

THE 156 – ACTING I

School of Visual and Performing Arts
Pillar Course – INTEGRITY



C O K E R
UNIVERSITY

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Course Description

Acting I is a study of basic principles, terminology, and disciplines of the actor, including relaxation, concentration, movement, and characterization designed to *initiate* a process of actor training for the major, non-major or minor.

Integrity Pillar: How do you define a meaningful life? In this class, you explore experiences related to justice, truthfulness, reliability, and resilience. In the end, you will define your personal and professional code of conduct with others and make a plan for maintaining your personal health and wellbeing.

Course Goals

The goal of Acting I is to introduce students to the idea of acting as an observable art form with specific criteria for critical analysis and a repeatable process, while also discovering applicable parallels to student growth in their current discipline through an experiential process. The student will be responsible for performing in a number of physical exercises and scenes, which will be rehearsed in and outside of class. The emphasis of this course will be on the process to the product. Students are expected to actively participate, take risks, and reflect in class.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Objective # 1: Understand and be able to apply acting skills in the areas of relaxation, motivation, improvisation, posture, diction, and memorization

- *Student Learning Outcome 1:* Students can recognize and demonstrate basic body positions, basic vocal production, and warm-up techniques.
- *Student Learning Outcome 2:* Students can explain, demonstrate, and recognize character-driven actions as espoused by Stanislavski.
- *Student Learning Outcome 3:* Students can select appropriate performance material for audition purposes.

Objective # 2: Master the use of the vocabulary commonly used by theatre professionals.

- *Student Learning Outcome 1:* Students can identify, define, and use basic acting and stage vocabulary.
- *Student Learning Outcome 2:* Students can discuss proper rehearsal and performance etiquette.

Objective # 3: Develop the skills to critically assess and discuss the quality of an acting performance.

- *Student Learning Outcome 1:* Students can discuss the effectiveness of an acting performance based upon believability, intention, and technical skills.
- *Student Learning Outcome 2:* Students can incorporate peer and instructor feedback into subsequent performances.
- *Student Learning Outcome 3:* Students will have a greater understanding and appreciation for the power of theatre to promote empathetic behavior

Course Requirements

Required Text:

- The Actor in You: Twelve Simple Steps to Understanding the Art of Acting, 6th edition. Robert Benedetti, Pearson Education, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-20591-490-6
- The Shape of Things, Neil LaBute. New York, 2003. ISBN: 978-0-88145-222-8.

The Coker University Store is encouraging students to order their books and course materials online at <http://bookstore.coker.edu/home> so that payment is contactless and pick up is quick and easy. Once placed, your order will be ready for pick up 24 hours later. Place an order of \$25 or more online during the month of August and receive a free t-shirt (while supplies last). To receive your free t-shirt add item 2002779 to your cart in the size you wish to receive. When your order is processed you will not be charged for this item. Please call 843-383-8034, email mwalters@coker.edu, or email ephillips@coker.edu if assistance is needed.

Other Required Materials:

- **Ticket purchase and attendance of one (1) Theatre Department production:** Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.coker.edu/vpa-tickets/>. Tickets are FREE to anyone with a Student ID. Live Stream will be available as well as a limited number of in-person tickets. Social distancing and mask wearing will be strictly enforced at all events.

Attendance

- As much of acting is experiential, meaning you have to *do* it as opposed to just read or talk about it, attendance is crucial. All absences are counted against your grade at the penalty of 10 points per class. There is a penalty of 3 points for every tardy. You are tardy if you enter class after I finish taking roll. 3 Tardies = 1 Absence.
- An **excused** absence is one where you contact me BEFORE class begins to explain your absence, and I let you make up the work. An **unexcused** absence is one where you DO NOT contact me before class begins, and I do not have to let you make up the work.
- After **five (5)** absences, excused or unexcused, the student cannot pass the class.
- I am always happy to send you a Google Meet link to attend class virtually if you are feeling ill or contagious, but still well enough to participate.

- Students will be evaluated on both their individual and partner responsibilities and will be held accountable for their work.
- **Communication is key.** I can't help you if I don't know what is going on. Make sure you reach out – I have office hours and am available by email.

