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**THE 462/THE 562: Meisner Acting II**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2022 (Second Sub-term)**  
**T/R 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.; Performing Arts Center #126**

**Instructor: Dr. Carrie Klypchak, Associate Professor of Acting and Directing**  
**Office Location: Performing Arts Center #129**  
**Office Hours: M/W 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. – 3 p.m. (and by appointment)**  
**Office Phone: 903-886-5344**  
**Office Fax: 903-468-3250**  
**University Email Address: Carrie.Klypchak@tamuc.edu**

*Specificity → The Gateway In.*

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Required Textbook:**

As the bulk of this course will be focused on practical application, there is no required textbook.

**Required Special Supplies:**

Throughout the first half of this course, you will be required to bring in materials for activities that are “emotionally difficult” in nature. Additional information regarding parameters will be outlined during the semester for these activities, but please plan for these minimal expenses now.

**Suggested Outside Reading:** (highly suggested to be read *after* completing course)

*Sanford Meisner on Acting* by Sanford Meisner and Dennis Longwell

*The Sanford Meisner Approach* (Four-book Workbook Series) by Larry Silverberg

**Course Description:**

For the student-actor who has previously acquired a working knowledge of the foundational principles of Sanford Meisner’s approach to actor training, this course provides more advanced

instruction in the following concepts: emotional preparation, interpretation, the deeper wish and spine, personalizing the deeper wish, provocative statements, and key facts. Student Learning Outcomes will be achieved through practical and written exercises, performance activities, and presentations.

As with Meisner Acting I, this is a class that will be challenging, invigorating, and participatory. Please consider yourself to now be a part of a workshop rather than a classroom as it is usually understood. Although there is a lecture/discussion component to this course, by nature actor training requires substantial studio work – both inside and outside of the classroom. Please consider yourself to be part of a learning community where members support one another with suggestions and constructive criticism. Learning, observing, and sharing are central to this course. *Attitudes of awareness and openness are essential to your development and your contribution to the development of the other members of this class.* Please leave your worries, frustrations, competitiveness, and negativity outside the classroom door as much as possible.

*Active participation in discussion and presentation of projects within the class is not only welcome; it is an essential requirement. Positive, helpful and constructive attitudes are also required!* Presentations must be well prepared and shared with the understanding that questions and discussion will follow. The ongoing critique of performance is crucial to everyone's learning process and will be impossible without *an atmosphere of mutual respect, mutual responsibility, and openness.* You should be aware that the vast majority of class time is composed of activities in which you are REQUIRED to actively participate. *If you have no plans or interest in sincerely exploring Sanford Meisner's approach to actor training and accomplishing significant growth as a performer, this is not the class for you.*

Please understand that each "Preparation" in this course will require one element of actor-chosen past experience to build upon through imagination. While Meisner's approach does not require or allow the actor to "re-live" real experiences and promotes the concept of "living truthfully under imaginary circumstances," this work will require that you bring yourself to the activities/presentations. Thus, it is imperative that you approach this work with maturity, a firm understanding of your own healthy, personal boundaries, and an ability to communicate those boundaries in a respectful way. Again, you will choose the real elements for your work, and you are required to choose elements that you can emotionally deal with. *However, please remember that this is not an invitation to avoid using extreme circumstances* – Meisner actors use any of their experiences as bases when appropriate. This is simply a reminder that as an adult, you need to be responsible for your own well-being. In other words, this is a course building upon a specific approach to actor training and not a therapy session☺. Also, you should continue honing your understanding of "leaving what happens in the work, in the work."

In this course, I will again serve as your "Observer" (as you may remember, this is a term in Meisner training that means that I am your necessary guide and outside eyes/ears). So, if you will just trust me and approach the work with an open mind, an open heart, and a willingness to try new things, then we can continue to work through our artistic challenges together.

### **Prerequisite:**

Successful completion of Meisner Acting I at TAMUC with a grade of "C" or higher.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding and practical proficiency in developing and executing emotional preparation.

