

# INTRODUCTION TO ACTING I

THTR 120A Section 03, (CRN 30005), 3 Credits

(Spring 2020, 9:30AM-10:45AM, Tuesdays & Thursdays)  
MCGILL 125

Instructor: Shane Lutz  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays at 11:00am to 1:00pm  
Phone: 406-243-4481 (general office number, no texts)

## Aim

The purpose of this course is to help broaden your communication, presentation and personal skills. The course will also help you develop a more articulate, responsive, and expressive identity. These goals are achieved by studying the craft of acting. At the end of the semester, I hope you leave with an extended understanding of yourself, your peers, and your world.

## Outcomes

At the end the semester this setting you must demonstrate you have achieved:

- A confidence in the presentation of your self—socially and professionally
- An ability to further articulate both your personal character and the character of those you take on in performance
- A basic understanding of the nature of theatre and the craft of acting
- An understanding of, and respect for, performance, including audience etiquette
- An understanding of the importance and contribution theatre makes to our world.

## Tentative Schedule

This course is divided into four units:

Unit 1: Introduction

Unit 2: Scene One Work

Unit 3: Monologue Work

Unit 4: Scene Two Work

## Attendance and Promptness

Acting is participatory: there is no way to learn without doing, no adequate substitute for a missing partner, and no way to “make up” missed experience. School policies will be enforced strictly. You may present documentation for two excused absences without affecting your final grade. *Further excused absences and any unexcused (undocumented) absences will drop your final grade one-third of a letter.* If an illness should cause you to miss class to the point of failing, pursue a withdrawal or incomplete. Visit the university catalog for more information on these policies at [www.umt.edu/catalog](http://www.umt.edu/catalog).

Arriving late for class disrupts the learning process of your fellow students. Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will be considered a complete absence. Every two instances of tardiness—of whatever duration—will equate to one absence for grading purposes. I reserve the right to declare a “no lateness” policy should the need arise. Briefly put, if the door to the class is shut and you are not inside you are absent: no exceptions. Likewise, be sure to visit the rest room before class. Leaving class during exercises or performances for a non-emergency is disruptive.

## Readings

You are required to read the plays for the scenes/monologues you choose to work from. Additional readings regarding technique, practitioners, and process will also be made available via moodle throughout the semester.

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During warmups, exercises, rehearsals, and presentations, we will be engaging in physical work. Please wear clothes that you can move in to class each day.

## Grading

15% - Attendance & Participation

10% - Open Scene

15% - Scene One\*

20% - Monologue Work\*

10% - Pantomime

30% - Scene Two\*

\*After your monologue and both scene presentations, you will write a short reflection on your process, your work, and your overall experience that will be included in your performance grade.

## Production Attendance

You are required to attend three School of Theatre & Dance’s theatrical performances produced this semester. Missing one production will drop your final grade one full letter. Missing two productions will drop it two full letters. If you do not attend any of the productions, you will earn a failing grade in the class. Production attendance is a part of this class—there are no exceptions and there will be graded assignments or quizzes on the productions.

The materials fee you paid when you registered for this course allows you to obtain one ticket at no additional expense. You must pick up your ticket at the UMArts Box Office, located in the lobby of the PARTV Center, in person between 10 AM and 6 PM Monday-Friday. You may pick up only one ticket—your own; you cannot pick up a ticket for a classmate. If you pick up your ticket to a production and wish to change performances, you will be charged a \$2 exchange fee before the performance date printed on the ticket. If you come in to exchange your ticket after the performance date printed on the ticket (and therefore need a new ticket), you will be charged the full student ticket price.

You must present your Griz Card to pick up your ticket and you must identify which class you are taking.

You are in section: CRN 30005, Sect: 03  
Your instructor's name is: Shane Lutz

Seating in the Masquer Theatre is general admission. Seating in the Montana Theatre is reserved. The fee that you have paid does not guarantee you a ticket on a particular night, nor does it guarantee that you will be able to get a ticket if the show sells out. Do not wait until the evening of the performance you plan to attend to pick up a ticket.

### Required Productions

#### *Spring Awakening*

March 4-8, 11-15 @ 7:30pm and March 8 & 15 @ 2 PM  
Masquer Theatre (PARTV)

#### *Pride & Prejudice*

April 15-19, 22-26 @ 7:30 PM and April 19 & 26 @ 2 PM  
Montana Theatre (PARTV)

#### *Dance Up Close*

April 30 – May 2  
Masquer Theatre (PARTV)

### Procedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following School of Theatre & Dance regulations. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing are not permitted during class. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances. Students are encouraged to wear appropriate movement attire to class. There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the [School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook](#).

### Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

## Accessibility

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. Students registered with [Disability Services for Students](#) (DSS) may request reasonable accessibility modifications by contacting me directly.

## Health & Wellness

Personal considerations such as health, wellness and/or other issues can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the health portal: [www.umt.edu/hportal](http://www.umt.edu/hportal). For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact: the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text line: text MT to 741-741. For University of Montana financial aid: phone: (406) 243-5373 or email [faid@mso.umt.edu](mailto:faid@mso.umt.edu)

Please stay in communication with your faculty advisor and know that we are here to help. You can call in anytime to our office hours (posted on office doors) or email us to set up an appointment.

COURSE SCHEDULE  
Introduction to Theatre

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION

1/14: Syllabus Day  
1/16: Preparing for Performance

WEEK TWO: OPEN SCENES

1/21: Open Scene Rehearsals  
1/23: Open Scene Presentations

WEEK THREE: SCENE 1

1/28: Discuss Play & Begin Rehearsals  
**DUE: Have read the Scene 1 play(s)**  
1/30: 10 Images + Scene 1 Rehearsal

WEEK FOUR: SCENE 1

2/4: First Presentations of SCENE ONE  
**DUE: Scene score for Scene 1**  
2/6: First Presentations of SCENE ONE

WEEK FIVE: SCENE 1

2/11: Observed Rehearsal for SCENE ONE  
**DUE: Be completely off book for your scene**  
2/13: Observed Rehearsal for SCENE ONE

WEEK SIX: Rehearsal + Choose Monologue

2/18: TBA  
2/20: TBA

WEEK SEVEN: SCENE 1

2/25: Final Scenes  
2/27: Final Scenes  
**DUE: Reflections for Scene 1**

WEEK EIGHT: MONOLOGUES

3/3: Monologue Work  
3/5: Monologue Work

WEEK NINE: MONOLOGUES

3/10: Monologue Work  
3/12: Final Monologue Presentations  
**DUE: Monologue score**

SPRING BREAK. No Class.

WEEK TEN: SCENE 2

3/24: Discuss Scene 2 & begin rehearsal

**DUE: Reflections for Monologue work**

**DUE: Have read the play(s) for Scene 2**

3/26: 10 Images Exercise & Rehearsal

WEEK ELEVEN: SCENE 2 & Pantomime

3/31: Rehearsal + Pantomime prompt

4/2: Pantomime Presents

WEEK TWELVE: SCENE 2

4/7: Scene 2 Previews

**DUE: Be completely off book for your scene**

4/9: Scene 2 Previews

WEEK THIRTEEN: SCENE 2 & Rehearsals

4/14: Rehearsal

**DUE: Scene score for Scene 2**

4/16: Rehearsal

WEEK FOURTEEN:

4/21: Scene 2 Final Presents

4/23: Scene 2 Final Presents

**DUE: Reflections for Scene 2**

WEEK FIFTEEN: Exam Period. See exam schedule.