

Theater 2
2022-2023

Textbooks: Acting Onstage and Off by Robert Barton, The Stanislavski System by Sonia Moore, Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist.

Instructor: Robert Holter

Phone Number: 406324-2274

E-mail Address: rholter@helenaschools.org

Official Course-related Website: <https://hhs.helenaschools.org/teachers/rholter/>

Office Hours/Availability to Students: M- Friday 2:33 – 3:25 Daily or by appointment – In the little theater. For an appointment – email rholter@helenaschools.org

This is a lecture / lab course with approximately 90 hours of lecture and 90 hours of lab work including practical rehearsal and performing lab time.

Theater 2 expands on performing skills that were introduced in Theater 1. Students will work with acting technique, theater History, , and if time permits, some script writing. In this class students will develop and maintain a resume, and a current repertoire of audition scenes. The emphasis of the class is on further developing self-awareness and projecting a character in all of the dimensions available to an actress/actor started in Theater 1. Students will be required to see all Helena High School theater performances and tickets will be made available for you at no cost. Students will inventory skills and work on basics of script writing and directing, laying a foundation for Theater 3 projects. The Theater 2 class will work with theater 3 and 4 classes to produce showcase productions, and plays outside of the class assigned by the instructor, dates will be set at the beginning of the school year. Students are graded on written work, scene work production, and participation.

Theater 2 can be taken as a dual credit course for those over 16 years of age for credit in Introduction to acting 1 - THTR 120 at the Helena College University of Montana. To take dual credit students will have to be at least 16 years of age or petition the College of Helena for credit, and fill out all paperwork and pay the fees for the credit.

Instructor's educational philosophy:

I believe GK Chesterton hit the nail on the head when he said “Without education, we are in a horrible and deadly danger of taking educated people seriously.” That being said I also believe that in reality one can only to choose to educate themselves.

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline in accordance with Helena College's Student Code of Conduct. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences including, but not limited to race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, religion, politics, veterans status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, age, or disability. Class rosters include students' legal names, but I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or preferred gender pronoun.

Course Goals:

1. **Communicate effectively:** The student will read with critical comprehension; write clearly and coherently; and practice effective speaking and listening skills.
2. **Apply critical analysis and problem-solving skills:** The student will use acquired skills or methods to recognize, analyze, adapt, and apply critical thinking to solve problems and make informed decisions. *Apply information/technology literacy across disciplines:* The student will learn to locate needed information, managing and evaluating the extracted information and using it critically and ethically; and the student will use appropriate technology to access, manage, integrate, or create information, and/or use technology to effectively accomplish a given task.
3. Will begin to develop the ability to produce free, imaginative and purposeful behaviors to participate in the world of a legitimate theater production.

4. *Develop an understanding for diversity and global awareness:* The student will learn to recognize and value individual, group and cultural differences from, and within, local, national and global perspectives and contexts.
5. *Develop practical skills through applied disciplinary learning:* The student will integrate knowledge from academic disciplines and applied programs of study into progressively more complex problems, projects, and standards of performance in a chosen discipline.
6. Will understand the fundamentals of the acting process and begin cultivating a personal approach to this job.
7. Will understand the craftsmanship and professionalism of the acting process.
8. Will have explored the actor's relationship between him or herself and the text, the performance space, other performers and the audience.
9. Will understand the steps involved in crafting a character and how that character exists among other characters.
10. Will be able to audition for parts or placement in a university program.

Required Materials and Aids:

1. A Personal make up kit - estimated cost \$20.00 for a basic kit.
2. A 1- ½” portfolio three ring binder for your class notes and portfolio.
3. A set of rehearsal clothing (sweats).
4. A pencil and a pen in class daily.
5. Book covers for your books.

