



EAST TEXAS A&M

UNIVERSITY

Fundamentals of Acting

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kiley Towne

Office Hours: T/Th 1-4 PM or by appointment

Office Location: Performing Arts Center, #107

Email Address: Kiley.Towne@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: M-F, within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Software Required:

- Access to D2L

Texts and/or Materials:

- No books required: materials will be posted on D2L or given in class
- Notebook paper and a pencil for every class

DRESS FOR CLASS

Appropriate rehearsal clothing should be worn or brought to class. Your ability to perform an exercise in class should never be impacted by your clothing. Students should have these items available:

- Comfortable sweatpants, workout pants, shorts, or leggings
- T-shirts, tank tops, workout tops
- Closed-toe shoes with laces, tennis shoes
- (For those with long hair) clips, ponytail holders, or other accessories to keep hair back from the face
- Minimal jewelry (no large hoop earrings or long necklaces)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on introducing and developing the basic acting techniques of characterization, role analysis, movement, voice, and body control.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

1. demonstrate understanding and practical proficiency in executing the foundational principles of Stanislavski's approach to realistic acting for the stage.
2. display acquisition of effective skills in working with others via a disciplined, collaborative, professional, respectful, and productive approach throughout the rehearsal and performance processes.
3. exhibit proficiency in accepting and incorporating constructive criticism into their own performances, while developing the skills needed to insightfully evaluate both personal artistic efforts and the work of others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Access to D2L and participation in all in-class activities. This class will utilize a combination of assignments, activities, and quizzes for evaluation.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Check D2L: Check D2L regularly for class updates. Any changes to the calendar will be announced on D2L. All quizzes will be made available through D2L and submitted in D2L. If you experience difficulty accessing it at any time, please let me know.

ASSESSMENTS

A grade of "A" will not be assigned to any individual who has not completed ALL class assignments and attendance at both departmental productions regardless of average.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F=59% or Below

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me.

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

If at any time during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or its outcomes, please reach out to me. I am always available by email or Zoom meetings if necessary. Please communicate, I can't help if I don't know there's an issue or a question.

Email Policy:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, **review your syllabus/look at the D2L site**. If you do not find the answer, please feel free to email me. **When emailing me:** Please make your emails clear and concise, written with proper grammar in order to assure my earliest attention. In addition, please follow some common “email etiquette” procedures in order to keep our electronic communication effective and efficient. Specifically:

- Write a relevant subject line (e.g., “Fundamentals of Acting,” or “Acting Assignment Question”)
- Address me by name (ie: "Dear Kiley" or "Hi Kiley" or just "Kiley")
- Concisely state what it is you need. If it can't be communicated in a concise manner, perhaps request an appointment. **If requesting an appointment**, give me times that you are available **in the initial email!!!** It helps things go faster if I have your availability to compare to mine.
- Use a "sign-off" ("Thank you" is always good) and **sign your name**.

Extra Credit: Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Will be announced on D2L or in class.

Late/Missing Work: Late work will be accepted with 10% taken off each day it is past due up to 5 days. Please make every effort to turn in your work on time.

Everyone in this class is granted one 24-hr “no questions asked” extension on a D2L submission.

Incompletes: An Incomplete will be given only in cases of serious illness and/or death in the immediate family. Rounding up or down fractions of a percentage is at the discretion of the instructor

Use of AI: All assignments should be your original work and should not be produced in part or in total with the assistance of artificial intelligence (for example, ChatGPT, Grammarly, or some other resource). The use of “artificial intelligence” tools is not permitted in this class, unless explicitly agreed and announced by the instructor for specific assignments. See ETAMU’s AI policy listed below for more information.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

You will get (2) unexcused absences for the semester. After the second unexcused absence, each unexcused absence will drop final scores $\frac{1}{2}$ a letter grade. Appropriate documentation is needed to constitute an excused absence and will only be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

- If the professor sees you on your phone or participating in non-class related activities during class, you may be counted absent for the day.
- If you are 5 minutes late to class you will be counted as tardy. 2 tardies equal an absent grade.
- If you are 15 minutes late, you will be counted absent.

ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

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DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: Over the course of the semester, students will engage in Daily Assignments. Bring notebook paper and a pencil to every class to complete these assignments. **Each assignment will be due at the beginning or end of every class depending on the subject or lesson plan.** *Measures Course Learning Outcomes #1, #2, and #3.

Participation and Growth (20%): Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation. 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. *Measures Course Learning Outcomes #1, #2, and #3.

Acting Terminology Quiz (15%): The Quiz will consist of matching, multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer questions. *Measures Course Learning Outcome #1.

Open Scene (15%): In pairs, students will rehearse, workshop, and perform a memorized Open Character Scene that has been selected by the instructor. The Open Character Scene will be rehearsed, workshopped (worth 5%), and presented as an improved performance (worth 10%). The length of the scenes will vary depending on the choices made by the actors but will generally run around 2 to 3 minutes. Further criteria for this assignment will be given at a later date. *Measures Course Learning Outcomes #1, #2, and #3.

Contemporary Monologue (15%): Each student will work individually to select and perform a memorized contemporary monologue that is approximately 2 minutes long. The performance will be rehearsed, workshopped (worth 5%), and presented as an improved performance (worth 10%). Further criteria for this assignment will be given at a later date. *Measures Course Learning Outcomes #1 and #3.

