

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's University, as a Catholic Marianist University, fosters the formation of people in faith and educates leaders for the common good through community, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence.

DM 3321-A
ADVANCED ACTING - Beyond Realism
(syllabus extract)

Spring 2019
Tue/Thu, 1:10 - 2:25 pm
Treadaway 381, Drama Studio

Faculty: George Kendall, M.F.A.

Office Hours: M, W 11:30 am-2:30 pm, or by appointment

Office: Treadaway Hall, TR-379

E-mail: gkendall1@stmarytx.edu

Course Description

This advanced class continues the initial work from DM 2321 – ACTING I, allowing students to explore and understand contemporary, non-realism based acting styles. Examination of non-realism genres (e.g., absurdist, epic, heightened text, musical) and acting techniques (e.g., exaggeration, mime, audience direct address, song/dance) will be accomplished through exploration of intellectual and physical acting choices. There is special emphasis placed on language-based training to derive stage movement from the imagery and rhythm of the play's text. Lecture material will be supplemented and reinforced with in-class exercises.

Students are required to wear comfortable and loose-fitting clothes for studio work, including comfortable athletic shoes (or you may work in socks or be barefoot). **All electronic equipment must be turned off and placed in your pocket/backpack/purse during class time – they are a distraction to you, your classmates, and your instructor.**

Course Materials

Readings posted to CANVAS and the following text:

- *The Actor as Storyteller* by Bruce Miller
Limelight Editions, 2012, ISBN: 978-0879103866

We will also reference these texts from the DM 2321 – ACTING I course:

- *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* by Melissa Bruder and Lee Michael Cohn, Vintage Books, 1986, ISBN: 978-0394744124
- *Actions – The Actors’ Thesaurus* by Marina Calderone & Maggie Lloyd-Williams, Drama Publishers, 2004, ISBN: 978-0896762527

Course Requirements

Class Participation	10%
Journal Entries	15%
Monologue Presentations	25%
Weekly Showtime	25%
Final Scene	25%

Class Participation (10%)

Attentive and contributory involvement with class discussion, both answering and posing questions, and general studio work.

Journal Entries (15%)

A running interactive Canvas commentary on the course material by posing questions, doubts, connections, articulating opposing viewpoints, etc. These entries should be a minimum of 500 words and posted no later than noon the day due. The journal is a place to comment on readings, class discussions, express your thoughts, investigate any cultural/sociological/historical references, and develop your understanding of topics discussed.

Monologue Performances (25%)

Individual performance of a monologue emphasizing a component or technique of non-realism acting.

Weekly Showtime (25%)

Once a week, the class will examine through performance a particular component of course work. This may include some limited “staging” of selections from various shows.

Final Scene (25%)

Presentation of a final scene that emphasizes multiple components or techniques of non-realism acting. Grading consists of 20% on performance and 5% on a brief essay of your overall class experience.

Course Calendar (tentative)

The following schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.

WEEK	CONTENT
ONE	Realism vs. Non-Realism in Acting
TWO	Presentational and Representational Theatre
THREE	Absurdist Drama
FOUR	Techniques #1 – Spoken Word Rhythm and Tempo
FIVE	Epic Drama
SIX	Techniques #2 – Audience Direct Address
SEVEN	Musical Theatre
EIGHT	Techniques #3 – Song and Communication via Music
NINE	Storytelling Without Words
TEN	Techniques #4 – Mime and Non-Verbal Acting
ELEVEN	Techniques #5 - Dance and Movement
TWELVE	Classical Acting
THIRTEEN	Techniques #6 – Heightened Text
FORTEEN	Heightened Text, continued
FIFTEEN	COURSE WRAP-UP