

SYLLABUS THEA 2033-351

Special Course Dates

- Tuesday, August 20: **Class Begins**
- Tuesdays/Thursdays: Improv Show/Practices 4-5pm
- August 28: Department Kick-off (Free Pizza) 5-7pm
- August 30: Scholarship Application deadline
- Sept. 6: 24-Hour Theatre Festival Auditions 8-9pm
- Sept. 7: 24-Hour Theatre Festival Rehearsal, 6am-8pm, Black Box Theatre
- Sept. 7: 24-Hour Theatre Festival Performance, 8pm. Black Box Theatre
- Sept. 10: 39 Steps Auditions, 4-7pm
- Sept. 11: 39 Steps Callbacks 5-7pm
- Tuesday, September 10: **Last Day to Drop Classes with 100% Refund**
- Tuesday, September 17: **No Class – Independent Study**
- Sept. 20: Club Conference, 9-4
- Tuesday (10/8) and Thursday (10/10): **No Class – Independent Study**
- Thursday, October 17: **No Class – Fall Break**
- Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16: The 39 Steps Performances, 7:30pm, Black Box Theatre
- Thursday, November 28: **No Class – Thanksgiving Break**
- Wednesday, December 4: **Acting II Showcase 7-9pm in Black Box Theatre (final class)**
- Dec. 6 Improv Show
- Sunday, December 8: **All Assignments Due by 11:59pm**

*** Please follow SLCC Drama Club on Facebook or SLCC Theatre Department on Instagram for updated information about SLCC auditions and events.**

Course Description

This course provides a continued exploration of approaches to the acting process for stage, film, other media, and aspects of everyday life. Emphasis is placed on techniques of acting with exercises in self-awareness, relaxation, improvisation, communion, auditioning, and scenes. Students will utilize structural critical thinking skills as they produce these performances.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate understanding of the basic principles of acting as they relate to theater, film, business, sales, law, teaching, and the art of performance.
2. Demonstrate skills to evaluate artistic expression and acting principles through written analysis of live and/or filmed performance.
3. Demonstrate fundamental research and writing skills required for script and character analysis.
4. Demonstrate understanding and usage of basic acting terminology.
5. Demonstrate understanding of basic elements of preparing to act including physical and vocal warm-ups.
6. Demonstrate the ability to employ the basic principles of voice and body control in a performance.
7. Demonstrate abilities in sensory awareness, observation, and concentration.

Text

1. Supplemental handouts, texts, scenes, and plays will be used in this course. Students may be responsible for obtaining copies of the texts, scenes, and plays as assigned in the course.

SCENE SELECTION due 10/6

After Fall Break, you will begin working on an intensive scene. To aid in the scene selection process, and to provide me with a stronger sense of the types of roles and scenes that attract you, you are **required to find and submit at least one scene** that you would want to work on this term.

SCENE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Between **2-4 minutes long** (as you're reading through the scene, time yourself; give each pause its full length). Keep in mind that you'll have about a month to rehearse, so choose something manageable for that time frame.
2. Have **2-6 characters**. If you choose a scene that has 3+ characters, each role must have equal value in the scene, so that everyone has a fabulous acting challenge.

SCENE SUBMISSION:

1. **DUE DATE:** The scene must be submitted by **October 6 @ 11:59pm**.
2. **CANVAS SUBMISSION:** Scenes can be submitted on Canvas. Click the 'Assignments' tab and submit your scene via 'Scene Selection'.
3. **DIRECT SUBMISSION:** Scenes may also be submitted as a hard copy given directly to the professor. Please write your name on the top.
4. **DIRECTIONS:** You must clearly indicate where the scene starts and ends.
5. **EDITS:** If your scene is too long and you'd like to edit it down, please make sure that the edits are clear. You can either re-type the scene with the edits, or boldly cross the lines or sections out that you're deleting.

* Please note, you are not allowed to change or add dialogue. You may only remove blocks of text while still keeping a clear through line for the scene.

6. **PREFERENCES:** When you submit your scene on Canvas, leave a comment that indicates which role you'd like to play. If you have a strong preference for who you'd like to play the other roles, indicate that as well.
 - If submitting the scene directly to me, write these role preferences on a separate paper to be included in the submission. Please do not write the casting ON the scene.
 - In the comments, please also indicate how strongly you feel about doing the scene this term. If this is a dream role for you, and you desperately want to do it, let me know. If you're lukewarm about the scene, and are only submitting it because of course requirements, indicate that as well. **I cannot guarantee that you will do the scene this term, nor that I will cast it according to your recommendation, but knowing your level of enthusiasm will help.**
7. If you select a scene from either the 'Scenes' or 'Copies of Plays' folder in our course Files, then you don't need to submit a copy. Rather, in your submission, you can list the title of the scene, where you found it, the page (and line) you're starting with and the page (and line) you're ending with. Because I already have a copy, I can reference it. However, if you choose a scene from our course Files but want to edit it at all, then you must submit the fully edited version.