Grading

This class is based on the accumulation of points, not percentages. Every point you earn contributes to a final score. Any time you wish to know your grade, so far, you simply move the decimal point. For example: If you currently have 789 points, then you have a 78.9 or a C.

Grade Item	Points Possible
Class Participation & Discussion (10pts. per class)	300 points
Performance Response Paper (1 paper on a live performance)	100 points
Monologue (1 memorized monologue)	100 points
Quizzes (7 @ 50pts: Terminology, Off-Book, Observation Walk, Public Solitude, Silent Scene, Play Comprehension, Open Scene)	350 points
Final Scene (1 memorized and performed scene with partner(s))	150 points
TOTAL	1000 points

A = 900-1000 / B = 800-899 / C = 700-799 / D = 600-699 / F = 599 and below

STUDENT EXPECTATION STATEMENT

- Students are expected to log into Blackboard **EVERY DAY** – you should keep a daily check on assignments, due dates, discussions, and correspondence.
 - Students are expected to participate in class, read all assigned material, complete assignments, quizzes, and projects on time, view one department performance and complete a response paper, and participate in discussions both in class and on Bb.
 - Students are expected to be open to new experiences, looking for new ideas and asking plenty of questions.
1. Keep a class notebook, and keep it organized; there will be occasional handouts, and as this is a Pillars class, you will need all this information in a couple of years when you take your Capital course.
 2. Be punctual, present, prepared, and participating in all class activities.
 3. NO GUM; No Food in class – Water is great.
 4. Please turn all cell phones to SILENT by the time I finish taking role.

In order to get the most out of this course, students must take a personal interest in their own future. This course will ask you to adapt, to define, to risk, and to push yourself. Lackluster effort on these projects will affect not only your success in this course, but also likely your success beyond Coker University.

Class Environment

It is vital to create a safe, productive working environment in the classroom. That starts with respect for yourself, your classmates and the teacher. If you are not performing, you owe it to your classmates to concentrate on the work that's on stage. You will also be expected to talk about your work, as well as your fellow classmates. We will discuss in class how to give feedback that is helpful and productive.

NOTE: Due to the nature of our work, we must also include daily temperature checks on our students, because we are moving around and interacting, not just sitting at a desk. Sanitizing wipes will be available to wipe down any surfaces used.

There are exercises and scene work which may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language. Acting, due to its psychological nature, will involve you in emotional situations. Please note, that while I will never make you PERFORM in something that makes you uncomfortable, you may be asked at times to OBSERVE something that makes you uncomfortable or something that you personally do not agree with. You must communicate your concerns to me BEFORE the class assignment is due.

College, Department, and/or Theater Program Policies Disability

Assistance: Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented physical, sensory, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require assistance to fully participate in this class. If a student has a disability that will likely need some accommodation by the instructor, the student should contact Robin Richardson in the Learning Support Services Office (ext. 8021, rrichardson@coker.edu) to provide the necessary documentation. No accommodations can be made without documentation from LSS. The student is solely responsible for contacting Robin Richardson.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center works collaboratively with faculty and staff to ensure students are progressing towards personal, academic, and career goals. Within the Student Success Center, Student Success Coaches assist assigned students with getting connected to campus resources, developing career goals, and troubleshooting any possible challenges that may arise during their Coker experience. The Student Success Center strives to develop students' sense of self by helping them evaluate their strengths, interests, values, and goals early on in their academic career and channel those criteria into successful networks, internships, and mentorships. Additionally, the Student Success Center is responsible for the new student orientations, the first-year experience, and internships. The Student Success Center is located on the 1st floor of the Library and Information Technology Center.

Health Care, Counseling Services, Campus Safety

Health & Medical Clinic Services: [843-383-8141](tel:843-383-8141) | healthservices@coker.edu

Campus Safety: Security can be contacted 24/7 at 843-383-8140 (*on-campus extension: 8140*)

Counseling Services: Counseling services will be provided through the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) TelePsych program, where students will have access to a psychiatrist. All appointments will take place in Coker's [Center for Health and Wellness](#).

