



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CONTINUING EDUCATION

COURSE SYLLABUS/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT FORM

1. **Name of Course:** Acting Fundamentals

2. **Number of Clock Hours:** 15 hours

3. **Course Description:**

This playful class approach to the actor's craft is conducive to the beginner. This class provides individuals the opportunity to experience living in the imaginary world of a character and a story while expanding their own self-expression and emotional life. Students will learn how to investigate a script as well as explore their own intuition through games, exercises, and scenes from film or stage. The class is designed to be taken more than once, as it is different in meaningful ways each time — ever-changing with the instructor, fellow students, and the material chosen for the class. In addition, while we are a professional training school, our beginning courses are for anyone who is curious about acting, seeking to expand their creativity, wanting a new challenge, or just to have fun.

4. **Course Objectives:**

- Give students the opportunity to “play” through simple improv games
- Create an environment of self-trust and trust in one's classmates – sense of ensemble
- Learning what it means to be “present” – strong listening skills which allow for truly receiving and giving
- Learn the aspects of scene study – the building blocks of bringing a scene to life

5. **Rationale – State the reason for offering the course:**

To provide beginning actors with the tools needed to better understand the craft of acting. This is an introductory class where we will play and build an ensemble that will strengthen our communicative competence and confidence.

6. Required Materials:

Water bottle with a lid, pencil, paper, something to write on, scenes printed out (hard copy)

7. Course Outline:

What topics and sub-topics will be covered in this course?

Week 1 – Improv games, imagination exercises, & intro to understanding a script

Week 2 – Understanding that in any play, screenplay or scene, you must establish your Given Circumstances which include the 5 W's.

Who - Relationship

What – The story

When – present or specific past, times of day/night

Where –location (specifically)

Why – What does your character want- what is known as The Objective

Work collectively to understand a script that includes all the above and the Obstacles one's character encounters.

Imagine what comes before the start of the scene. "Moment Before"

Assign 1st scene.

Week 3 – Rehearse all scenes with instructor feedback. Address the points explored in Week 2.

Week 4 - Final presentation of scene #1 with feedback. *Assign 2nd scene*

Week 5 – Introduce Backstory. Explore the Backstory of a short scene together. (Backstory is Given Circumstances and the Imagination) 1st workshop 2nd scene. Feedback

Week 6 –Final Scenes Presented. End with Q&A and for those who want to continue, next steps.

Suggestions:

Repeat Acting Fundamentals with another instructor or the same instructor.

Consider taking Improv I

If ready to commit to more demanding training, continue with Acting Explorations

Also suggested is On Camera I