2. display understanding and practical proficiency in determining and implementing Meisner's key concepts regarding interpretation, character development, and textual work.
3. determine artistic challenges and practically negotiate those challenges through "Specificity" during activities, exercises, and showings.
  4. *Additional Student Learning Outcome for Graduate Students: write critically using analytical thinking skills about advanced Meisner Acting activities and theoretical concepts.*
  5. *Additional Student Learning Outcome for Graduate Students: synthesize advanced information about Meisner Acting in quality, graduate-level scholarly writing.*

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:**

PARTICIPATION AND GROWTH (undergraduates – 50%; graduates – 30%): *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.* Participation and Growth is a *very large* portion of your grade in this course – for good reason! As mentioned above, participation is vital in this class. This is an interactive environment and students must not only attend, but must also actively contribute to each class.

The completion of homework assignments will also be considered part of your participation grade. There will be quite a few of these assignments; they are all important to your success in this course. So please make sure you understand what is expected of you. Engaging in daily journal notations throughout the semester in THE BOOK-PART II is expected and considered part of your participation grade as well. You must bring THE BOOK-PART II with your journal entries to class each day. Should it appear that a student is not making journal notations at the end of each class, the instructor reserves the right to ask to see the journal entries at any point during the semester; if journal entries are not completed at that time appropriate points will be deducted from the student's participation grade.

Positive, respectful and helpful attitudes are mandatory. *I would like to make this very clear: I will make every effort to treat you with the respect that I believe you deserve. You are also expected to treat your peers and me with that same respectful attitude.* If I believe that a student is disrespectful, I will ask that person to leave the classroom. In this event, the student will receive a zero for any activities conducted that day in class and receive a zero for his/her participation grade for the day (no matter how long you have been in class). Disrespect, rudeness, or negative attitudes will *substantially* lower the student's participation grade. The following are other reasons you would be asked to leave the class and receive a zero for the day's activities: sleeping in class, reading the newspaper, working on other assignments, coming to class under the influence of . . . anything, or otherwise causing disruption or distraction during class (this includes cell phones going off in class – turn them off when you come into the classroom and don't turn them on again until you leave). Finally, it should go without saying that refusal to participate in any activity or part of an activity during class will result in a substantial and appropriate loss of participation points for the student.

Previous acting experience will not earn you a good grade in this course. Significant growth and a genuine attempt within the class will. This is a class that regards self-competition as a goal. You and your peers will arrive at various levels, and you will leave at different levels. However, growth from the beginning to the end of the semester can be evaluated. I challenge you to push

yourself to grow and succeed. This class is concerned with developing *your* skills to the best of *your* ability. The community in the class is here to help all of us grow and expand our abilities.

Participation and Growth grades will be calculated daily and tabulated at the end of the semester. *Each student will begin with a Participation and Growth mid-point passing grade of 80.* Exceptional effort or lack of effort during each class and over the course of the semester as a whole will either raise or lower that grade.

*\*Graduate Student Additional Requirement: In some class sessions, graduate students may be required to prepare and offer two exercise presentations. More information regarding parameters will be offered at a later date.*

*\*Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.*

REPETITION LOG (5%): Each student will be required to submit one Repetition/Rehearsal Log early in the semester. This assignment is intended to assure that the student has fully re-familiarized him/herself with repetition. The Log will count as 5% of the student's overall grade in the course. You should realize the vital importance of daily repetition/rehearsal in order to achieve proficiency in Meisner training. Each student is required to document *at least five hours* (more suggested!) of practical repetition outside of formal class meetings in the Log submission. The Log should be typed, document specific repetition session dates and times, and include a short and specific explanation of the work during each time period (one to five complete sentences per explanation). *Note: "Activity" and Exercise preparation time is considered part of your participation grade and does not count as Log time – so please do not include it in your submissions here.* The Log should include appropriate terminology as learned in this course and in Meisner I. The Log should include your name and the total time logged for the week at the top of the page and reflect the format as outlined in class. This assignment will be largely based on the "honor system." However, if in-class performance suggests evidence that the student has not completed the documented logged times, there will be an appropriate deduction of the student's Repetition Log grade. You will be graded on completing the minimum log time with appropriate foci and the construction of the document. So, please use your very best writing skills. *\*Measures Course Learning Outcomes 3.*

