

Clarendon College
Liberal Arts Division: Drama Department

1351 ACTING I COURSE SYLLABUS **SPRING 2025**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rodney Donahue, Associate Professor of Drama

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OFFICE: HSFA 102 (My office is in the auditorium; please direct someone to point you there.)

CAMPUS OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-1 Thursday 11-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the fundamental principles and tools of acting as used in auditions, rehearsals, and performances. This may include ensemble performing, character and script analysis, and basic theater terminology. This exploration will emphasize the development of the actor's instrument: voice, body and imagination.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This course partially satisfies the requirements for the state of Texas core curriculum requirements, and the requirements for the Associate Degree at Clarendon College.

NO REQUIRED TEXT

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This course centers upon class lecture and practical application. Discussion is essential for the exchanging of ideas and a greater understanding of the content. Therefore, questions will be asked in order to make a more complete learning environment. It is essential for the student to participate in class assignments as a basis for the class. This course will require a significant amount of hands-on training.

THECB CORE OBJECTIVES

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all Drama courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT): to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills (CS): to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- Teamwork (T): to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Social Responsibility (SR): to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Analyze scripts from the viewpoint of the actor.
 - a. Assesses SR and CT with Participation.
2. Analyze, develop, and perform a character.
 - a. Assesses CT and CS with Student Performance.
3. Demonstrate effective and safe use of the body and voice.
 - a. Assesses CS and TW with Student Performance.
4. Define and discuss terms and concepts using the vocabulary of theater.
 - a. Assesses CS with Participation.
5. Perform at an appropriately skilled level in ensemble building exercises, scenes and final projects, which may include participation in plays.
 - a. Assesses CS and TW with Student Performance.

GRADING POLICIES

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 59 or Below = F

There will be a total of 100 points in this class.

Participation	40 points	20%
Line Memorization	20 points	20%
Student Performance	40 points	40%
Total	100 points	100%

1. Participation: 40 points. Participation in class is vital to the learning experience. In order to participate, students must engage in the course by directly involving themselves with the instructor and their peers. Participation involves completion of the work for the course; inability to participate in class when called upon will result in the loss of a point. Students should keep their heads up and intentionally focus on the learning environment. Cell phone usage for any reason will result in the loss of a point. Resting in class will result in the loss of a point. Conversations not associated with the learning environment will result in the loss of a point. For each point lost beyond the first 40, additional points will be lost beyond the purview of participation.

2. Line Memorization: 20 points. Line memorization will be tested to ensure accuracy prior to student performance.

3. Student Performance: 40 points. Students performing an acting role in production will be evaluated by based on their performance.

FINAL EXAMINATION

Students must take a final. The time for the final is published at the beginning of each semester and will be administered during the scheduled final exam time.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Participation and class attendance is required and expected. All absences validated by doctor's notes, Clarendon College Personnel requests (Coaches, Deans, etc.), and instances of extreme emergency as determined by the instructor will be considered excused. All other absences will be considered unexcused. It is vital for the education of the student as well as others for each to participate in class discussions and to be involved in the learning process.

WITHDRAWAL

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on our transcript instead. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive a grade of "F" on your transcript. A student is permitted to drop a course if he/she obtains an official drop slip from the office and has the instructor sign the slip before the 12th class week.

Remember, a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th course, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom instructor is a disruption for all students enrolled in the class. Disruption of the learning environment will not be tolerated for any reason. Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion, **(that is, working with others)**; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment **(including other students)**; (4) entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; (5) taking an examination for another person; (6) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (7) altering grade records; (8) using any unauthorized form of electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; (9) Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person without proper credit. Disciplinary actions for academic dishonesty in a course are at the discretion of the individual instructor. The instructor of that course will file a report with the Vice President of Student Affairs when a student commits academic dishonesty in the course, whether it be a workforce or academic course. The report shall include the course, instructor, student's name, and the type of dishonesty involved. Students who are reported as academically dishonest to the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services more than once shall be disciplined by the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services. The Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services will notify all involved parties within fourteen days of any action taken.

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

DROPPING A COURSE

A student who is enrolled in a developmental course for TSI purposes may not drop his/her only developmental course unless the student completely withdraws from the college. A student may drop any other course with a grade of "W" any time after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar (April 10, 2025). The request for permission to drop a course is initiated by the student by procuring a drop form from the Office of Student Services. (Refer to other policies concerning this issue in the current college catalog online.)

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLEGE

When a student finds it necessary to withdraw from school before the end of the semester, he or she should obtain a withdrawal form from the Office of Student Services. Students may also withdraw from the college by sending a written request for such action to the Registrar's Office. The request must include the student's signature, the student's current address, social security number and course information details. Students who withdraw after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar (April 10, 2025) will be assigned a grade of "W."

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed here and on the College website at:

<http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>

The role of Clarendon College is to encourage individuals of all ages to develop their skills and talents based on their abilities and interests, so that collectively they may contribute to the growth and development of this democracy. College policies, procedures, and regulations are formulated to promote an appropriate teaching and

learning environment where each student has the freedom to learn and where the constitutional rights of others are protected.

