

Tompkins Cortland Community College  
**Master Course Syllabus**

**Course Discipline and Number: ENGL 105**  
**Course Title: Beginning Acting**

**Year: 2019-2020**  
**Credit Hours: 3**

**Attendance Policy:** *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

### **Course Description**

Students experience the various techniques involved in acting using body, voice, movement and character development. Activities include improvisation and scene development, with emphasis on participation and in class exercises using the Stanislavsky System of actor training. Students maintain weekly character observation journals and write two short papers on the Stanislavsky System. ENGL 105 fulfills the SUNY General Education requirement in the Arts. Prerequisites: Prior completion or concurrent enrollment RDNG 116 if required by placement testing; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 100. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Occasionally.

### **Course Context/Audience**

This course is appropriate for undergraduate students interested in transferring to a four year institution for theatre arts/humanities/education. Non-matriculated students interested in theatre/acting will also find it of interest.

### **Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations**

**Writing:** WC College level writing skills are required. See course co-requisites or pre-requisites.

**Math:** M0 Course requires very little or no math.

**Reading:** R3 Prior completion or concurrent enrollment RDNG 116 if required by placement testing.

### **Course Goal**

Students will learn acting techniques and performance skills.

## Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Students will explore the physical and mental elements necessary to begin training as an actor.	20%
Students will strengthen their faculties of observation and imagination and enhance their capacity for effective improvisation.	20%
Student will read, analyze and interpret characterization.	20%
Students will learn the skills and techniques of expressive voice range and effective voice dynamics.	20%
Students will be imbued with the excitement and joy of ensemble work in bringing texts and characters to life in groups.	20%

## General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues.</li> <li>➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information.</li> <li>➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions.</li> <li>➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.</li> </ul>	<p>Through journal entries, written work and theater exercises, students will develop skills in creating relevant questions to understand the motivations and behavior of characters portrayed.</p> <p>In answering these questions, students will interpret information gained through direct observation, research and discussion to reach informed understanding of the characters and of themselves.</p> <p>Students will learn to consider a character's cultural, social and personal backgrounds through discussion, acting exercises, and written papers.</p>
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live.</li> <li>➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.</li> </ul>	<p>Students will explore the socio-economic and cultural contexts of characters they enact in class. Through class participation in the acting activities and discussions, they will understand how physical and social environment shapes character.</p>

## Instructional Methods

Lecture, workshop, class discussion and performance are appropriate instructional methods/activities for this course.

## Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
In-class participation in acting exercises	50%
Daily journal and short paper	25%
Final group scenes	25%

## Text(s)

The Stanislavski System: The Professional Training of an Actor by Sonia Moore New York: Penguin Books or Viking Press (most current edition)

## Bibliography

The Stages of Acting: A Practical Approach for Beginning Actors  
by Mack Owen Addison-Wesley Pub Co; ASIN: 0065006321; (© July 1993)

The Beckett Actor: Jack MacGowran, Beginning to End  
by Jordan R. Young, et al. Past Times Pub Co; ISBN: 0940410826; (© January 1988)

Beginning Acting: The Illusion of Natural Behavior  
by Richard H. Felnagle. Prentice Hall College Div; ASIN: 0130716316; (© January 1987)

The Actor's Scenebook: Scenes for Beginning Actors to Create  
by Mack Owen Addison-Wesley Pub Co; ISBN: 0065001451; (© March 1993)

Introduction to Performance: Beginning the Creative Process of the Actor by Sarah Barker. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company; ASIN: 0787242497; 3rd edition (© September 1997)

Actor's Handbook: A Guide for the Beginning and Intermediate Actor by Paul Palmore. Cellar Book Shop; ASIN: 9711000326; (© August 1982)

## Other Learning Resources

<b>Audiovisual</b> No resources specified
<b>Electronic</b> No resources specified
<b>Other</b> No resources specified