



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CONTINUING EDUCATION

COURSE SYLLABUS/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT FORM

1. **Name of Course:** *Acting Fundamentals (as led by Francine Michelle)*

2. **Number of Clock Hours:** 18 hours

3. **Course Description:**

This gentle approach to the actor's craft is conducive to the beginner or those who want a refresher in basic skills or to learn new approaches to preparing and learning a role. This class provides individuals the opportunity to experience living in the world of a character and a story while digging in to their own self-expression and emotional life. Students will learn the beginning steps of how to analyze and breakdown a script as well as explore their own intuition through games and exercises. The class is designed to be taken more than once, as it can be different in meaningful ways each time. Class is limited to 12 students.

4. **Course Objectives:**

- To provide actors with the ability to analyze a text for how to approach a character
- To provide actors with the ability to better use their imagination and instincts.
- To provide actors with the ability to better understand the process going from written word to performance.
- To help students build confidence and comfort level in performing

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

To provide a safe and supportive space for beginning actors to explore the world of acting and equip them with the tools to create truthful characters.

6. **Required Materials:**

An open mind, paper and pencil, and possibly simple props from home for scripted scenes or monologues

7. **Course Outline: What topics and sub-topics will be covered in this course?**

Week 1 – Introduction and overview of class, introduction to the idea of acting technique, approaching a scene with motivation and presence using simple open scenes

Week 2 – Introduce the idea of relaxation and its importance to acting, in preparation for the moment before, scenes assigned for work in following class

Week 3 – Work collectively on analyzing a script for objectives and apply to own scene work, 1st workshop of scene #1 with critiques and notes

Week 4 – Work on scene #1 with improvisation exercises to uncover deeper layers, Assign 2nd scene

Week 5 - 1st workshop of 2nd scene relating to status with critique and notes

Week 6 – Character development exercises leading into final workshop of scene #2

8. Suggested reading:

This is not a requirement for the class but recommendations of where the actor might start to self-educate:

- *Building a Character & Creating a Role* - Constantin Stanislavsky
- *The Technique of Acting* - Stella Adler
- *Acting for the Camera* - Tony Barr