

## ACTING 120 – BEGINNING ACTING (ACTING ONE)

Professor Gregory K. Krosnes  
Mon/Wed/Fri 1:50 – 2:50  
101 Kennedy  
Spring 2001

Office Hours: 3 - 4:30 pm Mondays and Wednesdays  
Or we can schedule something. I'm very flexible with my time, if need be.

I have a mailbox for your class' use on my door. I also check email at least once a day,  
**but you should not rely on email for important messages. If it is important, find me  
and we can talk face to face.**

Office Phone: 3936  
Email: krosnes@rhodes.edu

Texts: **Acting One** – Robert Cohen  
**Boy's Life** – Howard Korder  
**Crimes of the Heart** – Beth Henley

### Course Objectives

Begin work in:

Relaxation	Concentration
Risk/Trust	Creative Imagination
Ensemble Work	Freedom in Rehearsal and Performance

Incorporate and explore these principles through the basics of scene study.  
Gain a basic understanding of traditional and personal acting theory and practice.  
Understand and expand personal vocal and physical strengths on stage and improve  
upon any limitations in these areas.  
Explore the “self” through personal journals.  
Experience and respond to McCoy and local theatre productions.

### Attendance and Tardiness

Now that we all know where class is being held, make it here on time. Being late for class will hamper not only your own progress, but your classmates' or scenepartner's as well. As for absences, I “allow” two; after that, your grade will drop for each absence. Example: If you have an **A** at the end of the term and you have four absences, your grade will drop to a

**B+** (because I “allow” two). If you are tardy three times , it counts as an absence. *I want you to think about this now. I want and expect seriousness when it comes to your commitment to this class and to your classmates. If this grading method causes you problems, you may want to think again about taking this class from me. This class depends on you being here for other people, too, not just for you.*

You will be graded equally for everything that you do in this class. Nothing will be “weighted” more than anything else; theatre is an all-inclusive art form and takes into account everything about you and those with whom you are involved. Your preparation for scenes and monologues should take just as much focus and energy as when you are performing them. Just as much thought should be involved in your analysis of plays you see and write about, as well as journal entries where you will expound upon in-class exercises and rehearsals, or other issues which relate to your thoughts on theatre or acting. Your participation and attention in class also plays a part in how well you listen, observe, and react or contribute to the class as a whole.

## **Participation**

Acting is very personal, and different people have different ideas of what constitutes good or bad acting. All I ask is that you do your best with what I give you to work with, and participate as best you can with everyone else in class. I understand that everyone has a different experience level, but hopefully everyone will learn from each other’s talents and personalities. Everyone has something to offer, so everyone has something to learn.

### **Journals**

This is a way to express your thoughts to yourself and to me about things you discover through your work in class, scene work, and vocal and physical exercises. It can also be a mode of communication between you and me; ask me questions, or tell me something that may be bothering you , etc. Let’s keep the subject matter related to acting class, the readings, or some play or movie you saw. You know, things that you’ve seen that have to do with acting (but I don’t want just movie reviews, either). Also, make entries about outside rehearsals, when they were, and how they went. One entry per class. More are welcome. Put your journals in a separate notebook – no loose paper, please. I have enough of my own, thank you.

## **Performances**

I grade you on final performances of scenes and monologues and how much you have worked and grown over the arc of the class.

## **Preparation of Assignments**

As above, prepare reviews and breakdowns as best you can. I will evaluate everyone fairly; I have done all of this stuff, too, so I have a good idea of what is real effort and what is not.

## Reviews of Productions

You are required to see and review three theatrical productions. Two must be McCoy productions (*The Soul of a People* and *Into the Woods*), and the third must be a **community theatre production from a theatre in the Memphis area** (I will give you a list of plays with locations and performance dates). We have some very powerful theatre both on campus and in the city. I encourage you to see for yourself.

Due dates for the papers:

First McCoy review:	Wednesday, February 28
Second McCoy review:	Wednesday, April 25

**The third paper, the Community Theatre paper, is due on or before Wednesday, April 11.**

## Quizzes – Character and Scene Breakdowns

There will be quizzes on readings and material discussed in class. You will be notified on what materials you will be quizzed.

Whether we are doing scenes or monologues, you will be asked to hand in a basic outline of what is going on in the scene as well as in your character's head. I will give you the materials to complete these exercises.

## GRADES

The following is the basic idea about grading in our acting classes:

I would like to say forget about the grade and concentrate on the experiences in the class, realizing that it is impossible for some of you, I propose:

**IF** you attend and participate in all classes  
**IF** you have all projects completed on time  
**IF** you keep up in your journal  
you will pass with a "C".

**IF** you accomplish all of the above and make an honest commitment to challenge yourself  
**IF** there is growth and understanding of characters  
**IF** you work well with your scene partner and do not miss rehearsals  
you will pass with a "B".

**IF** you accomplish all of the above and create believable characters  
**IF** you transport your audience to the special world of the playwright  
you will pass with a "B+".

We will be on a first name basis, so call me Greg.