

## ACTING CONCENTRATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **120 Acting Fundamentals (1 unit)**

Exploration of acting includes group and individual improvisation, physical and vocal exercises, and scene work, leading toward relaxation, physical action, and believability. Class work is designed to stimulate the imagination, build self-confidence and trust, and teach basic concepts for acting. May be taken 3 times for credit.

### **145A Voice for the Actor (1 unit)**

Fundamentals of voice to free the natural voice and build towards its full use. Exercises in breathing, relaxation and movement, resonance, and power will help the actor discover a direct, spontaneous connection between breath and the impulse to speak; develop greater vocal range; and explore the intricacies, implications, layers, and joys of the spoken text. May be repeated for credit.

### **145B Speech for the Actor (1 unit)**

Articulate speech and textual clarity are primary skills for the actor. This course will concentrate on the fundamentals of speech, anatomy of good sound production, standard pronunciation techniques through the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), and methods for clearly speaking, articulation, vocal muscularity, and phrasing. Prerequisite: THAR 145A. May be repeated once for credit.

### **220A/322A**

Text analysis and scoring, rehearsals, and in-class presentation of scenes drawn from realistic dramatic literature. Work with emotional memory and characterization. Core course for Acting Concentration majors. May be taken two times for credit.

Prerequisites: THAR 120 or equivalent or consent of Director of the Acting Program.

Open to THAR sophomores, juniors and seniors. Maybe taken a second time as THAR 322A.

### **220B/322B**

The focus of this course is on aiding the actor in developing a process for creating believable dramatic characters, and bringing them truthfully to life in theatrical context. Study of life models support presentations of rehearsed scenes, which are then critiqued and developed in class. Scenes are normally drawn from realistic dramatic literature. This course is the third in the Acting Concentration sequence, and is a core course for acting majors. May be taken two times for credit. Prerequisites: THAR 120 and 220A or equivalent and consent of instructor. Maybe taken a second time as THAR 322A.

### **THAR 224 On Camera: Acting & Production (2 units)**

Acting and performing in front of the camera, although similar to theater, is distinctive in approach and technique. This course is an introduction to film and TV acting and offers the experience of working in single camera acting techniques and understanding

the relationship between the camera and the performance. The course also teaches production skills in camera use and operation, and sound recording.

**THAR 302** Drama Ensemble workshop (1-3 units)

A production class in which students receive credit for major participation as a partner in plays directed by faculty members and guest artists. Play titles, performance venues, styles, and production approaches vary from semester to semester. May be repeated 6 times for credit. By audition or consent of instructor.

**THAR 311** Actor / Dancer Collaboration I: Core Technique & Practice (1 unit)

This course introduces somatic-based movement emphasizing functionality, efficiency and body awareness for performance. Pedagogy engages students in experiential training methods such as Yoga, Feldenkrais, Pilates, and Body-Mind Centering focusing on mindfulness, expressivity, longevity and students' health. Prerequisite: THAR 22B or consent of Acting or Dance Program advisors. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 312** Actor/Dancer Collaboration II: Movement & Improvisation (1 unit)

In this course, the student will be guided through explorations and exercises to increase mobility, expression, imagination and collaboration. Pedagogy incorporates experiential training and skill building that includes Contact Improvisation, Conditioning, Partnering, Collaboration, and more. Prerequisite: THAR 311 or Acting or Dance Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 313** Ballroom & Social Dance (1 unit)

This course teaches American Ballroom Dancing including the Waltz, Fox Trot, Tango, and Viennese Waltz. Students will learn Mechanics, Rhythm, and Style. A main emphasis will be on the duet partnership. No prerequisite. Face-to-face. May be taken once for UD Acting Concentration credit, and a second time as an elective.

**THAR 314** Connection, Communication, Collaboration (1 unit)

Actors and Dancers learn to work across disciplines sharing modes of learning, performance techniques to find new ways for mutual engagement. Dance and acting faculty will team teach portions of this course. Prerequisite: THAR 311 or Acting or Dance Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 316** 25 Elements of Comedy: It's All in the Surprise (1 unit)

Comedy is BIG business, and a heck of a lot of fun to act. This course plays with 25 elements of comedy as applied to comedic scenes, action, and stage business. Prerequisite: THAR 120 and THAR 220A or Acting or Dance Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 320A** Shakespeare I: Verse and Paraphrase

This course examines techniques for acting Shakespeare, including verse scansion, paraphrase, vocal production and Shakespeare scene study. Prerequisites: THAR 120,

145A, 145B, 220A, 220B, and ENG 339 or Acting Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 320B** Shakespeare II: Scene Study

This advanced course builds on Shakespearean acting techniques, deepening analysis of text and introducing rhetorical devices and use of irony. Features advanced scene study of prose scenes and scenes where both verse and prose are employed. Prerequisites: ENG 339 and 320A or Acting Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 320C** Physical Theatre Workshop

This workshop teaches actors to physicalize character and given circumstances. Movement fundamentals, stamina, relaxation, and stage presence are addressed through exploration of scenes that demand a dominant physical approach for their effective realization. Prerequisites: THAR 120, 145A, 145B, 220A, and 220B, or Acting Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 320D** Commedia dell 'Arte & Masks

The eyes are the windows of the soul and mask can be a whole open doorway. Use of the *commedia* masks asks us to literally look through someone else's eyes and find physical transformation and a new way of relating to the audience. Prerequisites: 320C. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 326** Circus Technique (1 unit)

The course develops circus techniques for theatrical presentation teaching basic circus skills, while providing resources for continued skill development. The course also provides historical contexts for circus and physical theatre practice and touches on experiential physiology and exercise science. Prerequisites: THAR 120 or consent of Acting Program advisors. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 420A** Approaches to Anti-Realism

Exploration of distinctive anti-realistic styles such as Expressionism, Absurdism, Surrealism, Dada, etc. Writers examined are Brecht, Beckett and others whose theatre is beyond the boundaries of psychological realism. Prerequisites: THAR 120, 145A, 145B, 220A, and 220B, or Acting Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 420B** Comedy of Manners: Wycherley, Congreve, Shaw & Wilde

Comedy of Manners reflects and often satirizes the life, ideals and manners of upper class society. In this course actors learn to acquire and maintain a mask of artifice while revealing the true character behind the mask. Prerequisites: THAR 120, 145A, 145B, 220A, and 220B, and THAR 320A. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 420C** Chekhov Workshop

Psychological realism explored through the plays of Anton Chekhov will be the primary material for this course which focuses on creating believable dramatic characters, and

bringing them truthfully to life in theatrical context. Scenes are explored and presented in the classroom for discussion and deeper examination.

**THAR 420D** Devised Project Workshop (2 units)

In this course students will create a new piece of theatre for public presentation guided by a resident guest artist or acting faculty. Material will be developed based on consensus of the class cohort. Prerequisite: THAR 320A or 420A. or Acting Program Director consent. Face-to-face mode.

**THAR 327** Stage Combat (1 unit)

Stage Combat introduces safe portrayal of violence onstage to create the illusion of danger to facilitate storytelling, character development, and given circumstances. Modes include swordplay, hand-to-hand combat, among others. No prerequisite. Face-to-face mode. May be taken once for UD Acting Concentration credit, and a second time as an elective.

**THAR 328** Accents & Dialects (1 unit)

Actors create believable accents and dialects using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as a cornerstone. Students also learn how to acquire accents on their own. Prerequisite: THAR 145A and 145B. Face-to-face. May be taken once for UD Acting Concentration credit, and a second time as an elective.