

Northern Marianas College

CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 2011

Type of Action:


- ☐ New
- ☒ Modification
- ☐ Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- ☐ Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: DR 202

Course Title: Acting

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

The course guide has been upgraded to reflect current curriculum content, teaching methods, and student learning outcomes.


John Jenkins

Proposer

5/20/11

Date

Thomas D. Sharts

Department Chair



05/20/11

Date

Barbara K. Merfalen

Dean of Academic Programs and Services



5.20.11

Date

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Course Guide

Course: DR 202 Acting

1. Department: Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. Purpose

DR 202 Acting provides students with a challenging and yet enjoyable way to learn expressive and communication skills, gain self-confidence, think flexibly and under stress, analyze and interpret complex information, work as team members, and develop a sense of responsibility and punctuality. These skills are an asset in any academic or professional context. In addition, theater is an important aspect of culture and creative expression which has the capability of enriching the human experience on both the individual and societal levels.

The primary target population for this course consists of students pursuing the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts, as it fulfills the General Education fine arts requirement for the General, Elementary Education, and Special Education degree emphases in Liberal Arts. It would also constitute a valuable elective for any student wishing to learn about the art and experience of acting.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

No textbook is required. Individual scripts will be purchased and the royalty fees paid; however, the titles will vary from semester to semester. Handouts on specific topics will also be distributed.

Recommended references for instructors:

- (1) Hagen, Uta. *Respect for Acting*. Macmillan, 1973.
- (2) Linklater, Kristin. *Freeing the Natural Voice*. Drama Book Publishers, 1976.
- (3) McGaw, Charles, and Larry D. Clark. *Acting is Believing*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992.
- (4) Spolin, Viola. *Improvisation for the Theater: A Handbook of Teaching and Directing Techniques*. Northwestern University Press, 1983.

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B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 hours per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

This is an introductory course in acting which covers both improvisation and method acting techniques. Acting exercises, theater games, and scene studies are required class projects. Participation in NMC theater productions is by competitive audition and is an optional course activity. Prerequisite: None. English Placement Level: EN 093/094. (Offered Fall and Spring)

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course fulfills the General Education fine arts requirements for all A.A./Liberal Arts degree emphases.

F. Course Activities and Design

This course incorporates theater games, improvisation, voice and movement exercises, and rehearsals of monologues, scenes, or a play leading to a performance for a small audience. Lectures are given on special topics, as are related reading and writing assignments used as preparation for performances. Video or movie performances are viewed and discussed.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s):

Prerequisites: None

English Placement Level: EN 093/094

Math Placement Level: None

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed:

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary, cost of photocopying handouts, and royalty fees for play productions.

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Instructional resources needed for this course include whiteboard and dry-erase markers; TV/VCR, LCD projector, screen and hook-up for laptops, adequate space for rehearsals, movement/acting exercises.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's letter grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material is presented.

1.0 Sensory Awareness and Relaxation

- 1.1 Breathing exercises
- 1.2 Sequential focus and relaxation exercises
- 1.3 Sensory memory exercises
- 1.4 Movement-based relaxation (e.g., Yoga, Tai Chi)
- 1.5 Imagination and concentration

2.0 Vocal Work

- 2.1 Breath and voice
- 2.2 Resonators
- 2.3 Projection
- 2.4 Articulation
- 2.5 Expressiveness
- 2.6 Character voice
- 2.7 Optional: Special voice work (e.g., Kabuki voice)

3.0 Movement and Body Work

- 3.1 Body awareness
- 3.2 Spatial awareness
- 3.3 Movement rhythms
- 3.4 Character and movement
- 3.5 Facial expressions

4.0 Developing Improvisation Skills

- 4.1 Focus and concentration (the Now)
- 4.2 Mime exercises
- 4.3 Improvisation warm-ups: Theater games
- 4.4 Guidelines: Who, what, where
- 4.5 Creating environments (where)
- 4.6 Developing character/relationships (who)
- 4.7 Responsive action (what)

5.0 Improvisation Scenes

- 5.1 Large-group improvisations
- 5.2 Small-group (3 people) improvisations
- 5.3 Trading focus
- 5.4 Supporting partners
- 5.5 Transformation

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- 6.0 Analyzing a Play
 - 6.1 Character
 - 6.2 Motivation and history
 - 6.3 Beats
 - 6.4 Through-line and plot
 - 6.5 The playwright's message and directorial concept
- 7.0 Method Acting
 - 7.1 Researching a character
 - 7.2 Imagining a character
 - 7.3 Physicalizing a character
 - 7.4 Emotional recall and substitution
- 8.0 Rehearsal and Performance
 - 8.1 Selection of scenes and monologues
 - 8.2 Analyzing a scene/monologue
 - 8.3 Blocking a scene/monologue
 - 8.4 Memorizing lines
 - 8.5 Developing a rehearsal schedule
 - 8.6 Rehearsal
 - 8.7 Performance

8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 Techniques for consciously relaxing the body and stimulating imagination;
- 2.0 Methods of vocal control and breathing that enable the voice to clearly project emotion and meaning;
- 3.0 The importance of movement and physical expression in communicating character, intention, and emotion;
- 4.0 Theater games and improvisation exercises that develop the students' imagination, concentration, and expressiveness, and their sensitivity and responsiveness to fellow actors;
- 5.0 Large-group and small-group improvisations using only the guidelines of who, what, and where, and resulting in a scene with a beginning, middle, and end;

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- 6.0 Strategies for analyzing a play to discover character, motivation, beats, through-line, and plot;
- 7.0 The techniques of method acting used in the development of character and the communication of emotion in a realistic manner; and
- 8.0 The processes of rehearsing and performing a scene and/or monologue.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Utilize techniques for consciously relaxing the body and releasing imagination;
- 2.0 Apply methods of vocal control and breathing to project the voice and communicate emotion and meaning;
- 3.0 Explain the importance of movement and physical expression in communicating character and emotion; and
- 4.0 Develop imagination, concentration, and expressiveness together with sensitivity and responsiveness to fellow actors, through participation in theater games and improvisation exercises.