You will be assessed on the following:

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| 1. Attendance/Participation | 5% |
| 2. Homework and scene work (reading questions) | 10% |
| 3. Chapter Quizzes and Final scenes | 50% |
| 4. Scene Analysis | 10% |
| 5. Final Essay / Portfolio | 25% |

All tasks accomplished receive points that are cumulative and grades are weighted on the following scale:

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| A = 94 -100% | C = 74-76% |
| A- = 90-93% | C- = 70-73% |
| B+ = 87-89 | D+ = 67-69% |
| B = 84-86% | D = 64-66% |
| B- = 83-80% | D- = 60-63% |
| C+ = 77-79 | F = 59% or less |

I will round-up to two decimal places, so an 89.45 will round up to an 89.5, which rounds up to a 90 (A minus).

Class work is not enough, I strongly recommend seeing (or being in) as many legitimate theaters shows as you can. As you see or participate in shows, what you learn in class will take root and start to grow. There are many opportunities for high-level students to see legitimate theater both here and in other local venues such as Grandstreet and in the Helena Present's series. I will give extra credit for the extra shows you see upon the completion of a critique.

School rules are always in effect in this room as are the MBI expectations of “Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Involved, Be a Graduate. Please note that we are in a theater and that the space demands several extra notes for safety. The basic theater rules are as follows:

1. This is a no cell phone / tablet / computer / device space unless you are cleared for a specific reason to have such a device – please respect this space.
2. Never touch anything you have not been instructed to work with – you may die from “playing around with the cool gadgets.” The rule of thumb is to be responsible and respectful and **don’t touch anything that hasn’t been assigned to you - or isn’t yours!**
3. No food or drink in the theater except as cleared by Mr. Holter.
4. God gave you two ears and one mouth for a reason – it is twice as important to hear, as it is to speak – be responsible for yourself first and be respectful to the others by listening!
5. Do not be in any area you have not been cleared to be in.

6. Report any and all mishaps immediately. We have chemicals and equipment that will be unsafe if you have an accident and do not report it, someone might be killed if you “keep quiet.”
7. Finish what you start, this happens by using class time wisely and efficiently – do not waste time – you won't get it back!

Time line for Anticipated sequence of activities for this class, Text – Acting On Stage and Off.

Week One – Get portfolio notebook and insert portfolio requirements. Introduction to the theater and each other (1). Find 2 New audition scenes – put on audition card. Read Origins of the theater.

Week Two – plot structure notes. Show me your Portfolio notebook! Look up and define key terms and concepts notes in journal. Discussion Group on line in Moodle, topics as assigned. Audition Scenes found. Rehearse audition scenes for placement in show. Read The Alchemist pp 1-36.

Week Three – Theater Sports Introduction write out personal warm up routine to be used in the absence of a group warm up – with a clear commitment on when and how to do this. Discussion Group on line in Moodle, topics as assigned. History Chapter 2 Theater and Drama in Ancient Greece – notes on Bold Heading sections. The Alchemist pp 36-67. Read Stanislavski to page 143.

Week Four– Introduction to Movement (2) turn in a personal warm up routine/ commitment and chapter key terms and concepts due end of the week. Play Cast – parts assigned blocking rehearsals start! The Alchemist pp 67-90.

Week Five – “individual inventory” PP 61 - 94. Blocking continues – review notes – Update Portfolios. History chapter 3 Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine theater. Notes on Bold sections. The Alchemist pp 90-117.

Week Six – Review chapter questions and key terms and concepts due in portfolio notebook by the end of week. No contact Stage Combat. The Alchemist pp 117-143.

Week Seven – “Stanislavski System” PP 95-153 take notes on key terms and concepts. Notes on Stanislavski background / world view – be sure to get notes down!!! Chapter 4 European theater in the middle ages. The Alchemist pp 143-161.

Week Eight – Mid Term on Friday – we will review for this! We will also do blocking or rehearsal of show! The Alchemist pp 161-171.

Week Nine – “Stanislavski Stretched” - Lines due for Scripts - review notes and have them in portfolio for Friday! Chapter 5 English theater to 1642 The Alchemist review.

Week Ten – Stanislavski Truth / Technique PP 154 – 198. Take notes on key vocabulary / concepts. Check blocking – memorization with movement and pull props.

