, Alex. *Acting Essentials, Or, Just Say Your Lines like You Mean Them and Don't Bump into the Scenery: A Practical, Beginning Acting Handbook*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2002. Print.
11th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0-7674-2251-2

IX. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. identify methods of overcoming stage fright;
2. analyze acting elements in a script from the contemporary American theatre;

3. evaluate amateur and professional productions;
4. demonstrate and memorize the content of a scripted drama into a physical performance;
5. recognize the basic tenets of the art of acting.