

**ACTING II / THS 202**

**3 credits**

**Instructor: Marion McCorry/ email – mmccorry @cedarcrest.edu / x3442**

**Text: A Challenge for the Actor / Uta Hagen**

**Tuesday: 1pm – 3:30pm**

**Office Hours/ 10am – Noon /Mon. and Tues. /And by Appt.**

**Description:**

The course is an intermediate level acting seminar. It includes Beginners as well as students who have taken one or more Acting classes. The class focuses on individual acting problems and moves the student into specific scene work from contemporary theatre through American and European Realists examining the plays of Williams, O'Neill, Ibsen, Shaw, and Chekhov. The class will emphasize beginning and advanced exercise work from the Hagen series dependent on the individual student's experience, open discussion of specific rehearsal problems, and examination of specific playwrights' voice and style. Students will be moved more deeply into an examination and understanding of the acting process with a specific intention to actualize the individual student's talent and skill.

**Objectives:**

- 1) To explore, clarify and define the individual student's approach to her own work and to introduce the student to the specific acting problems involved with performance of the great roles in theatrical literature.
- 3) To expand each student's technique and repertoire.

**Course Outcome:**

- 1) The student will have a working knowledge of the acting process and an individual approach to the creation of a stage life.
- 2) The student will develop an increased appreciation for the role of the artist in our culture and the power of the actor's contribution to the collaborative theatrical process.
- 3) The student will gain an in depth experience of the great roles of dramatic literature.

**Suggested Reading:**

Sanford Meisner, On Acting.  
Lee Strasbourg, A Dream of Passion, The Development of the Method.

**Assignments:**

Exercises from the Hagen series. Most exercises will be presented once unless I see a strong need to repeat it. Scenes and monologues as assigned. Each scene or monologue is presented two times.

First Showing: An investigated physical layout with beginning examination and investment of individual stakes. Further definition of character and relationship to partner and circumstances are examined and discussed in class and conference.

Second Showing: Character, circumstances and relationships fully explored and played. Emotional stakes clearly identified and owned.

**Written Work:**

Accompanies the final showing of scenes and monologues ONLY. The writing is solely subjective in nature and is a tool to support the actor's ongoing investigation of her stage life. It follows the form laid out in A Challenge for the Actor (p.134) answering the specific acting questions: Who am I, Where am I, What do I want, What's in my way, etc..... The writing is in no way a term paper; rather, a personal study and opportunity to discuss difficult areas with me as well as discover for yourself where you are facing problems in your own acting score. It is a superb tool in helping the actor specifically define and commit to her stage life.

**Grading and Evaluation:**

Grading is based on Performance Work (65% - 75%) and Written Work (30% - 35%). It includes effort and preparation put into the work, responsibility to scene partners and to the class and demonstrated growth in process and form.

**Absences:**

After two absences grade will be reduced one half level for each additional absence (i.e. B to B-). Coming late counts as half an absence.

**Make-Up Policy:**

Students missing rehearsals and particularly, performances without explanation and sufficient notice to make alternative arrangements are immediately dropped one grade level.

**Classroom Protocol:**

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.

**Honor Code Pledge:**

We who accept the honor of membership in the Cedar Crest College Community recognize our obligation to act and encourage others to act, with honor. The Honor Philosophy exists to promote an atmosphere in which the individual makes her own decisions, develops a regard for the system under which she lives and achieves a sense of integrity and judgment in all aspects of her life. It is with faith in such a system that I have accepted membership into this community. Representative of such, I hereby pledge to uphold the spirit and letter of the Honor Philosophy.

**Disabilities:**

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

**Schedule:**

- Mon. 1/19 - Introduction, Games, Discussion & Explanation of Syllabus**  
**Mon. 1/26** - Hagen exercise # 5 or #6 / Intermediate Level  
Hagen exercise #1 or #2/ Beginning Level  
**Mon. 2/2** - Hagen Exercise # 7 or #8 / Intermediate Level  
Hagen Exercise # 3 or #4 / Beginning Level  
**Assignment Scene # 1 - Contemporary Plays & American Realists**  
**Mon. 2/9 - Read-thru of Scene #1 / Improvisation and Rehearsal of Scenes**  
**Mon. 2/16** - First Showing Scene #1  
**Mon. 2/23** - First Showing Scene #1  
**Mon. 3/2** - Final Showing of Scene #1 (**Written Homework Due** – p.134 in text)  
**Mon. 3/9 - SPRING BREAK**  
**Mon. 3/16** - Final Showing of Scene #1  
**Assignment Scene # 2**  
**Mon. 3/23 - Read-Thru / Improv. of Scene #2**  
**Mon. 3/30** - Scene #2 – First Showing  
**Mon. 4/6** - Scene #2 – First Showing  
**Mon. 4/13 - Easter Break**  
**Mon. 4/20 - Final Showing / Scene #2**  
**Mon. 4/27 - Final Showing / Scene #2**  
**Mon. 5/4 - Monologue Read-Thru**