

**SYLLABUS – Santa Rosa Junior College**  
Fall 2019

**THAR 10A – Introduction to Acting Technique**

Monday & Wednesday 9–11:20am

Room: 2214T Lark Temporaries, Santa Rosa Campus

**Instructor:** Reed Martin

**Email:** [rmartin@santarosa.edu](mailto:rmartin@santarosa.edu)

**Phone:** 527-4999, Ext. 5297

**Office Hours:** MW 8:40-9am, Room 2214T Lark Temporaries, Santa Rosa Campus

**Required Text:** *ACTING ONSTAGE & OFF* by Robert Barton – Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6. Available in the SRJC Bookstore new or used. Also on Reserve in the SRJC Library. Can also be rented for the term. Details on book rentals are available in the SRJC bookstore. If you have questions, feel free to email the bookstore manager, Will Crawford, at [wcrawford@santarosa.edu](mailto:wcrawford@santarosa.edu).

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to analyze, rehearse, memorize and perform characters from modern realistic plays in a variety of performance situations at a beginning acting level.

**Course Objectives:**

In order to achieve these learning outcomes, during the course the student will:

1. Apply and demonstrate control of basic vocal acting techniques including projection, articulation, and breath support.
2. Apply and demonstrate control of basic physical acting techniques including relaxation, "alert restfulness," and motivated action.
3. Develop and demonstrate ability to concentrate and maintain focus, awareness, and spontaneity while acting.
4. Demonstrate basic techniques of physical and vocal characterization.
5. Used direct observation and basic research techniques in creating a character.
6. Analyze a script and document that analysis, applying basic principles and techniques of Stanislavski-based psychological realism to develop a character,
7. Work collaboratively within partnered and/or ensemble acting situations in the development of characters, whether scripted or improvised.
8. Apply basic improvisational acting techniques, including listening, responding, being in the moment, focusing, "saying yes" and respecting one another.
9. Memorize, retain, and accurately perform scripted text.
10. Assess and critique a performance from an observer's point of view, applying constructive evaluation techniques in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the acting within that performance.
11. Correctly use acting terminology and basic staging concepts during the rehearsal and performance process.

12. Rehearse, prepare, memorize, and perform a role in a partnered scene from a modern realistic play.
13. Rehearse, prepare, memorize, and perform a realistic monologue from a modern play following basic audition protocol and procedures.

### **Grading**

Class Participation	30%
Blank Scene	10%
Monologue	15%
Scene	15%
Written Assignments	10%
Quizzes on Terms & Concepts	10%
Preparation, Attitude, Professionalism	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Approximate Due Dates of Major Assignments:**

September 9	Perform “Blank Scenes” in Class
October 21	Perform Monologues in Class
December 11	Perform Final Scenes in Class

**From Reed:** Welcome to the wonderful world of Introduction to Acting! For some of you this will be the first time that you have taken an acting course. Others of you have been performing since you were young children. In either case, if you are ready to work hard and have a good time then this is the class for you. We will be working on monologues, scenes and basic vocal techniques. I applaud you for taking a chance and committing to this class. We will all learn a great deal and have a great time.

**About Reed:** I am a working professional actor, playwright and director. I am best known for my work with the Reduced Shakespeare Company ([www.reducedshakespeare.com](http://www.reducedshakespeare.com)). I have a BA in Drama and Political Science from Cal Berkeley and an MFA in Acting from UC San Diego. I am a member of Actor’s Equity, Theatre Bay Area, Theatre Communications Group, the Dramatists Guild, and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Prior to joining the Reduced Shakespeare Company, I attended Ringling Brothers Clown College and spent two years touring with the circus as a clown and assistant ringmaster. I have performed in 47 states and eleven foreign countries, including New Jersey.

### **Assignments**

You are required to see performances both SRJC theatrical productions this term. As a registered student in a Theatre Arts class, you are entitled to one free ticket per show. It is best to get these tickets at the Box Office in Haehl Pavilion well ahead of the date you would like to attend the show because the performances do frequently sell out. Theatre Box Office (707) 527-4307. Box Office Hours: 12:00pm to 4:00pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday in Haehl Pavilion.

You are required to turn in your ticket stub for each show and to write a two page acting analysis of one of the main characters in each of the plays.

## **THE GOOD DOCTOR**

**By Neil Simon. Adapted from Anton Chekhov**

Two giants of theatre history—the legendary comic genius, Neil Simon, and the game-changing Russian writer, Anton Chekhov—converge and the result is deliciously human. A young writer who is struggling with writer's block shares his frustration through a series of funny, exasperating,

poignant, and thoroughly charming stories. As the playwright says, "I can't think of a humorous situation that does not involve some pain."