REFLECTIVE ESSAYS (graduate students only – 20%): *Each graduate student will submit four formal reflective essays during the semester in which s/he will write critically using analytical thinking skills about advanced Meisner Acting activities and theoretical concepts – each worth 5% of the overall grade. For each submission, the student will write a two-page reflective essay focused on the work undertaken and individual responses to the course activities during the week in question. These essays should not include simple documentation of activities outside of class time. The essays can include individual successes and challenges faced throughout the week, goals for yourself and a justification for those goals, reflections about the work in response to the disciplines of acting and theatre as a whole, etc. Please avoid knee-jerk responses (keep those responses for your personal journal entries). Really reflect in great depth and try to see the work in this course from both theoretical and practical standpoints in your essays. Please remember to use appropriate terminology as covered in this course. Use very specific examples to support your claims in the essays. Your daily journal notations in class should help you in composing the formal essays – although again, those journal notations will be immediate, daily, and personal responses to the work. These essays will be formally written reflections about the week in question after you have had time to consider broader perspectives. The essays should be typed, double spaced, utilize one-inch margins, and a 12 point, acceptable scholarly font. Each individual essay should include the student's name and the dates of the*

*week under review at the top of the first page. Please staple the pages in the top left-hand corner for submission and only print on the front side of the pages. Graduate students will be graded on the depth of thought and the content of their essays, as well as the formal construction of the documents – so please use your very best writing skills. \*Measures Course Learning Outcomes 4 and 5.*

**SCENE SHOWINGS (30%):** With a partner, each student will memorize, prepare, develop, and present an assigned acting scene for the class using the principles of Sanford Meisner's acting approach. The scene will be presented in three "showings" during class – with improvement evidenced in each of the latter "showings" (the first presentation counting 5%, the second presentation counting 10%, and the final showing counting as 15%). More specific criteria regarding scene presentations will be outlined during class at later dates. *\*Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.*

**SCRIPT WORK (15%):** Each student will conduct in-depth script work regarding his/her assigned scene over the course of the last half of the semester and to be submitted at the end of the semester. This script work will include identification and documentation of Provocative Statements, Key Facts, the character's Spine Phrase, and Beats. Submitted script work will also include a good deal of required free association writing for determined Provocative Statements and Key Facts. More specific criteria regarding script work will be outlined in class at later dates. *\*Measures Course Learning Outcome 2.*

### **Grading:**

**GRADING SCALE:** The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

A	90%-100%	(Exceptional Quality Work)
B	80%-89%	(Good Quality Work)
C	70%-79%	(Average Quality Work)
D	60%-69%	(Below Average Quality Work)
F	0%-59%	(Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

*Note: Numerical correlations for individual assignments receiving awarded letter grades in this class may be calculated as follows: A 95%; B 85%; C 75%; D 65%.*

### **GRADING RUBRIC: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS –**

Assignment	Grade
Repetition Log (5%)	
Scene Showing 1 (5%)	
Scene Showing 2 (10%)	
Scene Showing 3 (15%)	
Script Work (15%)	
Participation and Growth (50%)	
<b>Semester Grade</b>	

GRADING RUBRIC: *GRADUATE STUDENTS* –

Assignment	Grade
Repetition Log (5%)	
Essay #1 (5%)	
Essay #2 (5%)	
Essay #3 (5%)	
Essay #4 (5%)	
Scene Showing 1 (5%)	
Scene Showing 2 (10%)	
Scene Showing 3 (15%)	
Script Work (15%)	
Participation and Growth (30%)	
<b>Semester Grade</b>	