FINDING SCENES:

1. **CANVAS FILES 'Scenes':** Click on the 'Scenes' folder for PDFs of two scene anthologies.

2. **CANVAS FILES 'Copies of Plays':** Click on the 'Plays' folder for PDFs of full-length plays. Please note that the scanner saved some plays in two parts, so I've consolidated those PDFs into a folder with the name of the play.
3. **SLCC LIBRARY:** Our library has lots of anthologies and scripts.
4. City Libraries and Bookstores
5. **GOOGLE:** If there is a specific type of character you want to play, google the key terms you're looking for. You can also google the plays that have been nominated for Tony's or Olivier's over the past 5 years.
6. **THEATRE COMPANIES:** look at the recent seasons for companies you like.
7. **NEW PLAY EXCHANGE:** This is a fantastic site for finding plays – many of which are unpublished. You can search for specific types of characters and themes.
8. **EACH OTHER:** You each have a wealth of knowledge about different plays and scenes that you either know of or have performed in. Brainstorm together on possibilities. To this end, I've created a Discussion Board where you can pose questions and suggestions. You can also post queries on SLCC Drama Club.

EXTRA CREDIT: You can submit an additional for extra credit until October 6. (25 points for additional scene).

LABAN SCENE/ COMMUNION WORKSHOPS – completed 10/15

During the first half of the term, students will be assigned a scene to explore the concept of 'communion' (Roy Hart, Meisner, Stanislavski, Grotowski) and Laban with. Full points will be awarded to students who fully participate in all of the exercises and explorations, memorize their scripts by their 'performance date', and workshop their scene in front of the class before Fall break.

FINAL SCENE PERFORMANCE

After Fall Break, students will be assigned a scene to work on for the remainder of the term. Scenes will be performed (memorized) in class before Thanksgiving Break.

Showcase

Our final class will be held on **Wednesday, December 4** from 7-9pm in the Black Box Theatre (please note the time change). Students are required to perform one of the scenes they worked on this term. They can opt to perform both for 50 points extra credit.

Performance Critique

Students are required to attend one live performance this term and submit a written play critique via Canvas of the performance. Guidelines for how to write and submit your critique are available within the "Assignments" tab under Performance Critique. This critique may be turned in at any point until December 8 @ 11:59pm.

Please note that you must write your critique on something you've seen during *this* term. Critiques will not be accepted for plays that you saw prior to the start of term.

It is strongly recommended that you see SLCC's productions.

Additionally, The Grand Theatre on SLCC's South Campus has free student tickets to their productions.

If you are unable to attend a live performance, SLCC has access to Digital Theatre +: an on-line library of professional plays that have been performed internationally. This is a great resource for performances that you can watch and critique. To access, click this link and then click "Digital Theatre+". You'll be directed to login with your SLCC ID. <https://libweb.slcc.edu/research/database-listing/DLinks> to an external site.

EXTRA CREDIT CRITIQUE: You may submit one additional performance critique for 25 points extra credit. Extra Credit Performance Critique [Extra Credit Performance Critique](#)

ACTING PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Throughout this term, students will learn a variety of approaches to acting and will be introduced to an array of acting theorists. Students will create a living document, highlighting which tools, techniques, and approaches they personally respond to. Here are some questions to consider in your paper:

1. Which acting theorists do you relate to and use in your acting? How do you prepare for a role?
2. How does acting play a role in your life, your development and understanding of self, and our understanding of our society?

You can choose to create your 'paper' in any format that allows you to express yourself. You can audio record yourself, record a video, write a paper... The primary focus of this assignment is encouraging you to analyze and then articulate your approach to acting.

EXTRA CREDIT AUDITION

During the term, students may audition for SLCC productions or outside productions for extra credit.

To earn extra credit, after completing your audition, please send me an e-mail with the name of the show you auditioned for, the date of the audition, and a list of 3 things you would improve if you had the opportunity to go back in time and do it over, as well as a list of 3 things that you did well.

EXTRA CREDIT SCRIPT READING CRITIQUE

Over the course of the semester, each student may read one play in its entirety and write a critique using details from the play to argue why we should or should not stage this show at SLCC. Guidelines for what is required in the critique are posted on Canvas under "Assignments" as Extra Credit Script Reading Critique. It is recommended that students read the full plays from which they are performing their scenes. Critiques must be submitted via Canvas for extra credit.

Copies of plays can be found at SLCC and city libraries, on-line, and under *Files as "Copies of Plays"* on Canvas. This critique may be turned in at any point until April 28 @ 11:59pm.

EXTRA CREDIT 4 HOURS IN THE SCENE SHOP

As part of your education in acting and theatre as a collaborative art, acting students can spend up to 4 hours of lab time in the scene shop. Regular shop times are MWF 2-5 in the Black Box Theatre (room 2-128A on the South City Campus). Additional times will be announced as they become available. Students are required to keep an hourly log sheet and have their hourly log sheet signed by a scene shop faculty member (the log sheet template can be found on Canvas under "Files" as *Scene Shop Hours Log*). Students may work up to 4 additional hours for extra credit (10 pts. for each hour). Students may turn in their hourly log at any time during the semester once the 4 hours have been completed. Hours may be earned through an outside production with prior approval. If

your work or school schedules conflicts with this assignment, please contact your professor for an alternative assignment.

