

DRA 320 Audition Techniques  
Spring 2002 Tentative Syllabus  
Dr. Matt Ames TTh

- 1/8 Intro to Course. Go over syllabus, talk about audition situations, finding material, the Headshot and Resume, the Monologue Morgue. Auditions DAL and R&J?  
Reading assignment: Shurtleff, pp. 1-32, Merlin, pp. 122-141.
- 1/10 Summer Stock discussion. Handouts RE: The Musical Audition
- 1/15 Summer Stock auditions
- 1/17 Summer Stock auditions
- 1/22 The Cold Reading. Reading assignment Merlin, pp. 1-18, Shurtleff, pp. 33-67
- 1/24 Cold readings
- 1/29 ACTF auditions practice w/ACTF competitors (if available)
- 1/31 Cold Readings. **Text/Lecture Test One**
- 2/5 ACTF No Class
- 2/7 ACTF No Class
- 2/12 Mardi Gras Holiday, no class
- 2/14 Cold Readings. Reading Assignment Shurtleff, pp. 67-81, Merlin, pp. 19-41.
- 2/19 Equity Cattle Call discussion (Unions in general) DAL Dress
- 2/21 Equity Auditions DAL
- 2/26 Equity Auditions  
Reading Assignment Shurtleff, pp. 81-105, Merlin, pp. 75-121.
- 2/28 Commercials/Voice-overs discussion
- 3/5 Commercial Auditions
- 3/7 SETC Commercial Auditions **Text/Lecture Test Two**
- 3/12 Spring Break No Class
- 3/14 Spring Break No Class
- 3/19 Commercial Auditions
- 3/21 "Generals" discussion  
Reading Assignment: Shurtleff, pp. 105-142, 187-194, Merlin, pp. 141-150
- 3/26 "Generals" Auditions
- 3/28 "Generals" Auditions
- 4/2 "Generals" Auditions  
Reading Assignment: Shurtleff pp.143-186, Merlin, 42-72.
- 4/4 Graduate School Auditions Discussion
- 4/9 Graduate School Auditions
- 4/11 Graduate School Auditions  
Reading Assignment: Shurtleff, pp. 195-215, Merlin, pp. 150-214.
- 4/16 TBA, Headshots and Resumes to be submitted, R&J Dress
- 4/18 TBA, R&J  
Reading Assignment: Shurtleff, pp. 217-257
- 4/23 TBA **Text/Lecture Test Three**
- 4/25 TBA Monologue Morgue to be submitted.

**Final Exam Presentation will be during scheduled final exam period.**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: DRA 320: An exploration CATALOG Fulfills the Fine Arts Requirement. 3 Credits.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Matt Ames, Assistant Professor of Dramatic Arts, BA, Acadia University, MA, University of Maine, Ph.D., Louisiana State University.

TEXTS: (available in USA Bookstore):  
Shurtleff, Michael. Audition  
Merlin, Johanna. Auditioning  
Additional playscripts may be needed.

GOALS:

1. To afford upper-level acting students an opportunity to experience a variety of audition situations.
2. To further develop and expand the range and skills of USA's upper-level acting students.
3. To prepare upper-level USA acting students for a variety of audition situations.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance** will be taken and recorded each day. Two class absences are permitted. Additional unexplained, unexcused absences will result in loss of letter grades at the Instructor's discretion, meaning a third absence will mean the student can do no better than a "B," a fourth absence, the student can do no better than a "C," and so forth. Six absences mean the student cannot pass the course. Fifteen minutes or more late means the student is officially absent.

2. **Read texts and playscripts** as assigned.

3. Take **three written tests** on the material from number 2, in-class Lecture and the two Dramatic Arts Department productions the student is required to see this semester. MC, fill-ins, definitions, and short answer question types may be included. Make-ups possible with verified, viable excuse.

4. **In-class Participation**: While this is a purely subjective aspect of the student's evaluation, and thus is not specifically graded, this aspect of the student's in-class work can help them. If, for example, the student's final grade in the course is an 88, and the Instructor feels the student has done solid work in this area, the student will probably be evaluated at the "A" level. The student can assume that if they do not **actively** and **frequently** participate in class discussion of the material and performances, they do not take part in class exercises, or their critical commentary regarding the work of their peers continually consists of little more than "I liked it," their in-class participation will not help them.

5. **In-class Performance** will constitute the bulk of the student's evaluation. The student will not be graded on the student's "talent," a commodity that is certainly difficult to measure, but on the student's effort at developing their innate ability through hard work, promptness, preparedness, and a willingness to learn. The student will be evaluated on ten-point system outlined on the **In-Class Performance Review Form** designed specifically for the class. Should the student miss one of the six days s/he is scheduled to perform without a valid excuse, they will be given a grade of zero for that performance.

7. The student must attend, if they are not otherwise involved with, both Drama Department

productions this semester, **Dancing at Lughnasa** and **Romeo and Juliet**. **The Text/Lecture Tests may include questions about these shows.** The shows cost five dollars with student ID.

EVALUATION: Six In-class performances at	10% each	60%
Three written Tests at	10% each :	30%
Final Exam performance		10%
Attendance:		as above

OFFICE: PAC 1052 Tel. # 460-6305  
Office Hrs: MWF 10:15-12:15, TTh 1:30-3:30

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Students with *bona fide* disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. the office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations.

**Ask Questions. Make Comments. Start Discussion. Get your money's worth.**