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT:** It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There will be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

**SAVING OF WRITTEN WORK:** Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a disc or thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your original and graded assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

**LMS:**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

**LMS Requirements:**

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

**LMS Browser Support:**

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

<b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT</b>
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### **Contacting Dr. Klypchak:**

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. It is not an imposition. Communicate, communicate, communicate! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. Don't be intimidated. I am here to assist you in success and will do my best to help you achieve it. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is via email. I check it fairly frequently. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

### **Student Resources:**

#### **Department of Theatre**

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101  
Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

#### **Communication Skills Center**

Talbot Hall #103  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

#### **TAMUC Actor's Lab**

*Private Acting Coaching Sessions with Dr. Klypchak during office hours: open to all declared Theatre majors. Actor's Lab is also available to any student enrolled in Dr. Klypchak's course(s) during the semester of enrollment. Important note: in order to participate in Actor's Lab, a*

*student must bring a memorized piece and sign up at least twenty-four hours in advance on the sign-up sheet on Dr. Klypchak's door – PAC #129. Sign-up sheets are posted every Friday for the upcoming week. Please be advised that in Actor's Lab, we promote the highest level of professional standards. Thus, under normal circumstances, if a student makes an appointment for Actor's Lab and fails to keep his/her appointment without significant advance notice to the instructor, the student revokes the privilege of Actor's Lab for the remainder of the semester.*

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

ATTENDANCE: I have designed this course for those serious students of the theatre who are committed to developing as artists and generating an exceptional product. With that said, serious students of the theatre do not skip class unless there is an emergency. In this upper division performance class there is no such thing as an "excused" or "unexcused" absence. *Class meetings are highly interactive in nature.* You must come to class prepared to participate! It is also important to note that participation is a major component of your grade. Something to keep in mind: *you must be present in order to participate!* I expect you to practice/rehearse outside of class in preparation for in-class activities, I expect you to be familiar with any handouts you may receive, and I expect you to have completed all assignments on time.

I will take roll at the very beginning of each class in order to aid me in calculating your participation grade and tracking your attendance. *If you are absent, you are making that choice, and I expect you to accept the consequences graciously and in a mature manner.* It is your responsibility to remain informed of class activities if you are absent for any reason.

Prompt attendance is required at all classes. The formal attendance policy for this class is as follows. You are allowed *one emergency absence* in this course with no attendance grading penalty (although your participation grade will still be lowered accordingly upon a missed class). Please note that it will prove very challenging if you miss at all as it is absolutely impossible to "make up" a missed session in Meisner training – *we must always live in the present during this training – so we can never "go back" to make up missed work during class* – so I encourage you to avoid missing even one class if at all possible. Under normal circumstances, upon the second absence, the student will receive a deduction of six points from his/her final grade; upon the third absence, the student will receive another six points deduction from his/her final grade; *due to the interactive nature of this course, upon the fourth absence the student may receive an automatic F in the course.*

Please be aware that missing a scheduled appointment/coaching time with me without significant and appropriate advance notification also counts as an absence. Keep up with your absences in this course – this is your responsibility. Do not ask me how many absences you have during the semester; I may not have that information readily available when you need it.

\*for more information on the university attendance policy please go to the following link:  
<http://www7.tamuc.edu/registrar/attendance.asp>

LATE ARRIVALS: To further foster a high level of commitment—and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus—the class will adopt the following late entry policy. Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is



disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less-than-disciplined/committed artist. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you are late for class, your participation grade will reflect this. The class will begin promptly at 4:30 p.m.! If you arrive after 4:40 p.m., please do not enter the classroom (you will be marked absent regardless). If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. *It is your responsibility to make sure that you find me after class and document your late attendance for the day—otherwise, your initial marked absence documented during roll will remain.* Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. A late arrival or early departure will significantly reduce your participation grade. *Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.*

**CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS:** Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course. Further, I request that you do not use laptops during this class as the sound of typing is disruptive during others' presentations.

**SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments must be submitted in hard copy to the instructor or D2L as outlined for separate assignments. While you are welcome to email me any questions that you may have, please understand that I cannot accept emailed student work at this time.

**LATE WORK:** "Activity Exercises," Performances, and Presentations – *Under normal circumstances, a missed "activity exercise," performance, or presentation may not be made up.* Late Written Work/Projects – *Late written work/projects will not be accepted in this class.* All assignments are due within the first ten minutes of the class period unless I specify otherwise.

*Please note that failure to present any part of an activity-exercise, performance, or presentation may result in administrative dropping or an automatic failure of the course.*

**EXTRA CREDIT:** As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class – please, do not ask.

**ADAPTATION OF ASSIGNMENTS:** Due to the fluid nature of this performance-based class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

**FOOD, DRINK, GUM, AND SMOKING:** Please do not bring food or drinks into the classroom at any time (exception: you may bring bottled water with you to class). As this is a course focusing on practical performance, chewing gum is not allowed at any time during class. Smoking during class time (even when in individual rehearsals outside of the building) is never allowed.

**CLOTHING:** Students should come dressed for activity each day. Avoid tight clothing or clothing that inhibits your freedom of movement – come dressed to move! No hats will be worn during any exercises, activities, or performances. No one will be excused from class activities due to clothing concerns. *Also, please keep your hair securely away from your face during all exercises, activities, and performances in class.*

**INCOMPLETES:** Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (X) will not be given for a final grade in this course.

### **University Specific Policies and Procedures:**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

This course adheres strictly to the college's guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student's Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to assure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the Head of the Department. (*You should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester.*)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### OFFICE OF STUDENT DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

*\*Note: Please be aware that under no circumstances can I implement any disability accommodations without official documentation from the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services at Texas A&M University - Commerce.*

**STUDENT CONDUCT:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Student's Guide Handbook*, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

**NON DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:** Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement Texas Senate Bill – 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et.al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University–Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M– Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**A&M-COMMERCE SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH:** The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**Tentative Schedule:** (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

**Tuesday, March 22**

Pre-Test

Introduction to the Course: "Specificity → The Gateway In."

Presentations: "My Spine Phrase"

Discussion/Exercises: "Repetition Tag-in;" "The Basics of Preparation"

Introduce: "The Sleep Exercise" and Repetition Log Assignment

Homework: "The Sleep Exercise;" Prepare "Coming Home to be Alone" exercise in which you are coming home to be alone from something that has just happened or that you have just found out in the extreme (no activity). Repetition.

**Thursday, March 24**

Repetition

Discussion: Observations from "The Sleep Exercise"

Exercises: "Coming Home to be Alone"

Homework: Prepare “Coming Home to Do” exercise in which you are coming home to be alone from something that has just happened or that you just found out in the extreme and to do an emotionally difficult activity. Repetition.

### Tuesday, March 29

Repetition

Discussion: Advanced Repetition

Exercises: “Coming Home to Do”

Homework: Prepare “Roommates” exercise. One partner will develop an emotional preparation based on something that has just happened or that he or she has just found out – which is extremely meaningful. Then, he or she will come home (no activity). A partner functions as the roommate who will simply be at home in the room. Repetition.

### Thursday, March 31

Exercises: “Roommates” (Partner 1 with emotional preparation)

Due: Repetition Log

Due: Graduate Reflective Essay #1

Homework: Homework: Prepare “Roommates” exercise. Second partner will develop an emotional preparation based on something that has just happened or that he or she has just found out – which is extremely meaningful. Then, he or she will come home (no activity). A partner functions as the roommate who will simply be at home in the room. Repetition.

### Tuesday, April 5

Exercises: “Roommates” (Partner 2 with emotional preparation)

Homework: Prepare a “Coming Home to Do” exercise with activity and all previously outlined requirements except now adding partner with simple and specific relationship in which you do not live together (partner is coming to the door for a simple and specific reason).

