



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CONTINUING EDUCATION

COURSE SYLLABUS/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT FORM

1. **Name of Course:** Fundamentals of Acting (*as taught by Craig Nigh*)

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

3. **Course Description:**

This playful approach to the actor's craft is conducive to the beginner. This class allows individuals to experience living in the imaginary world of a character and a story while expanding their self-expression and emotional life. Students will learn how to investigate a script and explore their 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 curious about acting, seeking to expand their creativity, wanting a new challenge, or just to have fun.

4. **Course Objectives:**

- Provide students who are taking the course and opportunity to see what the actor does, and for those who are exploring acting for more than fun, a place to begin their journey with the basics of acting training.
- Provide students with strategies and tools for script/text analysis for performance.
- Provide students with strategies and tools to help unlock their imagination and intuition.
- Provide students with tools to help with relaxation, focus, listening and responding.
- Create an environment for creativity and self-expression.

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

To introduce the fundamental techniques of acting for stage and film for students who have either never studied acting or who have not studied in a long time. To give students an opportunity to explore their creativity and engage in an ensemble environment to increase their self-esteem, learn a new skill, meet new people, and have fun.

6. Materials:

May need simple props from home for scripted scenes.

Access to a printer is helpful to print out scenes.

Pencil and paper to take notes.

Water bottle with lid

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

Week 1 – Introduction to the course. Play time w/ improvisation and exercises.

Week 2 – Using open scenes, learning the elements of a short script – the building blocks of “how to play a scene.” 5 W’s introduced to expand specificity in the Open Scenes. Areas of the stage and “upstaging” discussed. Short film/TV scenes assigned.

Week 3 – Working moment-by-moment with their scenes, building on the Given Circumstances and the character’s objective, and understanding the obstacle.

Week 4 – Second scene given. Learning how to “cold read” a script. Listening and intuitive exercise using their new scene. Games/exercises to explore “listening” and right brain shift.

Week 5 – Introduction of *Actions* and *Beat Changes* using 2nd scene. Work through new scene with scene partner to note Beat Changes, and write down Actions (hand out an “Actions” cheat sheet), determining line by line what the Actions might be based on the text, character’s objective and the Given Circumstances.

Week 6 – Memorized and prepared 2nd scene with props and/or an activity – fully blocked. Introduce an Imagination Exercise using one line from their script. (time permitting)

Discussion of the next step for actors