AUDITION by Michael Shurtleff

Course Description:
Introduction to theatre through an emphasis upon its central performer, the actor. Illustrative acting exercises. (Available for General Education, Arts & Humanities)

General Education Student Learning Outcome: Arts and Humanities

Goal: Students will understand the rich history and diversity of human knowledge, discourse and achievements of their own and other cultures as they are expressed in the arts, literatures, religions, and philosophy.

Student Learning Outcomes - Students will:

1. Explain and reflect critically upon the human search for meaning, values, discourse and expression in one or more eras/stylistic periods or cultures;

2. Analyze, interpret, and reflect critically upon ideas of value, meaning, discourse and expression from a variety of perspectives from the arts and/or humanities;

3. Produce work/works of art that communicate to a diverse audience through a demonstrated understanding and fluency of expressive forms;

4. Demonstrate ability to engage and reflect upon their intellectual and creative development within the arts and humanities;

5. Use appropriate critical vocabulary to describe and analyze works of artistic expression, literature, philosophy, or religion and a comprehension of the historical context within which a body of work was created or a tradition emerged;

6. Describe and explain the historical and/or cultural context within which a body of work was created or a tradition emerged.
Course Objectives:

1. ❑ use theatre vocabulary to describe and critique acting and theatre experiences
2. ❑ demonstrate introductory knowledge of the actor’s process from audition to performance
3. ❑ perform in front of an audience with confidence and introductory skill level
4. ❑ explain and reflect upon meaning making and the expression of meaning
5. ❑ communicate creative choices to others using leadership skills, aesthetic judgment, or problem-solving skills
6. ❑ demonstrate the ensemble skills of discipline, collaboration, follow-thru and active participation

Topics Covered in Course:

This is not a professional acting class, nor a beginning acting class. The goal of this class is not to make you an actor, but to introduce you to theatre from the perspective of a performer. You will explore and experience how the actor expresses meaning through the art form of theatre. Concepts such as ritual, symbol, story, culture, creativity and imagination will be examined. By becoming more familiar with the actor’s process you will gain a greater appreciation for live theatre.

Course Requirements:

1. ❑ Prompt attendance: because participation is essential to achieving the Student Learning Outcomes of the course, it is expected that class members will attend, arrive on time, and remain for the duration of all classes.
2. ❑ Active participation in all class activities: i.e. lecture-discussions, acting exercises, the preparation of assignments, including readings and other preparatory work necessary for acting/theatre experiences. Active participation = volunteering rather than waiting to be called upon, offering ideas during discussions, making leaps into activities, asking questions, etc.
3. ❑ Productive collaborative processes in acting experiences. This includes displaying courtesy and respect at all times.
   ❑ Prompt completion of all assignments and projects.
4. ❑ No late work will be accepted.
5. ❑ Appropriate dress: appropriate, comfortable clothing that will allow you to participate and move freely is required.
Assignments:

Guidelines, grading rubrics, and due dates will be provided for each assignment. They will include:

- Review – CSUN Theatre: BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON  due: 10/1
- Review – CSUN Theatre: ELEMENO PEA  due: 10/22
- Review – CSUN Theatre: THE SEAGULL  due: 11/26

Reflections on guideposts in AUDITION by Michael Shurtleff

Improvisational work and participation in class

Creation / Selection / Performance of a Monologue

Creation / Selection / Performance of a Scene

Methods of Evaluation:

In addition to the rubrics for each assignment and participation, the instructor may incorporate written exams to cover all assigned readings and material presented in class lectures, discussions, etc. Tests will be a combination of essay and objective questions. Both objective and subjective criteria will be used in grading. Assignments are subject to change.

Grading will be based on fulfillment and quality of course assignments. A rubric grading scale with specific criteria will be used for each assignment.

Grade of “A”
Prompt completion of all assignments. Each assignment exhibits excellent performance in form and content.
No more than 2 absences for the semester
The student comes to each class prepared and ready to discuss the subject matter and participate in class activities.Assigned material has been read in an attentive manner.
The student actively participates in class by answering or asking questions.

Grade of “C”
Prompt completion of all assignments. Average performance in form and content.
More than 3 absences, but no more than 5.
The student comes to class fully prepared to actively participate in class activities and discussions most of the time, but not all of the time.
The student passively participates by listening to the lecture and taking notes.
Grade of “F”
The student does not complete all assignments. Assignments exhibit several errors in form and content.
High number of absences, usually 6 or more.
Lack of preparation before class.
No contribution to class discussion and activities. Thoughts expressed will generally be a simple regurgitation of phrases from a lecture.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Review the University Catalog for specific policy information. The policy will be strictly enforced in this class.

University Catalog: “The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student within this university and the California State University system. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus is listed in Section 41301, Title V, California Code of Regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction. Academic dishonesty is an especially serious offense and diminishes the quality of scholarship and defrauds those who depend upon the integrity of the campus programs. Such dishonesty includes: cheating, fabricating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.”

Rubric: Participation

Superior: 5
The student is timely and physically present to participate in all class activities and discussions.

The student consistently shows evidence of being prepared for all class activities and discussions by completing all assigned readings and other preparatory work necessary for drama experiences.
The student consistently contributes to class discussions the understandings, learnings, and questions raised from readings and drama experiences.
The student consistently volunteers rather than waits to be called upon.
The student consistently offers ideas during discussions, makes leaps into activities, and asks questions.

Strong: 4
The student is timely and physically present to participate in all class activities and discussions.
The student regularly shows evidence of being prepared for class activities and discussions by completing all assigned readings and other preparatory work necessary for drama experiences.
The student regularly volunteers rather than waits to be called upon.
The student regularly offers ideas during discussions, makes leaps into activities, and asks questions.
Adequate: 3.5
The student is timely and physically present to participate in class activities and discussions.

The student shows evidence of being prepared for class activities and discussions by completing assigned readings and other preparatory work necessary for drama experiences.
The student usually volunteers rather than waits to be called upon.
The student offers ideas during discussions, fully participates in activities, and asks questions.

Minimal: 2
The student is not timely and regularly not physically present to participate in class activities and discussions.
The student shows minimal evidence of being prepared for class activities and discussions.
The student waits to be called upon.
The student minimally participates in class discussions and activities

Inadequate: 1
Does not meet any of the criteria above.