### Thursday, April 7

Exercises: “Coming Home to Do” with Partner Simple and Specific (Partner 1 with activity)

Homework: Prepare a “Coming Home to Do” exercise with activity and all previously outlined requirements except now adding partner with simple and specific relationship in which you do not live together (partner is coming to the door for a simple and specific reason).

### Tuesday, April 12

Exercises: “Coming Home to Do” with Partner Simple and Specific Cont. (Partner 2 with activity)

Homework: Prepare another “Coming Home to Do” exercise with all previously outlined requirements except now partner has just found out something that happened in the extreme *that has nothing to do with the other partner* before coming to the door (both partners will now prepare fully).

### Thursday, April 14

Exercises: “Coming Home to Do” with Partner in the Extreme (Partner 1 with activity)

Introduce: Scene Project (Review “River and a Canoe”)

Homework: Prepare another “Coming Home to Do” exercise with all previously outlined requirements except now partner has just found out something that happened in the extreme *that has nothing to do with other partner* before coming to the door (both partners prepare fully).

Read scene silently in a quiet place as many times as possible and try not to come up with any preconceived notions about what the scene will “look like.” Write scene.

#### Tuesday, April 19

Exercises: “Coming Home to Do” with Partner in the Extreme Cont. (Partner 2 with activity)

Review: Mechanical Readings

Due: Graduate Reflective Essay #2

Homework: Prepare another “Coming Home to Do” exercise with all previously outlined requirements except now partner with activity also adds “expectancy” that doesn’t have to do with activity or person coming to the door and partner coming to the door has extreme circumstances *related to partner* (both partners fully prepare). Do Mechanical Readings with partner (as many as possible – at least 4).

#### Thursday, April 21

Exercises: “Coming Home to Do” with Expectancy and Partner’s Extreme Circumstances Related (Partner 1 with activity)

Introduce: Identifying Beat Units

Review: Working Readings

Homework: Prepare another “Coming Home to Do” exercise with all previously outlined requirements except now partner with activity also adds “expectancy” that doesn’t have to do with activity or person coming to the door and partner coming to the door has extreme circumstances *related to partner* (both partners fully prepare). Identify Beat Units with Partner. Do Working Readings with partner (as many as possible – at least 1).

#### Tuesday, April 26

Exercises: “Coming Home to Do” with Expectancy and Partner’s Extreme Circumstances Related Cont. (Partner 2 with activity)

Review: Preliminary Identified Beat Units

Introduce: Identifying Key Phrases leading to Provocative Statements and Free Association Writing (taking on the point of view of the character in a deeply personal way)

Homework: Identify Provocative Statements and Conduct Provocative Statements Free Association Writing. Do Working Readings with partner (as many as possible – at least 4). Identify and develop preparation for beginning of scene.

#### Thursday, April 28

Line Rehearsals

Exercises: Active Working Readings (really talk and really listen – following impulse) with Preparation

Introduce: Identifying Key Facts (knowing) and Key Facts Free Association Writing

Due: Graduate Reflective Essay #3

Homework: Complete full list of Key Facts for character with identified lines. Complete Key Facts Free Association Writing #1. Do Active Working readings with partner (as many as possible – at least 1). Have all of the words learned by next class. Line Rehearsals. Bring in rehearsal clothes and scene activities for the remainder of the course.

#### Tuesday, May 3

Introduce: Identifying the Spine Phrase (the deeper wish)

Line Rehearsals

Scene Work: Showing 1

Homework: Line Rehearsals. Working off rehearsals. Complete free association writing #2 for Key Facts. Identify character's Spine Phrase.

Thursday, May 5

University Designated Study Day

Tuesday, May 10

Review Identified Spine Phrase

Line Rehearsals

Scene Work: Showing 2

Homework: Line Rehearsals. Working off Rehearsals. Conduct free association writing #3 for Key Facts.

Thursday, May 12

Post-test

Scene Showing 3

Due: Script Work

Due: Graduate Reflective Essay #4