

Point Loma Nazarene University
Department of Communication Studies
TRE2070: Acting
Fall Semester, 2022, 3.0 Units

Professor: Walter O. Williams, Ph.D. wwilliam@pointloma.edu

Office: Cabrillo 207

Office Hours: M: 12-2:30, R: 12-2:30

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Final Exam Schedule: Monday, December 12 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Meeting Time: Mondays 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm

Location: Cabrillo 102

PLNU Mission To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

Development of basic acting techniques and vocabulary through exercises, character analysis, monologues, and scene work.

Course Learning Outcomes

- 1. To understand the fundamentals of the western realistic acting approach developed by Konstantin Stanislavski and oriented toward the identification and exploration in each role of the playable actions.*
- 2. To establish a well-ordered approach to the art of acting.*
- 3. To consider an ethos that integrates your self, your art, and your Christian beliefs*

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

Student Responsibility:

It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student, not the instructor, has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university). Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) will result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

Spiritual Care:

PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain, or if you have prayer requests, you can contact the Office of Student Life and Formation.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy:

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Copyright Policy:

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

State Authorization:

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

OVERVIEW

Art is the search for truth. When we speak of a search for truth in the theatrical art, we are not referring to an empirical truth, but a narrative truth—a lie (in the fictive sense) that reveals a deeper truth about the human condition. We share a perspective on human issues with our audience, and encourage them thereby to struggle with those issues as well. This is a search for truth as well as a search for self. In the theatre that instrument of your art is you, the actor, rendering a living text. The purpose of this course is to begin to develop you as artists and instruments in this exploration of the human experience. This is a participatory course very much oriented toward a group dynamic. We will work with one another throughout the semester in a studio setting where taking risks is strongly encouraged. Our goal will be the development in each actor of spontaneity, simplicity, and readiness on the stage. If we recognize that the talent inherent in the actor is a gift, than we must take the responsibility to develop the gift, to train the instrument so that it can artistically present the living narrative. It is important to understand that there are no “finished products” expected in this course. Everything we will do will be a work in progress.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*. New York: Penguin.
Any good scene book for actors (i.e., 2-person scenes and monologues).

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Stanislavski, Konstantin. *An Actor Prepares*. New York: Theatre Arts Books.
----- . *Building a Character*. New York: Theatre Arts Books.
----- . *Creating a Role*. New York: Theatre Arts Books.
Meisner, Sanford. *On Acting*. New York: Vintage, 1987.
Toporkov, Vasily. *Stanislavski in Rehearsal*. New York: Theatre Arts Books.
Hagen, Uta. *Respect for Acting*. New York: Macmillan.
Cole, Toby and Helen Chinoy. *Actors on Acting*. New York: Crown.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 16 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

COURSE PROCEDURE

As I stated, this is a participatory course from a studio perspective. There will be very little lecture and extensive student involvement in scene-work. From the very first meeting we will work to develop the sense of ensemble. This means we will help and encourage one another even while we critique each other's work. We must trust one another's sincerity in the process in order to learn well. To this end, I will expect you be timely and prepared. If you plan to attend occasionally, or be marginally prepared, please de-enroll now. There will be extensive preparatory work associated with this course, and time will be required of you outside the formal class session.

GRADING SCALE

Because of the performance nature of this course, the grading will be necessarily subjective in nature. However, this does not mean arbitrary, and the grades will not be based solely on product, but on process as well. It is more important that you stretch yourself while perhaps failing well than that you always succeed while resting in your comfort zone. I will generally assess grades based on preparation, participation, immersion in the process, attitude toward your work and your classmates, and quality of performance. It is important to remember that no scene is a finished product. In class presentations will be prepared outside class, but will be worked on extensively, IN CLASS at the time of performance, so expect this. In addition to the performance portion, there will be several written assignments required of you, which will be graded on a 100-point scale. These will consist of exercises in role development, scene development, and a journal. My grades are based on the following criteria:

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Grading for this course will be determined in the following manner:

Scene work		80%
Written Exercises	10%	
Journal	<u>10%</u>	
TOTAL	100%	

CAVEAT

This syllabus may at times need to be altered. I'll try to give you plenty of forewarning should this become necessary.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
9/2	Introduction	Syllabus
9/9	Audition Monologues	
9/16	Portrait & Poem Exercise	
9/23	Portrait & Poem Exercise	
9/30	Scoring a role	Miller <i>The Crucible</i> Bio Due
10/7	<i>Crucible</i> Work	
10/14	<i>Crucible</i> Work	
10/28	Scene 1 work	Bio & Score due
11/4	Scene 1 work	
11/11	Scene 2 work	Bio & Score due
11/18	Scene 2 work	
12/2	Final Scene work	Bio & Score due
12/9	Final Scene Presentations	
12/12		Journal due