

# **Theory and Technique of Acting 20A - Fall 2024**

**Introduction - THEAD020A61, Sec. 61, CRN# 27635**

**Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.**

**Room G3 unless otherwise instructed**

## **Instructor Information**

**Instructor** - Neil Schwartz

**Office Hours** - Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., G3

**E-mail** - [schwartzneil@fhda.edu](mailto:schwartzneil@fhda.edu)

## **Course Information**

Principles of Acting 20A is designed to introduce students to basic acting theories and techniques. It aims at developing an articulate vocabulary for practical acting experience, evaluation, assessment and critique. Students will become familiar with the control and function of the vocal instrument as well as become aware of the human body as an instrument for communication. Character development in dramatic scripts will be examined to familiarize students with the techniques of drama.

## **Credits**

4 units

## **Texts and Auxiliary Materials**

- While there are no required textbooks needed for the course, students will be required to read two plays of their choosing and should have access to them.

## **Student Learning Objectives**

1. Students develop the voice and body as an instrument of expression while gaining confidence through the experience of interaction and audience performance.
2. Students heighten abilities to analyze text and performance content for self-advancement.
3. Students progress critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills as well as diversity perspectives through collaborative projects.

## **Curriculum Units**

- Week 1: Understanding the Actor's Job
- Week 2: Relaxing, Centering & Focusing
- Week 3: Improvisation
- Week 4: Objectives, Actions & Beats
- Week 5: Exploring the Text
- Week 6: Foundations of Character
- Week 7: Personalization
- Week 8: Early Rehearsals
- Week 9: Units, Scenes, Superobjective, & Spine
- Week 10: Staging and Final Rehearsals
- Week 11: The Performance and After
- Week 12: Finals Week

## Grading

### Graded Assignments:

1. 1 Midterm Monolog Performance - performed twice (50 points each = 100 points)
2. 1 Final Scene Performance - performed twice (50 points each = 100 points)
3. 2 Character Analyses (25 points each = 50 total points)
4. 2 Script Responses/Analyses (25 points each = 50 total points)
5. Final Exam (100 points)
6. Participation (100 points)

Criteria for the total grade in the term are as follows:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent
A	466-500
A-	450-465
B+	433-449
B	416-432
B-	400-415
C+	383-399
C	350-382
D+	333-349
D	316-332
D-	300-315
F	0-299

## Policies

**LATE WORK** - Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Please pay particular attention to the due dates listed on the class due date schedule. Late assignments will be docked by 5% for each week they are late.

**DROPPING** - It is the student's responsibility to add or drop the class. The instructor will not drop you. There is one exception, however. If you are registered in the class, it is important that you show up the first night or you will be dropped as a "no show."

**PARTICIPATION** - Please wear clothing that does not restrict movement. Expect to be physically active.

**DISABILITIES** - In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, De Anza College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical issues).

You can meet with a Disabilities Support Services (DSS) counselor or Learning Disability (LD) Specialist to discuss any accommodations or specific learning needs you may have. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable accommodations or services in this course, you will need to provide the instructor with a Test Accommodation Verification (TAV) form from the DSS office.

Students are expected to give 5 (five) days-notice of the need for accommodations. Students with disabilities may obtain this form by contacting their DSS counselor or LD Specialist at (408) 864-8753.

<https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/dss/dish.html>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY** - I do not expect you to cheat in this class but, for all of your classes, you should be aware of the college Academic Integrity Policy and its consequences for students.

[https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity.html](https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html)

**DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR** -The college will enforce all policies and procedures set forth in the *Standards of Student Conduct* (see catalog). Any student disrupting the class may be asked to leave that class. Administrative follow-up may result.

[https://foothill.edu/campuslife/documents/Student\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](https://foothill.edu/campuslife/documents/Student_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)

## Final Exam and Other Important Dates for the College

- September 23: First day of fall quarter
- October 6: Last day to add classes using add codes (It is advised you add before this date)
- October 6: Last day to drop classes without a “W”
- November 11: NO CLASS, OFFICES CLOSED – Veterans Day
- November 15: Last day to drop classes with “W”
- Nov. 28-Dec. 1: NO CLASS, OFFICES CLOSED – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 9-13: NO REGULAR CLASSES – Finals Week
- December 11: THEA20 Final Exam, 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., G3

## Extra Help and Support

### Academic Help

If you think you might need extra academic help and support, you might want to consider contacting the Student Success Center.

<https://www.deanza.edu/studentssuccess/>

## General Services Information

- **Student Support Services website:** <https://www.deanza.edu/quarter-guide/>
- **De Anza College Library website:** <https://www.deanza.edu/library/>
- **Creative Arts website:** <http://www.deanza.fhda.edu/creativearts>

## Due Dates Schedule

September 23: First day of class

September 25

September 30

October 2: [October 6: Last day to add a class using add codes] [October 6: Last day to drop a class without a “W”]

October 7

October 9: Midterm Performance monologue choice due

October 14

October 16: Midterm Performance Script Response/Analysis due  
October 21  
October 23: Midterm Performance Character Analysis due  
October 28  
October 30: (Midterm Performance - Monologues in G3)  
November 4: Final Performance scene choice due (Midterm Performance - Monologues in G3)  
November 6: (Midterm Performance - Monologues in VPAC)  
November 11: NO CLASS - Veterans Day  
November 13: Final Performance Script Response/Analysis due (#1 Performance of Midterm Monologues in VPAC)  
November 18: (Film for Final Exam)  
November 20: Final Performance Character Analysis due (Important - Unit Lecture for Final Exam)  
*[November 15 – Last day to drop a class with a “W”]*  
November 25: (Final Performance - Scenes in G3)  
November 27: (Final Performance - Scenes In G3)  
December 2: (Final Performance - Scenes in VPAC)  
December 4: (Final Performance - Scenes in VPAC)  
December 9: NO CLASS - Finals Week  
December 11: Final Exam: 6:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m. in G3