Week Eleven – Truth / Technique notes due at the end of the week in portfolio. Spanish theater to 1700.

Week Twelve – “Scene Study” PP 199 - 225 –Review questions define key terms and concepts for notebook – rehearsal of show!

Week Thirteen – “Scene Study” notes on chapter due in portfolio at the end of the week. Chapter 7 Italian Theater to 1700.

Week Fourteen – Rehearsal of show paramount – we are getting close no chapter notes for three weeks!

Week Fifteen – Rehearsal! Chapter 8 French theater to 1700.

Week Sixteen –Show! Find 2 new audition scenes (must be on the audition card) for semester exam!

Week seventeen - Semester exam (audition scene and portfolio review) is given according to the schedule – no absences unless prior approval is made with the administration! Unexcused absence = 0 for a grade!

Week eighteen – update portfolio Chapter 9 English theater to 1800

Week nineteen – Performance Process Chapter Review questions define key terms and concepts for notebook – rehearsal of show!

Week twenty – review questions and concepts, due at the end of the week. Block play – start run troughs / polishing rehearsals. Find two new audition scenes for final! **Chapter 10 Italy and France to 1800.**

Week twenty-one – Acting Anticipated define key terms and concepts for notebook – rehearsal of show!

Week twenty-two – Review questions define key terms and concepts for notebook – rehearsal of show! Polishing rehearsals – run music and all elements. **Chapter 11 Northern European Theater to 1800**

Week twenty-three – Memorization due! Run show. ***120 Students will show personal project outline to me!***

Week twenty-four – defining a personal philosophy of Acting using the “best practices I now know.” Clearly define both “things I know,” and “things I can see I need to work on.” **Chapter 12 Continental European theater in the Early Nineteenth Century.**

Week twenty- five – Run show – start writing personal philosophy out rough draft due on Friday!

Week Twenty-six –Run Show – peer edit writing philosophy. **Chapter 13 English Language theater in the Early Ninetieth Century.**

Week Twenty-seven – Run Show – final draft of personal philosophy of acting due!

Week twenty – eight – Run Show – Final Dress Week start updating portfolio for final audition with two new audition scenes. **Chapter 14 – English Language theater in the Late Nineteenth Century.**

Week twenty-nine – Chapter 13 Revolutions PP 299- 320, Questions 1- 4, define key terms and concepts.

Week thirty – review questions and concepts due on Friday. Rehearse for final performance next week!

Week Thirty-one – Final performance Theater 120 student’s final portfolio preparation.

Week Thirty-two - Theater 120 student’s present final portfolio and audition scenes. Class Critique of final performance – final review for semester exam – turn in all books.

Academic dishonesty definition/policy statement:

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are strictly prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to sanction by the instructor. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures, as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a zero for the exercise or examination, or to assign an “FX” in the course which signifies a failing grade due to academic dishonesty.

Definitions of Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating includes but is not limited to 1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes or exams; or 2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the use of material prepared by another person or agency (such as, for example, web sites that specialize in term papers. Please speak to the instructor in advance regarding any questions that you may have regarding cheating or plagiarism. It is the responsibility of each student to avoid academic dishonesty of all types.

For Dual Credit students:

Course Withdrawal procedure:

http://umhelen.edu/catalog/docs/HCCatalog_2017_2018.pdf
(catalog pg. 53/.pdf pg. 63)

Incomplete grade guidelines and procedure:

http://umhelen.edu/catalog/docs/HCCatalog_2017_2018.pdf

(catalog pg. 52/.pdf pg. 62)

Grade Appeal Process:

http://umhelena.edu/catalog/docs/HCCatalog_2017_2018.pdf

(catalog pg. 50/.pdf pg. 60)

“Theater is the integration points of the arts as it sculpts with human and scenic form, it paints both scenery and with words, and it requires the showing of the incomprehensible human soul in a light which bears all in a thing we call the performance.”

M.H.