

# **Theory and Technique of Acting 20A - Winter 2023**

**Introduction - THEAD020A61, Sec. 61, CRN# 33607**

**Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.**

**Room MLC226 unless otherwise instructed**

## **Instructor Information**

**Instructor** - Neil Schwartz

**Office Hours** - Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., MLC226

**E-mail** - [schwartzneil@fhda.edu](mailto:schwartzneil@fhda.edu)

## **Course Information**

Principles of Acting 20A is designed to introduce students to basic acting theories and techniques. It aims at developing an articulate vocabulary for practical acting experience, evaluation, assessment and critique. Students will become familiar with the control and function of the vocal instrument as well as become aware of the human body as an instrument for communication. Character development in dramatic scripts will be examined to familiarize students with the techniques of drama.

## **Credits**

4 units

## **Texts and Auxiliary Materials**

- While there are no required textbooks needed for the course, students will be required to read two plays of their choosing and should have access to them.

## **Student Learning Objectives**

1. Students develop the voice and body as an instrument of expression while gaining confidence through the experience of interaction and audience performance.
2. Students heighten abilities to analyze text and performance content for self-advancement.
3. Students progress critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills as well as diversity perspectives through collaborative projects.

## **Curriculum Units**

- Week 1: Understanding the Actor's Job (January 9 – January 11)
- Week 2: Relaxing, Centering & Focusing (January 18)
- Week 3: Improvisation (January 23 – January 25)
- Week 4: Objectives, Actions & Beats (January 30 – February 1)
- Week 5: Exploring the Text (February 6 – February 8)
- Week 6: Foundations of Character (February 13 – February 15)
- Week 7: Personalization (February 22)
- Week 8: Early Rehearsals (February 27 – March 1)
- Week 9: Units, Scenes, Superobjective, & Spine (March 6 – March 8)
- Week 10: Staging and Final Rehearsals (March 13 – March 15)
- Week 11: The Performance and After (March 20 – March 22)
- Week 12: Finals Week (March 29)

## **Grading**

### Graded Assignments:

1. 1 Midterm Monolog Performance - performed twice (50 points each = 100 points)
2. 1 Final Scene Performance - performed twice (50 points each = 100 points)
3. 2 Character Analyses (25 points each = 50 total points)
4. 2 Script Responses/Analyses (25 points each = 50 total points)
5. Final Exam (100 points)
6. Participation (100 points)

Criteria for the total grade in the term are as follows:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent
A	466-500
A-	450-465
B+	431-449
B	416-432
B-	400-415
C+	366-399
C	350-365
D+	333-349
D	316-332
D-	300-315
F	0-299

## Policies

**LATE WORK** - Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Please pay particular attention to the due dates listed on the class due date schedule. Late assignments will be docked by 5% for each week they are late.

**DROPPING** - It is the student's responsibility to add or drop the class. The instructor will not drop you. There is one exception, however. If you are registered in the class, it is important that you show up the first night or you will be dropped as a "no show."

**PARTICIPATION** - Please wear clothing that does not restrict movement. Expect to be physically active.

**DISABILITIES** - In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, De Anza College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical issues).

You can meet with a Disabilities Support Services (DSS) counselor or Learning Disability (LD) Specialist to discuss any accommodations or specific learning needs you may have. If you have a

disability-related need for reasonable accommodations or services in this course, you will need to provide the instructor with a Test Accommodation Verification (TAV) form from the DSS office.

Students are expected to give 5 (five) days-notice of the need for accommodations. Students with disabilities may obtain this form by contacting their DSS counselor or LD Specialist at (408) 864-8753.

<https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/dss/dish.html>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY** - I do not expect you to cheat in this class but, for all of your classes, you should be aware of the college Academic Integrity Policy and its consequences for students.

[https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity.html](https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html)

**DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR** -The college will enforce all policies and procedures set forth in the *Standards of Student Conduct* (see catalog). Any student disrupting the class may be asked to leave that class. Administrative follow-up may result.

[https://foothill.edu/campuslife/documents/Student\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](https://foothill.edu/campuslife/documents/Student_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)

## Final Exam and Other Important Dates

- January 9: First day of spring quarter
- January 16: NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- January 21: Last day to add classes using add codes
- January 22: Last day to drop classes without a “W”
- February 20: NO CLASS – Presidents’ Holiday
- March 3: Last day to drop classes with “W”
- March 27: NO CLASS – Finals Week
- March 29: Final Exam, 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., A-11

## Extra Help and Support

### Academic Help

If you think you might need extra academic help and support, you might want to consider contacting the Student Success Center.

<https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/>

## General Services Information

- **Student Support Services website:** <https://www.deanza.edu/quarter-guide/>
- **De Anza College Library website:** <https://www.deanza.edu/library/>
- **Creative Arts website:** <http://www.deanza.fhda.edu/creativearts>

## 2023 Winter Class Due Dates Schedule

January 9: First day of class

January: 11

**January 16: NO CLASS - MLK - Holiday**

January 18: [ – January 21: Last day to add a class using add codes]

[ – January 22: Last day to drop a class without a “W”]

January 23:

January 25: **#1 Performance Play Response due**

January 30:

February 1: **# 1 Performance monolog choice due**

February 6:

February 8: **#1 Performance Character Analysis or GOTE Sheet due**  
February 13:  
February 15: (#1 Performance of Midterm Monologs) - **#2 Performance Play Response due**  
**February 20: NO CLASS - Presidents' Holiday**  
February 22: (#1 Performance of Midterm Monologs)  
February 27: (#1 Performance of Midterm Monologs in VPAC) - **#2 Performance scene choice due**  
March 1: (#1 Performance of Midterm Monologs in VPAC)  
*[March 3 – Last day to drop a class with a "W"]*  
March 6: **#2 Performance Character Analysis or GOTE Sheet due** (Film for Final Exam, room TBD)  
March 8: (Important - Unit Lecture for Final Exam)  
March 13: (#2 Performance of Final Scenes)  
March 15: (#2 Performance of Final Scenes)  
March 20: (#2 Performance of Final Scenes in VPAC)  
March 22: (#2 Performance of Final Scenes in VPAC)  
**March 27: NO CLASS - Finals Week**  
**March 29: Final Exam:** 6:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m. in MLC226