Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 2011

Type of Action:
- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: DR 202

Course Title: Acting

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:
The course guide has been upgraded to reflect current curriculum content, teaching methods, and student learning outcomes.

John Jenkins
Proposer
Date: 5/20/11

Thomas D. Sharts
Department Chair
Date: 05/20/11

Barbara K. Merfalen
Dean of Academic Programs and Services
Date: 5/20/11
Northern Marianas College
Course Guide

Course: DR 202 Acting

1. **Department:** Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. **Purpose**
   
   DR 202 Acting provides students with a challenging and yet enjoyable way to learn expressive and communication skills, gain self-confidence, think flexibly and under stress, analyze and interpret complex information, work as team members, and develop a sense of responsibility and punctuality. These skills are an asset in any academic or professional context. In addition, theater is an important aspect of culture and creative expression which has the capability of enriching the human experience on both the individual and societal levels.

   The primary target population for this course consists of students pursuing the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts, as it fulfills the General Education fine arts requirement for the General, Elementary Education, and Special Education degree emphases in Liberal Arts. It would also constitute a valuable elective for any student wishing to learn about the art and experience of acting.

3. **Description**

   **A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials**

   No textbook is required. Individual scripts will be purchased and the royalty fees paid; however, the titles will vary from semester to semester. Handouts on specific topics will also be distributed.

   Recommended references for instructors:


B. Contact Hours
   1. Lecture: 3 hours per week / 45 hours per semester
   2. Lab:
   3. Other:

C. Credits
   1. Number: 3
   2. Type: Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description
   This is an introductory course in acting which covers both
   improvisation and method acting techniques. Acting exercises, theater
   games, and scene studies are required class projects. Participation in
   NMC theater productions is by competitive audition and is an optional
   course activity. Prerequisite: None. English Placement Level: EN 093/094.
   (Offered Fall and Spring)

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course
   This course fulfills the General Education fine arts requirements for all
   A.A./Liberal Arts degree emphases.

F. Course Activities and Design
   This course incorporates theater games, improvisation, voice and
   movement exercises, and rehearsals of monologues, scenes, or a play
   leading to a performance for a small audience. Lectures are given on
   special topics, as are related reading and writing assignments used as
   preparation for performances. Video or movie performances are
   viewed and discussed.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment;
   Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s):
   Prerequisites: None
   English Placement Level: EN 093/094
   Math Placement Level: None

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed:
   Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course.
   Cost to the College: Instructor’s salary, cost of photocopying handouts, and
   royalty fees for play productions.
Course: DR 202 Acting

Instructional resources needed for this course include whiteboard and dry-erase markers; TV/VCR, LCD projector, screen and hook-up for laptops, adequate space for rehearsals, movement/acting exercises.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC’s letter grading and attendance policies will be followed.
7. Course Outline
This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material is presented.

1.0 Sensory Awareness and Relaxation
   1.1 Breathing exercises
   1.2 Sequential focus and relaxation exercises
   1.3 Sensory memory exercises
   1.4 Movement-based relaxation (e.g., Yoga, Tai Chi)
   1.5 Imagination and concentration

2.0 Vocal Work
   2.1 Breath and voice
   2.2 Resonators
   2.3 Projection
   2.4 Articulation
   2.5 Expressiveness
   2.6 Character voice
   2.7 Optional: Special voice work (e.g., Kabuki voice)

3.0 Movement and Body Work
   3.1 Body awareness
   3.2 Spatial awareness
   3.3 Movement rhythms
   3.4 Character and movement
   3.5 Facial expressions

4.0 Developing Improvisation Skills
   4.1 Focus and concentration (the Now)
   4.2 Mime exercises
   4.3 Improvisation warm-ups: Theater games
   4.4 Guidelines: Who, what, where
   4.5 Creating environments (where)
   4.6 Developing character/relationships (who)
   4.7 Responsive action (what)

5.0 Improvisation Scenes
   5.1 Large-group improvisations
   5.2 Small-group (3 people) improvisations
   5.3 Trading focus
   5.4 Supporting partners
   5.5 Transformation
6.0 Analyzing a Play
   6.1 Character
   6.2 Motivation and history
   6.3 Beats
   6.4 Through-line and plot
   6.5 The playwright’s message and directorial concept

7.0 Method Acting
   7.1 Researching a character
   7.2 Imagining a character
   7.3 Physicalizing a character
   7.4 Emotional recall and substitution

8.0 Rehearsal and Performance
   8.1 Selection of scenes and monologues
   8.2 Analyzing a scene/monologue
   8.3 Blocking a scene/monologue
   8.4 Memorizing lines
   8.5 Developing a rehearsal schedule
   8.6 Rehearsal
   8.7 Performance

8. Instructional Goals
   This course will introduce students to:

   1.0 Techniques for consciously relaxing the body and stimulating
      imagination;

   2.0 Methods of vocal control and breathing that enable the voice to clearly
      project emotion and meaning;

   3.0 The importance of movement and physical expression in
      communicating character, intention, and emotion;

   4.0 Theater games and improvisation exercises that develop the students’
      imagination, concentration, and expressiveness, and their sensitivity
      and responsiveness to fellow actors;

   5.0 Large-group and small-group improvisations using only the guidelines
      of who, what, and where, and resulting in a scene with a beginning,
      middle, and end;
6.0 Strategies for analyzing a play to discover character, motivation, beats, through-line, and plot;

7.0 The techniques of method acting used in the development of character and the communication of emotion in a realistic manner; and

8.0 The processes of rehearsing and performing a scene and/or monologue.

9. Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1.0 Utilize techniques for consciously relaxing the body and releasing imagination;

2.0 Apply methods of vocal control and breathing to project the voice and communicate emotion and meaning;

3.0 Explain the importance of movement and physical expression in communicating character and emotion; and

4.0 Develop imagination, concentration, and expressiveness together with sensitivity and responsiveness to fellow actors, through participation in theater games and improvisation exercises.