

SUNY Cortland Fall 2008
SYLLABUS THT 429.501
ACTING III (Scene Study)

KEVIN T HALPIN, Professor

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Office: 217 Second floor Dowd Fine Arts Center

Office Hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:30-12:30	10:00-12:30	11:30-12:30	9:00-11:30	By appointment

If the posted hours do not fit your schedule, see me for an appointment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to expand and develop techniques explored in THT 220. For the serious student who wishes to expand their understanding and command of Acting skills. The course will focus on developing the actors' ability to play active truthful scenes in a variety of styles. Physical expression, vocal nuance and the collaborative values of working with another actor will all be stressed. Also, discussion and research regarding the development of major acting methods and prominent figures in the history of acting will be examined, culminating in a paper and presentation.

Attendance is mandatory. There is an allotment of two unexcused absences per semester. In the case of emergencies or extended illness, the student must speak to the professor as soon as possible to determine a course of action.

LATENESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. CLASS BEGINS PROMPTLY AT THE APPOINTED TIME. EACH INCIDENT OF LATENESS WILL EQUAL 1/4 ABSENCE. NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED INTO CLASS AFTER 10 MIN., WHICH WILL COUNT AS AN ABSENCE. ANYONE WHO HAS A SCHEDULE PROBLEM THAT MIGHT RESULT IN FREQUENT LATENESS, TALK TO THE PROFESSOR.

TEXT: Although there is no specific required text for this course, if you are not familiar with *Impro* by Keith Johnstone, it is highly recommended that you acquire a copy of that book.

ATTIRE: Everyone should dress in clothes they can comfortably and safely move in. Shoes should be practical (sneakers or dance shoes would be best). **You will be getting very physical in class.** Dress in layers for the cold weather. Final presentation of all scenes needs to be costumed as close as is plausible for the particular scene/period. The students must also obtain essential props.

Research Paper: Each student will choose a contemporary actor or actress, and research their life and work. The project should focus on their development of their craft and the progression of their career. The subject should be someone of significant enough renown, so that finding information will not be a difficult task. The subject chosen should also be someone that has worked significantly on the live theatre stage. They may or may not have had significant film roles. The paper submitted should be from 5-7 pages in length. A presentation in class about your subject is also required. The presentation should be from 10 – 20 minutes in length. Presentations will be given the last week of classes.

EXAMS: Through the course of the semester you will be assigned various projects which will be counted toward your final grade as follows:

Exercises/Improv 10%, production quiz 10%, Monologues 10%, First Scene 10%, Second Scene 15%
Third Scene (Final) 20%, Effort and Participation 10%, Research Project 10%, Journal 5%

The final scene will be presented on our scheduled Final date.

This is an advanced level course and all students are expected to be available and responsible in arranging to work with their scene partners. **EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO KEEP A DETAILED REHEARSAL JOURNAL OF ALL OF THEIR WORK RELATED TO THE SCENES FOR THIS CLASS.** If the students wish to include other rehearsal experiences (like work on a particular production) they are encouraged to do so. The journals will be periodically collected and reviewed, they will impact your grade.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Grade will be lowered for each absence beyond two.

MISSING CLASS ON A DAY YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO PERFORM will severely effect your grade. To accommodate your scene partner all efforts will be made to re-schedule. The acceptability of an excuse for a missed presentation will be at the discretion of the instructor.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SEE ALL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

LUNA PARK October 26-Nov 2

We will have a short quiz and class discussion the Monday after the production closes

If you are willing to let go, trust yourself and me, and take a little risk, you should succeed in this class.

I hope you are looking forward to the semester as much as I am.

