

School of Liberal Arts



THEA 200

Winter 2025

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Katherine McCallum	OFFICE HOURS	3:50pm-4:30pm after class OR by appointment.
OFFICE	Learning Commons/IT	CLASSROOM	
E-MAIL	kmccallum@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Thursday 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm, January 9 – April 10, 2025
TELEPHONE	867 335 2288	CRN	20109
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"If you're going to be in the spotlight, you might as well shine." A gentle, fun-based introduction to acting for stage, the classroom and the requirements of everyday life. This practical course emphasizes awareness of self, relaxation, concentration, observation, sense of memory and justification.

SECTION DESCRIPTION

This course is a robust combination of reading, writing, and performance/presentation. You will be asked to read text, analyze text, watch and analyze theatre, movies, and television shows, and bring your opinions to class for discussion. You will also be expected to write a paper on how the work you do in class informs your consumption of live theatre events. You will be expected to attend class and participate fully in class discussions and help to direct your classmates' performances. Be prepared to learn from doing AND observing. This course will require you to work at home, work in groups and dedicate time to learning lines and rehearsing outside of class hours.

Registration for this course requires submission of an expression of interest letter and interview with a program adviser.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): (none)

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Describe the physical, vocal and emotional tools of the actor
- Analyse text and discover the character's intention and the actor's objective in scenes and monologues
- Understand and use centering techniques and self-discipline in relation to performance
- Explain the elements of successful theatre productions
- Master the performance tools of blocking, line learning, moment to moment work, and personalising performance.

COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT AND WORKLOAD

- Each week there will be a 3-hour practical, in-person scene study/monologue lab.
- This course will be delivered in person, augmented by required activities on the course Moodle site.
- There may be one class in the semester that is delivered on Zoom (tbc).
- This class is conducted in the format of a masterclass, where you learn from doing the work and practicing at home, as well as learning from watching your fellow classmates work on their scenes and monologues.
- Some reading of instructional materials will be required to fully understand the work.
- One-on-one tutorial work with the instructor is available to you if extra time is needed to understand the work.
- Time outside of class will be required to do daily vocal warmups, learn lines, analyze scenes, and work together with scene partners to rehearse scenes & monologues for class. It is expected that this course will require approximately 3 hours/week of homework, rehearsal, and additional reading.
- It is a course expectation that you will see two (2) **live** dramatic performances of at least one hour in length (not movies) throughout the semester and write a final reflection paper about both of those productions.
- You will be expected to visit the THEA 200 Moodle Classroom each week after class to check instructions for the following week. These should be posted by end of day Thursday each week.

EVALUATION

Attendance/Participation – 10% each	20%
Scene Project (partners)	20%
Monologue Writing Project	20 %
Final Monologue Performance	20 %
Final Reflection Paper/Interview & attending 2 x live theatrical performances	20 %
Total	100%

- **Attendance:** This is easy! Turn up to class every week for an effortless 10% of your grade! You must be present in the classroom for the full three hours to be marked present for that class.

- **Participation in class looks like...** Giving your attention fully to the actors working on their scenes or monologues; participating in class discussions about the work that is being presented; helping the rest of the class brainstorm great directorial choices; and **ignoring the lure of your phone, and conversation with others** in class while there is work being presented in class. Participation is valued at 10% of your grade.
- **Scene Project with Partners:** You will pair up with another actor in the class and prepare a 1–2-minute scene to present to the class. The scene can be from a movie or a play. You will be evaluated on how well you: Learn your lines, analyse the scene, and apply the skills we have learned in class. This assignment is valued at 20%.
- **Monologue Writing Project:** We will read through some monologues in class and watch some monologues being performed. We'll talk about the structure of monologues. You will then write your own 1-minute monologue, which can be based on real life experience or a completely fictional character you make up. You will be evaluated on the dramatic quality of your writing (as per the elements of a monologue that we cover in class). This assignment is valued at 20%.
- **Final Monologue Performance:** Yes, you can! You can choose a monologue from a play or a movie. We will learn monologue performance technique and you will learn how to break the monologue down into performable chunks and discover the magic of solo performance. You will be evaluated on how well you: Learn your lines, analyse the scene, and apply the skills we have learned in class. You're going to love this assignment! This assignment is valued at 20%.
- **Attend 2 x live performances within the semester and write a final reflection paper and present it in an interview. This paper/presentation will be based on your experience in class and how that informed your experience of the live performances:** There are many theatre companies in the Yukon and there will be opportunities to attend live theatre. Your final reflection paper and presentation will be 1000 words about how what you have learned in class informed your experience of watching a live theatre performance. Prompt questions will be provided. This assignment is valued at 20%.
- **There will be no final exam or test for this course.**

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Please refer to our THEA 200 Moodle Classroom in "The Hub" for all course reading and learning materials. Please read "A Practical Handbook for the Actor" by Melissa Bruder, Lee Michael Cohn, Madeleine Olnek, Nathaniel Pollack, Robert Previto, and Scott Zigler, before our first class. You can find that at Indigo/Chapters, Amazon and there are two copies at the YukonU Library. This is a great tool for anyone who is interested in acting, performing, or presenting in front of other people (audiences, classroom etc.) It is also a clear and concise description of the Practical Aesthetics Acting Technique.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca. [Text updated 16 November 2022]

TOPIC OUTLINE

In this course we will be learning the acting technique called "Practical Aesthetics" which was created by David Mamet and William H. Macy, based on the work of Sanford Meisner. Most modern acting techniques are an evolution of the Stanislavsky acting techniques "Method Acting" and "Sense Memory" etc. Although this technique was born of those approaches to acting, Practical Aesthetics does not require sense memory or require the actor to "become the character". PA will have you analysing the scene, discovering what the playwright's intention was when they wrote the play, and using your imagination to create moment to moment work with your scene partner. Practical Aesthetics works on the principal that everyone can learn to act if they apply their will and imagination (and learn their lines!).

Date/Week	Topic	Preparation/Reading, etc.
Week 1	Introductions. Discussing the role of the actor, theatre as an art form, our role as audience members, classroom expectations etc. Learning the vocal and physical warmups.	"A Practical Handbook for the Actor" by Melissa Bruder, Lee Michael Cohn, Madeleine Olnek, Nathaniel Pollack, Robert Previto, and Scott Zigler.
Week 2	Beginning to work on scenes. We will start with very basic scenes to get an idea of how analysis works. Learning some moment-to-moment techniques (how to place your attention on your acting partner) etc.	See Moodle Classroom for instructions weekly
Week 3 - 6	Working on scenes from movies, plays and TV shows. Each pair of scene partners will perform their scene when it's ready.	See Moodle Classroom for instructions weekly
Week 7	Scene performance day! All scenes will be performed for the class.	You must have learned your lines, completed scene/character analysis, and rehearsed with your scene partner to the point that it is at performance stage. Scene analysis and scenes must be submitted in digital form (word or pdf) in the Moodle Classroom.
Week 8	Introduction to monologues and monologue performance techniques.	See Moodle Classroom for instructions weekly
Week 9-12	Working on individual monologues and building towards performance.	See Moodle Classroom for instructions weekly
Final class	Monologue Performance Party! All students perform their monologue for the class. Written Assignments: The <i>Live Theatre Attendance Reflection Paper/Interview</i> and <i>Monologue Writing</i> assignments are both due before the final day of classes.	You must have: learned your lines, filled in the monologue worksheet, and rehearsed your monologue to the point that it is at performance stage. Monologue performance worksheets must be submitted in digital form (word or pdf) in the Moodle Classroom.