

Fall 9-1-2005

## DRAM 214.01: Acting 1

Jillian Campana

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [jillian.campana@umontana.edu](mailto:jillian.campana@umontana.edu)

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PLEASE NOTE: Full admittance to this class is by audition only: 1 one-minute monologue to be performed for the class on Friday, September 2. At the end of semester you will audition again to remain in the class for the spring.

**Fall 2005 Acting 1, section 1: Drama 214**  
**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 10:10-11:30**  
**Dr. Campana**  
**McGill 212 jillian.campana@mso.umt.edu 243-5846**  
**Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-12:00**

*“Always and for ever, when you are on the stage, you must play yourself. But it will be in an infinite variety of combinations of objectives, and given circumstances which you have prepared for your part, and which have been smelted in the furnace of your emotion memory.”*

**Course Aim:**

The purpose of this course is to assist the first year BFA acting student in developing critical acting skills. This class is for those seriously considering a career in the theatre or the performing arts; therefore the workshop atmosphere will be intensive and professional.

*“Our art demands that an actor’s whole nature be actively involved, that he give himself up, both mind and body, to his part.”*

**Course Outcomes:**

*In this workshop setting the BFA student will:*

- Demonstrate a sense of professionalism and enthusiasm for the theatre and the craft of acting;
- Understand the fundamentals of the actor’s process;
- Cultivate an understanding of the total organism involved in the acting process; and,
- Begin to explore the actor’s relationship with himself/herself, with the text, with the physical environment, and with other performers.

*“To reproduce feelings you must be able to identify them out of your own experience.”*

**Expectations/Requirements - all expectations are required to be met:**

Effort and respect are two of the most important requirements, as are class attendance and active participation. I expect that all actors respond to the assignments and performances with interest and effort. It is required that all actors respect themselves, their classmates, their classroom environment, and the acting process. Since an excellent performance hinges upon risk and devotion, all actors in this class must work together to cultivate an open and safe atmosphere that allows for commitment to actions and characters without embarrassment, remorse, or caution.

Actors must attend all classes and be on time. This is a studio class, which means that everyone must be here, ready to apply themselves all of the time. Missing class will affect your grade; two “tardies” are the equivalent of one absence. More than two absences will lower your grade one full letter. If you do miss a class it is *YOUR* responsibility to find out what was covered from a fellow classmate.

It is required that all actors in this class audition for the fall drama season. We will go over audition protocol prior to the auditions. Check the department call-board for the dates and times and the sign-up sheet. In addition all actors in this class will attend all departmental productions. *“Everything must be real in the imaginary life of the actor.”*

**Evaluation:**

The final semester grade will be a reflection of the student’s developed talent, effort, and progress. There will be regular evaluation of the actor’s work including, but not limited to:

- Active participation, effort and attendance;
- Written quizzes;
- Self-analysis;
- Clarity and strength of performance choices;
- The ability to respond appropriately to coaching and directing notes; and,
- The ability to retain the principals and practices taught.

*“To arouse a desire to create is difficult; to kill that desire is extremely easy.”*

**Policy/Procedure:**

- We are cultivating a sense of professionalism – there is to be no eating or gum chewing in this class. You are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to class; other beverages are not acceptable.
- No weapons, drugs, or alcohol are allowed on campus or in this classroom. Failure to heed this rule will result in expulsion from this class and possibly the university.
- Wear appropriate movement attire to class.
- Regularly check the departmental call-board located in the PARTV building between the scene shop and the offices.

*“You must be very careful in the use of a mirror. It teaches an actor to watch the outside rather than the inside of his soul.”*

**Texts:** (available in the UC Bookstore)

*An Actor Prepares* by Constantin Stanislavski.

*A Practical Handbook for the Actor* by Bruder, Cohn, Olnek, Pollack, Previto, and Zigler

*“Love the art in yourself, not yourself in the art.”*

**Content:**

There will be continuous exercise work in the principals of realistic acting: personalization, action, objective, obstacle, tactics, and moment-to-moment give and take with fellow performers. Each actor will “work shop” and perform several scenes throughout the semester, at least one scene from a published play, as well as two monologues, one at the top of the semester and one at the end. Principally however, you will be working on exercises designed to develop foundational skills, imagination, and the collaborative process.