

2017-18 Spring

HART1022 Introduction to Acting (1-credit)

Course Instructor: Mr. WU Hoi Fai (Email: wuhoifai@yahoo.com.hk)

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Time: **Tuesday 10:30am - 12:20pm**

Venue: CYTG009

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course introduces the basic principles of acting developed by Russian maestro Stanislavsky. Through applying these principles in a series of practical exercises, students will have an experiential understanding of the theory and practice of theatre arts. The in-class activities can give students a refreshing stimulus to both body and mind, unleash their imagination and develop their inborn ability of acting further.

Students will also be guided to appreciate the art of an actor by watching a theatre performance. Discussion and analysis will be focused in both historical and current theatre practices. Upon the completion of this course, students will have an elementary understanding of contemporary theatre arts. **[Ca][C]**

Remarks

1. Medium of instruction

This course will be conducted in Cantonese.

2. Class schedule

A few classes during the term are extended to 12:50pm. Please refer to the Course Topics below for details.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Describe and apply the basic principles of acting in performance and criticism
2. Identify their own strengths and weakness in acting
3. Enhance their communication and collaboration skills
4. Identify the major trends in contemporary theatre arts

Syllabus and Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
Phase 1: Understand the basic concepts of acting via practical exercises		
1	6 Feb	(a) Course introduction (b) Major aspects of acting (1): “To act is to play” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An introduction to the purpose, process and requirement of the course - A series of theatre games will be devised to build up a relaxed and trustworthy environment for the students to take on future adventure
2	13 Feb	Major aspects of acting (2): “To act is to be honest to oneself” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of theatre exercises will be devised to facilitate the students to discover themselves, with particular focus on their senses - Breathing and voice exercises for an actor may also be introduced
3	20 Feb	Major aspects of acting (3): “To act is to react” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of theatre exercises will be devised to facilitate the students in working with others - Games such as mirror exercises will be used to enhance students’ awareness of the others
4	27 Feb	Major aspects of acting (4): “To act is to imagine” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of theatre exercises such as “props exercises” will be devised to trigger students’ imagination. The instructor will show them how to use it in acting
Phase 2: Apply concepts of acting to scene work with reference to contemporary theatre practices		
	6 Mar	No class
5	13 Mar	Presentation of the playwright(s) and selected plays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students are divided into pairs to give presentation on the selected playwright(s) and plays which they are going to perform a scene in week 9 and 10
6	20 Mar *Class extended to 12:50pm	Approach a text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sample scene will be selected to illustrate how an actor analyses a text - The students will be introduced to the key elements of drama such as “conflict”, “given circumstances” and “objectives” - They will be taught to divide a scene into “unit” and “beat”
7	27 Mar *Class extended to 12:50pm	
	3 April	No Class – Mid term break
8	10 April *Class extended to 12:50pm	Give life to a text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of exercises will be devised to guide students how to act upon their analysis - Elementary guidelines of <i>mise-en-scene</i> will be introduced. - Students will be reminded about the possible pitfalls when they rehearse their own scenes
9	17 April	Scene work presentation and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will perform their scenes in pairs - Other students are required to give comments during the post-performance

		discussion session
10	24 April	Scene work presentation and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will perform their scenes in pairs - Other students are required to give comments during the post-performance discussion session
	1 May	No Class – Labor Day
11	8 May *Class extended to 12:50pm	Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will review the whole creative process so as to consolidate what they have learnt and settle possible queries - They will also be guided to potential directions if they want to pursue their artistic aspiration

Assessment Tasks

Attendance (10%) & Course participation (10%)	<p>Active participation in in-class practical exercises and discussion. The students are also required to attend a live theatre performance and participate in class discussion about the performance afterwards.</p> <p>Attendance will be taken in the beginning of each session after the add-drop period. Being late or leaving early twice will be counted as one absence. For each absence, students will have 2% deducted from their 10% attendance grade.</p> <p>Students are required to attend at least 75% of the classes; i.e. students may not be absent for more than 3 sessions, for any reasons such as illness or other university functions.</p>
Reflective Journal (10%)	<p>At end of each session, each student is required to note down their reflection and possible query about the lesson for 100-150 words. It needs not to be too lengthy because the content is more important. The students are encouraged to give an honest evaluation of their learning progress.</p> <p>The reflective journal with complete entries of week 1-12 should be submitted on 11 May 2018 (Fri). 10% of the reflective journal grade will be deducted per day after the due date. Submissions will not be accepted after 18 May.</p>
Theatre Review (10%)	<p>To write a passage (500 words) on reviewing a local theatre performance of their choice. The typed review should be submitted on 24 April 2018 (Tue). 10% of the theatre review grade will be deducted per day after the due date. Submissions will not be accepted after 1 May.</p>
Self & Peer evaluation (10%)	<p>At the end of the week 12 (8 May) session, students are required to give a mark to themselves and their fellow students in an enclosed sheet to the instructor. Comments should be provided as well. The average mark will contribute to 10% of the total mark. The comments will be channeled to individual students, subject to the judgments of the instructor.</p>
Course Project – Task A (20%)	<p><u>Task A: Presentation on playwrights and plays</u> In week 6, the student are required to pair up with one of their classmates</p>

Task B (30%)	<p>and select a 10-15 minutes scene from plays provided by the instructor. Together with other groups doing the same play, they will give a verbal presentation on the playwright and the play in week 5.</p> <p><u>Task B: Final Scene Work Presentation</u> After mid-term presentation, the students have to rehearse with their partner outside class and perform it in week 9 or 10, as assigned by the instructor.</p>
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Required Reading Materials

1. *Acting One*, Cohen, R., McGraw-Hill, 2008.
2. 《我和春天有個約會》，杜國威，香港：次文化堂，1995
3. 《Miss 杜十娘》，杜國威，香港：次文化堂，1999

Supplementary Reading Materials

1. 《劇場的用家》，李俊亮、黃婉萍，香港：國際演藝評論家協會(香港分會)有限公司，2011
2. 《我的看戲隨身書》，李立亨，台北市：天下遠見出版股份有限公司，2010
3. 《演員與標靶》，迪倫·唐諾倫，台北：聲音空間股份有限公司，2010
4. 《尊重表演藝術》，哈塔根，台北：漢光文化事業股份有限公司，1997
5. *An Actor Performs*, Shapiro, M., Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.

Academic Honor Code

- You must observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all the work you do throughout your program of study.
- As members of the University community, you have the responsibility to help maintain the academic reputation of HKUST in its academic endeavors.
- Sanctions will be imposed if you are found to have violated the regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (<http://publish.ust.hk/acadreg/generalreg/index.html>)