The Coker Pledge

As a member of the Coker University community, I pledge to do my part to protect the health and safety of our campus and greater Hartsville community. I understand that my actions play a critical role in reducing the spread of COVID-19. I pledge to be responsible, considerate, and accountable for my actions on campus and within the community. I will conduct myself with Coker's six pillars in mind--integrity, respect, scholarship, sustainability, service, and contribution.

I pledge to:

- Monitor my health closely for potential symptoms and to avoid social situations, including classes, if I feel sick; and if I am experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, which can include shortness of breath, coughing and/or fever of 100.4°F or greater, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea, if I am a student, I will email covidhotline@coker.edu, and if I am a Coker employee, I will contact Ella Marshall at emarshall@coker.edu
- Follow public health guidelines and abide by Coker University guidance and COVID-19 signage on reducing the spread of COVID-19
- Maintain good personal hygiene and wash my hands with soap and water frequently
- Maintain social distancing in all of my daily activities
- Wear a mask or cloth face covering which covers your mouth and nose in university buildings, when outside on campus, and in situations when social distancing is not possible
- Honor occupancy limits in spaces, leave furniture in classrooms and dining areas as is to ensure proper social distancing, and be careful to protect myself and others when in situations where social distancing might not be possible
- Follow the university's instructions for isolating myself if I test positive, am experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Coker University Code of Conduct

Coker University is a community dedicated to scholarship. Those who join the Coker University community commit to a lifelong journey of intellectual and personal growth. By becoming citizens of this community, students are obligated to honor the principles that define Coker University. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to:

- Be an active and honorable scholar, inside and outside of the classroom
- Contribute positively to the academic and social life of the community at large
- Respect the rights, property, and dignity of others
- Be accountable for his/ her own actions. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is failure of the class. Plagiarism and/or cheating will be considered a breach of conduct and will be reported to the College Provost.

Inclusivity Policy

In keeping with a non-discrimination policy, we aim to ensure that this classroom is a safe and respectful space where people are welcomed regardless of their identity, appearance, or presentation. We will endeavor to not assume anyone's gender, sexual, racial, religious, or other identities without voluntary input nor to impose such identities on them without their consent. Since language use within the classroom may involve the used gendered pronouns and names, I will be asking students to optionally share their preferred pronouns and names at the semester's start. I will make appropriate changes to my records if students use a different name than is listed in the class roster. Expressions of hate and bigotry directed at particular individuals or their identities are counter-productive to respectful exchange and learning, and thus will be curtailed; however, note that the critical analysis of social hierarchies and systems [e.g. patriarchy, sexism, race, class, etc] is distinct from the unfair targeting of individuals from privileged groups, and is fully protected under academic freedom.

Government Institutions prohibit discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preference, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual.

Title IX and Reporting of Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

As a recipient of Federal Funds, Coker University is required to comply with Title IX legislation, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities, admission, and employment. Coker's Commitment to Equality Equal access to educational experiences is an important part of the Coker experience. If you feel you have been discriminated against based on your sex, gender, gender identity/expression, or sexual orientation, or if you have experienced sexual harassment, misconduct, or violence, we encourage you to report this to a member of the Coker Community.

What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment and includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual battery, sexual coercion, and sexual exploitation.

Who Can I Talk to?

While faculty and staff are happy to listen to your concerns, please be mindful of how much you wish to disclose since all Coker faculty and staff members are 'mandatory reporters.' This means that if they are made aware of potential discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or violence that has occurred involving any Coker student, staff, or faculty member, they are required by law to report it to Coker's Title IX Officer. This includes incidents that occur on campus or at an off-campus Coker-sponsored event or activity in the recent present or in the past. Of course, you may also contact Coker University's Title IX Coordinator (843-383-8007) directly. At any time that you fear for your immediate safety, contact Campus Safety (843-383-8140) or dial 911.

Confidential Reporting

If you wish to talk with someone who is better able to keep your information confidential, please visit or call Coker's Counseling Services (843-383-8040) or Coker's Student Health Services (843-383-8141). Additional information is located under the Title IX section on the Coker website: <https://www.coker.edu/about-coker/offices-services/campus-safety/title-ix/>.