ATTENDANCE

Everyone has **three 'free' absences** to use at any point in the term. After three absences, your grade will drop by 50 points for every subsequent absence (a half letter grade). For instance:

4th absence: -50 points (A-)

5th absence: -100 points (B+)

6th absence: -150 points (B)

Class begins precisely at the listed start time. Please arrive early enough to take off your shoes, store your personal belongings, retrieve class materials, and be ready to dive in as soon as we start.

You are allowed to be **tardy three times** before your grade is impacted. Every subsequent tardy will drop your grade by 10 points. Please note that if you are even one minute late, it is still counted as being tardy.

If a student has a legitimate reason for being late they must inform the professor in advance.

Due to the extraordinary times we are living in, **if you feel ill, please do not come to class.** Likewise, **if you think you've been exposed to COVID-19 or have tested positive, please stay home.** Attendance will be excused during your prescribed quarantine and I will work closely with you on what accommodations we can provide to keep you current with classwork. In order for these absences to qualify as excused, you must be in regular communication with your facilitator about your status and must complete any make-up work that is assigned. **You must also provide the facilitator with proof of your Covid test and the date it was taken, as well as the specific dates of the classes that were missed.**

Once we begin scene work, **please let your scene partner know if you will be missing a class** so that they can be prepared to work alone.

Communication is key to professionalism in acting. If you are going to be late or absent, please inform me and your scene partners.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

In the Salt Lake Community College Theatre Department, attendance is an extremely important part of the educational experience. Students are expected to attend every meeting of their classes. In case of a necessary absence, students should contact their professor and any group members in advance and stay caught up on any missed work. Students are accountable for all academic activities, and faculty may require additional assignments to make up for the missed class or classes. In addition, faculty members are encouraged to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to health issues, emergencies, and the observance of religious holidays.

When a student reaches 3 absences in a course, or 3 tardies in a course, or a combination of the two, the student will be called to have a meeting with the department head to discuss their attendance. If the attendance problems persist, the student may be put on departmental probation for one semester. This probation will prohibit the student from auditioning or participating in departmental productions.

Course Expectations

- 1) Please be on-time. Arrive at least 5 minutes before class to ensure that you are there right at the beginning.
- 2) Please Be Prepared: Bring any necessary scripts to class, eat before we begin, have water nearby and easy access to a notebook and pen for notes.
- 3) No Cellphones or Apple Watches during class: checking phones and messages can be very distracting in class. If you need to use your devices for a specific reason, please let me know and I'll accommodate you. Otherwise, keep them in your bags.
- 4). Late Assignments: late assignments will be accepted until December 8 at 11:59pm; no assignments will be accepted after that time. All late assignments will be given a maximum of 50% credit.

SLCC E-Portfolio Information

It is an SLCC requirement that students post content for each course they're taking onto their E-Portfolio page. For this class, students may post any of their assignments from this term and include a brief description of what the assignment was, and what they learned from it. For instance, students might upload a copy of their scene and scene analysis and include a description of the assignment. Students might also upload their extra credit 'Acting Philosophy' paper or one of their play critiques and a description of what the assignment was and what they got from it. Once the page is created, send a link via Canvas. I will check to make sure there's content and award full points (**please make sure I'm invited to view the page**).

General Education ePortfolio—Each student in General Education courses at SLCC maintains a General Education ePortfolio. Instructors in every Gen Ed course will ask you to put at least one assignment from the course into your ePortfolio, and accompany it with reflective writing. **It is a requirement in this class for you to add to your ePortfolio**, and this syllabus details the assignments and reflections you are to include. Your ePortfolio will allow you to include your educational goals, describe your extracurricular activities, and post your resume. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio will then be a multi-media showcase of your educational experience. For detailed information visit <http://www.slcc.edu/gened/eportfolio> (Links to an external site.) .

After you have picked an ePortfolio platform, go to the corresponding help site to watch the tutorials and look at the examples so you can get started on your own:

If you would like to start your ePortfolio in a computer lab with a person there to help you, visit an **ePortfolio Lab** (in the Taylorsville-Redwood Library LIB 047 as well as in HTC 102a on the Jordan Campus) during business hours, and staff will help you without an appointment. Finally, questions regarding the ePortfolio can be directed to eportfolio@slcc.edu.

Assignment Points Breakdown

Attendance	375
Laban Scene/ Communion Workshops	150
Scene Selection	75
Scene Analysis	100
Final Scene Performance	125
Showcase Performance	50
Performance Critique	50
Acting Philosophy Paper	50
E-Portfolio Submission	25
TOTAL POINTS	1000

Grading Scale

930-1000	A	800-829	B-	670-699	D+
900-929	A-	770-799	C+	630-669	D
870-899	B+	730-769	C	600-629	D-
830-869	B	700-729	C-	0-599	E