Characterization Collage Presentation (10%): Each student will create one characterization collage of at least ten images. The collage will be based on the character that the student is portraying in the Contemporary Monologue. The collage will be presented to the class via a planned, formal, developed, rehearsed presentation/speech by the student in which they utilize effective vocal production, physical grounding, expression, etc. This is a creative project that requires you to analyze your character in abstract and concrete terms in order to yield a more truthful portrayal onstage and then take that analysis one step further to develop an effective oral presentation. This is an individual activity. More specific criteria will be discussed at a later date. *Measures Course Learning Outcome #1.

Scripted Scene Performances (15%): This will consist of a 5 minute scripted scene performance in which you work with another person. The scripted scene will be memorized, rehearsed, and shown as a performance for an invited audience during class at the end of the semester. Further criteria for this assignment will be given at a later date. *Measures Course Learning Outcomes #1, #2, and #3.

Final: Script Analysis Project (10%): For your final exam in this course, you will develop an Analysis Project in which you will write a Stanislavskian-inspired script/character analysis of approximately 3-5 pages (single spaced) on the play/character from your monologue. You will be graded on both content (70%) and construction (30%). So, please use your very best writing skills and execute the project with a

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commitment to using higher-level thinking to develop a detailed and comprehensive analysis. This project takes much time, evolution, and revision – start working on this early! Further criteria for this project will be given at a later date. *Measures Course Learning Outcomes #1, #2, and #3.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**This Calendar is subject to change!*

Date	Topic	Assignment/Due Date
8/24	● Introduction to Course ● Lecture/Activity: Learning to Listen	Due: ● DA 1
8/26	● Introduction to Course ● Warm-up ● Lecture/Activity: Working as an Ensemble and Observation	
8/31	● Warm-up ● Lecture: Introduction to Stanislavsky ● Activity: Observation Exercise	Due: ● DA 2
9/2	● Warm-up ● Lecture/Activity: Given Circumstances ● Overview of Open Scene	Due: ● DA 3
9/7	No Class - Labor Day	
9/9	● Warm-up ● Lecture/Activity: The Magic “if” ● Open Scene Rehearsals	Due: ● DA 4
9/14	● Warm-up ● Lecture/Activity: Goals and Objectives ● Open Scene Rehearsals	Due: ● Given Circumstances #1
9/16	● Warm-up ● Lecture/Activity: Beats and Tactics ● Open Scene Rehearsals	Due: ● Off-book for Open Scene
9/21	● Warm-up ● Acting Terminology Quiz ● Lecture/Activity: How to Score a Script ● Open Scene Rehearsals	Due: ● Acting Terminology Quiz

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9/23	• Warm-up • Open Scene Workshops	Due: • DA 5
9/28	• Warm-up • Open Scene Performances • Discussion/Critiques	Due: • Reflection #1 • Scored Script #1
9/30	No Formal Class - Professor attending a conference	
10/5	• Warm-up • Lecture/Activity: Making Bold Choices Onstage • Overview of Scripted Scene Project	Due: • DA 6
10/7	• Warm-up • Overview of Character Collage Project • Scripted Scene Project Rehearsals	Due: • DA 7
10/12	• Warm-up • Lecture/Activity: Improvisation • Scripted Scene Project Rehearsals	Due: • Given Circumstances #2 <i>The Aliens</i> (10/13-18)
10/14	• Warm-up • Lecture/Activity: Improvisation • Scripted Scene Project Rehearsals	Due: • DA 8
10/19	• Warm-up • Lecture/Activity: Character Collage Project Presentations • Scripted Scene Project Rehearsals	Due: • Character Collage Project Presentations • Off-book for Scripted Scene
10/21	• Warm-up • Scripted Scene Project Workshops	Due: • DA 9
10/26	• Warm-up • Scripted Scene Project Performances	Due: • Scripted Scene Project Performances • Scored Script #2 • Reflection #2
10/28	• Warm-up • Lecture/Activity: The Art of the	Due: • DA 10

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	Monologue Overview of Contemporary Monologue Project	
11/2	- Warm-up - Lecture/Activity: Careers in Acting - Contemporary Monologue Project Rehearsals	Due: DA 11
11/4	- Warm-up - Lecture/Activity: The Life of an Actor - Contemporary Monologue Project Rehearsals	Due: Given Circumstances #3
11/9	- Warm-up - Lecture/Activity: Auditioning - Contemporary Monologue Project Rehearsals	Due: DA 12
11/11	- Warm-up - Lecture/Activity: Rehearsals - Contemporary Monologue Project Rehearsals	Due: Off-book for monologue
11/16	- Warm-up - Contemporary Monologue Project Workshops	Due: DA 13 <i>Honorable Mention: the neuro-spicy life (11/17-22)</i>
11/18	- Warm-up - Lecture/Activity: - Contemporary Monologue Project Performances - Final Project Overview: Script Analysis Project	Due: - Contemporary Monologue Project Performances - Scored Script #3 - Reflection #3
11/23	- Lecture/Activity: Script Analysis - Final Project Preparations and Meetings	Due: DA 14
11/25	No Class - Thanksgiving break	
11/30	Final Project Preparations and Meetings	
12/2	Final Project Due	Due:

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		• Final Project due on D2L at 11:59 PM
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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.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 ETAMU 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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx). <http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of “Artificial Intelligence,” ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be

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documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

The use of "artificial intelligence" tools is not permitted in this class, unless explicitly agreed and announced by the instructor for specific assignments.

Students with Disabilities–ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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.

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Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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.etamu.edu/counsel

<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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