Raritan Valley Community College  
Academic Course Outline  

ACTING I: FUNDAMENTALS  

I. Basic Course Information  

A. Course Number and Title: THEA-105 ACTING I: FUNDAMENTALS  
B. Date of Proposal or Revision: October 2005  
C. Sponsoring Department: Visual and Performing Arts Department  
D. Semester Credit Hours: 3  
E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 2  
Laboratory: 2  
F. Prerequisites: NONE  
G. Laboratory Fees: NONE  

II. Catalog Description  

Students will learn the theory and practice of the art of acting. The course will focus on the primary elements of acting, such as relaxation, concentration, emotional truth, imagination, and the maintaining of objectives. The course will be augmented by student performance, both improvised and scripted.  

III. Statement of Course Need  

This course is a program requirement for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts (Theatre option) and the A.F.A. degree in Theatre, Technical Theatre and Dance.  

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum  

- Free elective  
- The course meets a core program requirement for A.A. degree in Liberal Arts (Theatre option) and A.F.A. in Theatre, Technical Theatre and Dance.  
- This course satisfies a VAPA general elective requirement in the A.A. Liberal Arts.  
- Course Transferability: According to the njtransfer.org website this course will transfer to most four year universities as an introductory acting class equivalent, a theatre elective or a free elective.
V. Outline of Course Content

- Methods and Techniques of Relaxation
- Methods and Techniques of Concentration
- Apply varied acting methodologies formulated by Stanislavski, Meisner, Hagen and others into practice through rehearsed and unrehearsed performances (monologues and scenes).
- Methods and Techniques of stage movement and stage vocal use
- Improvisation
  - Focusing on pursuit of objectives
  - Focusing on character development
  - Focusing on development of imagination
- Public performance of scene

VI. Education Goals and Learning Outcomes

Education Goals

Students will:

- Work together through exercises and improvisation. (G.E. 2)
- Discover techniques and motivations that help build and create the actor’s individual abilities in characterization. (G.E. 2)

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Recognize mental and physical tension in the body.
- Demonstrate concentration as an actor in both scene and solo work.
- Apply methods from various acting philosophies to create roles.
- Dramatize both original and contemporary characters.
- Memorize dramatic work.
- Evaluate performances, distinguishing between work that is truthful acting, mechanical acting, or over acting.
- Apply appropriate vocal and movement training through performance.
VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- Lecture/discussion
- Student collaboration
- Simulation/role playing
- Improvisation (performance without a script)

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- Journals
- Essays
- Demonstrations
- Performance (mid-term monologues and finals scenes)
- Participation in critiques and discussions.

IX. Grade Determinants

- The grade determinants, including attendance, class and rehearsal participation, journals, weekly assignments, performance critiques, and performance progress will be used to assess the students according to the learning outcomes and general education goals listed above.

X. Texts and Materials


XI. Resources

- Performance space (Welpe Theatre)
- Library (plays)
- DVD/VHS player