The concept of rights and freedom, no matter how basic or widely accepted, carries with it corresponding responsibilities. Students, as well as other members of the college community, enjoy the same constitutional and civil rights guaranteed all citizens; at the same time, they are subject to the laws of the nation, the State of Texas, and the local community. All members of the college community have a strong responsibility to protect and maintain an academic climate in which the freedom to learn can be enjoyed by all. To this end, certain basic regulations and policies have been developed to govern the behavior of students as members of the college community.

Violations of student conduct regulations will be handled through the Office of the Vice President of Student Services. Violations of federal, state, and/or local laws make a student subject to civil or criminal action in addition to disciplinary action by the College. Each student is responsible for knowing the policies and regulations of the College.

Freedom of Expression

The rights of free speech and peaceable assembly are fundamental to the democratic process. The College supports the rights of students of the college community to express their views and opinions on actions or ideas, to associate freely with others, and to assemble peacefully.

Whether expressing themselves as individuals or in organized groups, members of the college community are expected to conduct themselves responsibly, according to law, and to respect the basic educational goals of the College. Accordingly, the College insists that free expression not violate the rights of others. Disruption of the educational process and functions of the College, or violation of law, would constitute such a violation.

Students wishing to assemble must complete an official request with the Vice-President of Student Services. The institution reserves the right to determine the time and location of such assemblies in order to ensure that the educational process is not disrupted. The use of amplified equipment is prohibited in student assembly and speech. The institution will not tolerate hate speech, defined as "...the lewd and obscene, the profane, the libelous, and the insulting or 'fighting' words – those which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace." (Chaplinsky vs State of New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568, 1942)

Freedom of Access

Within the limits of its resources, Clarendon College shall be open to all applicants who are qualified according to current admission requirements. Clarendon College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, mental or physical disabilities, age, or sex in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services, programs, and activities.

Freedom of Association

Students are free to associate to promote their common interests. They have the right to seek, through official procedures, and establish organizations of their choosing so long as such are not in conflict with the educational purposes of the College. Students have the right to affiliate with officially recognized campus organizations of their choice, within the requirements of those organizations relative to membership.

Academic Rights of Students

The College has the responsibility of providing a program of quality education in keeping with its financial resources; students have protection through campus-designed procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic

evaluation. Student performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students are responsible for completing their academic program, being familiar with all requirements of the College Catalog, and for maintaining their grade point average for degree requirements.

Student Records

Student records are maintained in confidence and in compliance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission retention schedule. Student records are used to promote the instruction, career development, guidance, and educational progress of the student. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-380, as amended, the student has access to specific information contained in his or her official records as specified by that act. Student records may be released to other persons, agencies, or institutions with a demonstrated interest in the student only if a written release has been signed by the student. College staff shall have access to student records when there is a demonstrated educational interest in the student.

Student Participation in Institutional Decision-Making

The primary route of Clarendon College students in decision-making is through participation in the Student Government Association (SGA). Students also may be invited to serve on one of the various institutional committees. Student opinion of food services, student housing, student activities, etc., are gathered from a number of surveys. All student input, whether it be through organized clubs, committees, or questionnaires, is given serious consideration as suggestions for change in and improvement of the College.

Student Responsibilities

The Board of Regents of Clarendon College expects employees, students, visitors, and guests of the College to accept the following responsibilities:

- (1) Compliance with and support of duly constituted civil authority,
- (2) Respect for the rights of others and cooperation to ensure that such rights are maintained, whether or not one agrees with the views of those exercising such rights.
- (3) Cooperation to ensure that the will of the majority is implemented after due consideration, but not to include the suppression of the minority,
- (4) To exercise disagreement in a responsible manner and within a framework compatible with the orderly resolution of differences.
- (5) Knowledge of and active support of college regulations.
- (6) A person who is required to register under the Code of Criminal Procedures 62.152 must register not later than the seventh day after the date on which the person begins to attend school to the Director of Student Life as well as any other local law enforcement agencies as required by Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES

In addition to the previously stated expectations and guidelines, students are expected to adhere to the following:

- 1) Grant respect to each other and to the instructor and respect shall be shown to you.
- 2) Refrain from using profane or obscene language or gestures at all times in class.
- 3) Dress in clean, appropriate, and courteous clothing.
- 4) Refrain from using any communication device, except in emergency situations.
- 5) Absolutely no form of any communication device (cell phones in particular) will be allowed during class. Upon visualization of the device, the instructor will remove points as indicated.
- 6) Please keep restroom breaks and other interruptions to a bare minimum.

CLASS SCHEDULE (This schedule is subject to change)

Initial Reading

Script Analysis

Character

Goals

Obstacles

Tactics

Expectations

Line Memorization

Emphases

Body Work

Voice Work

Preparing for Theatrical Production

Additional Emphasis Chosen by the Student