*Recommended for ages 13 and up. Some adult content.*

**NEWMAN AUDITORIUM  
Emeritus Hall, SRJC Santa Rosa Campus**

October 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 at 8:00 PM

October 6, 12, 13 at 2:00 PM

Directed by Wendy Wisely

THE GOOD DOCTOR is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

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**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

**Music by Richard Rodgers  
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein III**

**Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse  
Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp**

Celebrate the holidays with this collaborative production between SRJC and SSU students. Inspired by the von Trapp family's true story, this timeless masterpiece is set at the feet of the majestic Austrian Alps as the Nazi menace begins to spread across Europe. Premiering on Broadway 60 years ago, audiences will once again be transported by the show's award-winning score, including unforgettable songs like "Edelweiss", "My Favorite Things," and "Climb Every Mountain."

*Recommended for ages 7 and up.*

**EVERT B. PERSON THEATRE  
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
1801 E Cotati Ave Rohnert Park 94928**

November 22, 23, 29, 30 December 5, 6, 7 at 7:30 PM (Note early curtain time)

November 23, 24, 30 December 1, 7, 8 at 1:30 PM (Note early curtain time)

Directed by Laura Downing-Lee  
Music Direction by Janis Dunson Wilson  
Choreography by Alyce Finwall

THE SOUND OF MUSIC is presented through special arrangement with R & H  
Theatricals: [www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com)

For tickets call (707) 527-4307  
Or purchase at our [Online Box Office](#)

### **Monologues and Scenes**

You will be required to memorize and rehearse one monologue to be performed in class. You are required to read the entire play from which the monologue is taken and turn in a short synopsis of the play. You will also be required to write a three-page biography of your character.

You will be required to memorize and rehearse one scene to be performed in class. You are required to read the entire play from which the scene is taken and turn in a short synopsis of it. You will also be required to write a three-page biography of your character.

### **Class Expectations**

Preparing monologues and scenes for performance will require 5-6 outside-of-class rehearsals for each scene or monologue. You and your scene partner are equally responsible for scheduling and honoring these rehearsals.

Think of your scene partner as your best friend. You both will be depending on each other. Honor them by showing up for scheduled rehearsals and learning your lines. Be kind and patient with each other. Remember, when your scene partner shines, you shine.

If your scene or monologue is from a play that is not in the library, you may need to purchase the script in order to read it. Scripts usually cost between \$8.00 and \$12.00.

### **Materials Needed**

We will be doing a good deal of physical and vocal warm-ups and exercises. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes in which you can move easily. Please no flip-flops or heels. Many scenes and monologues can be found in plays that are stocked in the library. You will also need to gather props and costume pieces for your scenes. Always bring a notebook and pencil to class.

**Consumables:** Only water is allowed during class time. Food, juices, soft drinks, chewing gum etc. are not allowed in class. We will take a short break about halfway through the class and you may eat or drink during that time.

**Cell Phones & Texting:** Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off and put away at the beginning of class. Texting, phone calls, head phones and any other electronic communication devices are forbidden during class time.

**Guest Etiquette:** Please do not bring "guests" into the classroom, including children and/or friends or relatives. This is an adult level class with discussions and lessons designed for those enrolled in the class.

### **Notes to Class**

Because this is a class of sharing and discovery for all students, there are a few issues we need to be alertly sensitive about.

1. In our activities and improvisations, though you are required to think impulsively, please try to keep yourself cautioned against portraying offensive stereotypes particularly those targeted towards race and sexual orientation. Everybody's interpretations and humor limits vary. Please try and keep that in perspective.
2. Please understand that because this is an interactive class there may be a need to touch and be touched by the teacher and other students. For my part know that my intentions are geared toward your development in the class. For your part, please keep in mind you are here to learn and to help in the development of your fellow students who are depending on you and trusting your judgment. If you ever feel the personal agenda you are toting on that particular class day would interfere with your comfortable participation in such activities, discreetly notify me before class and I will try and steer you away from such situations. If you have a problem with this, please feel free to talk to me.
3. Occasionally scene work or improvisation may become emotionally upsetting or seem out of control. At this time "TIME OUT" may be called by any student or myself.

4. If you have any disability that prevents you from fully participating in any class exercise or assignment, please see me privately so that we can work together to find a solution.

5. Finally, so there are no surprises, there is also the likelihood that class discussions could cover aspects of character's sexuality.

#### Attendance Policy:

It shall be the policy of the Sonoma County Junior College District to maintain an attendance policy and procedures consistent with State and local requirements.

##### 1.0 Attendance

1.1 Students are expected to attend all sessions of the course in which they are enrolled.

1.2 Any student with excessive absences may be dropped from the class.

##### 2.0 Excessive Absence Defined

2.1 A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time.

2.2 Instructors shall state in each course syllabus what constitutes excessive absence for that course.

##### 3.0 Excused vs. Unexcused absences

3.1 Unless state or federal law requires that the absence be deemed excused, no instructor shall be required to make a distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

3.2 If individual Instructors wish to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences the instructor shall state in each course syllabus all criteria for any excused absences in addition to those required by state or federal law.

##### 4.0 Nonattendance

4.1 Students who fail to attend the first two class meetings of a full semester course may be dropped by the instructor.

#### Acting Class Attendance Policy:

- Following is the DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE POLICY for ALL ACTING CLASSES at Santa Rosa Junior College
- You are allowed a total of 3 absences for the semester without point penalty. These include both excused and unexcused absences, work conflicts, the Russian River flooding, family emergencies, etc. After a total of 3 absences you may be dropped from the class.
- Excessive absence for the course: Your final grade for the course will be reduced one full letter grade for the fourth absence, another full letter grade for the fifth absence, and three full letter grades for the sixth absence. If you have six absences (excused or not) the best grade you would be able to receive for the course would be a D.
- If you are late for class, the time missed will be added together to count as an unexcused absence.
- Any anticipated absences for the semester (class/team events, work conferences, personal responsibilities, etc.) must be discussed with your instructor within the first two weeks of class and will count as part of your three absences.
- Any student who does not fully engage or fully participate in class may be dropped from the course.
- For the purpose of late work, an 'Excused Absence' is defined as: illness or hospitalization accompanied by a note from your doctor for an office visit or hospitalization.
- Please email me when you are ill or any other time you will be missing class. We are a team now. We need to know where you are.

#### Dropping A Class

If you have been in class for one class period and you need to drop, it is your responsibility to drop yourself from the course. Instructors are required to drop you from class if you do not attend the first two class meetings. It is illegal for you to be in class without being registered for the course.

Student Conduct: We will conduct ourselves in a manner that reflects our awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the Student Conduct Code Policy and adhere to

it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from 2 classes and referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline.

Respect: The best way to learn is through active participation; therefore, we respect others when talking by being on-time, listening actively, and by being polite even when we disagree with another's viewpoint. Please turn off all electronic devices. If you use a laptop for note taking, please turn the sound off. No food in class please.

Academic Integrity: All written work is to be original; plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat may be suspended [for one or two class meetings by the instructor] and referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation. Please read the Academic Integrity Policy 3.11.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may also speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD is located in Analay Village on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

Emergency Evacuation Plan & Preparedness

In general, if you feel as though a building is unsafe it is best to evacuate. Evacuation procedures for SRJC are provided on the Emergency Procedures Poster provided and posted in each classroom and near main office locations.

If a building does not appear to be obviously unsafe, but you are unsure, you may contact District Police at (707) 527-1000 to assess the situation.

You should evacuate a building when:

- The evacuation/fire alarm sounds or when you see a flashing visual alarm indicator
- If you smell smoke, see smoke or flame or smell the odor of escaping natural gas
- Evacuate when you are told to leave the building or area by fire, police, a Building Safety Coordinator, an Area Safety Coordinator, or other District official
- You see structural damage and cracks to walls, ceilings and floors following an earthquake • There is a potentially hazardous situation making it unsafe to remain in the building

In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. Take your stuff with you. Our class will meet on the Tennis Courts/Parking Lot next door to make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

In case of emergency, dial 527-1000! Do not dial 911 from on campus.

No student may be driven to the hospital by a faculty member. We are required by law to call an ambulance. Please notify the instructor if you have any medical condition that puts you at risk. There are First Aid Kits in the Office Building (2202T), Costume Shop (2218T), and Makeup Lab (2228T). There are fire extinguishers in every room just inside each door.

## **FALL SEMESTER 2019 – IMPORTANT DATES**

August 19	Classes Begin
August 25	Last day to register/add without instructor's signature or add code
September 1	Last day to drop semester length class and be eligible for a refund
September 2	Labor Day Holiday
September 8	Last day to register/add with the instructor's signature or add code
September 8	Last day to drop a class without "W" symbol
September 9	First Census Day
September 17	Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (Classes will meet)
September 29	Last day to opt for P/NP
Oct 21 – Nov 17	Midterm progress indicators posted in student portal
November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday
November 12	Professional Development Flex Day (No classes or activities)
November 17	Last day to drop class with "W" symbol
Nov 28 - Dec 1	Thanksgiving Day Holidays
December 18	Final Exam - Wednesday - Theatre Arts 10A - 7:00am - 9:45am
January 3	Final Grades Due

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify, supplement and make changes as the course needs arise.