

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS
PROFESSOR JUDYIE AL-BILALI

TH190H - ACTING FUNDAMENTALS

Fall 2013

I love the high degree of student-faculty interaction.

This course has taught me not only about theater, but also about myself.

This is the most useful humanities course I have ever taken.

This is the best class I have taken at UMass.

Judyie is an amazing teacher and I learned so much from her class, which can help me in all fields in the future. There is never a dull moment. And even though I never did theater before, she helped me feel passionate about it.

Spring 2014

It was wicked fun. It really inspired me to get in touch with my creative side.

Judyie is fantastic! She is so excited to teach us and is really just a pleasure to be around. I have really, really enjoyed this course.

I most enjoyed the group participation and acting out of dreams.

I liked how the course drew my classmates and me out of our shells and how we had loving criticism.

Inspired interest. It was clear Judyie was passionate about the class as well as helping students learn. Lots of student participation and encouraged student leadership and group work. Great teacher, very sweet and inspirational.

Judyie really cares about the happiness and growth of each student.

Judyie finds a balance between being casual and formal. She is our professor, our director, and our mentor.

Fall 2014

I like the fact that this course actually challenges one to move outside their comfort zone and express the true potential in them.

Judyie is extremely enthusiastic, inspiring, and engaged. She is ALWAYS engaged.

Judyie is an excellent teacher and extremely inspiring. This class is fantastic! Judyie inspires me to believe in myself and my abilities. Definitely joining more classes with her in the future.

I learned the importance of my body, breathing, and trusting myself. The class brought me out of my shell and gave me confidence through the roof. The course cannot improve, it is such a rich and great course. Judyie is the best professor I have had this far. I think the course is perfect the way it is. Judyie is an excellent professor.

Judyie is an amazing person. She is passionate about what she teaches as well as the students. She puts effort into her work.

The instructor promotes a healthy and fun atmosphere in class. She is very dedicated to her work, helping students and making them feel important. Seriously, she is a phenomenal woman. Value her. Best teacher I have had so far.

Spring 2015

Great course. That should be a requirement at the very least for Social Science kids. Community-building and creativity/imagination stimulation.

Judyie was amazing. She gives great feedback and she always pushes us to do our best. Declared my Theater major in the middle of this semester and I say that she was a huge inspiration that helped push me toward the decision.

Judyie made the whole class feel like one happy family. We all enjoyed class time and learned much about theater and ourselves. Judyie is prefect! Judyie is great!

There was so much diversity of activity and when we needed to get serious, we got serious. Judyie is just awesome and sweet and focused and fun. EVERYONE SHOULD TAKE JUDYIE'S CLASS.

I love the set up of the classroom. I love the openness the instructor achieved in the class. This is best class I have taken at UMass about self-discovery.

Judyie actively engages us in material. Her grading is fair and she explains the grade. She is lively and happy. Judyie is one of the best professors I have ever had.

I love how it was an open space! One of the best professors I have had. Made me a better presenter! I love this class. I wish I took this earlier in my college career.

Fall 2015

This course and the instructor are amazing, I'd take it again. It could be three says instead of two. Judyie Al-Bilali is an amazing teacher and I recommend everyone take her class.

The class always has a positive energy. The course should be MWF instead of T/Th. The class is perfect! Judyie is an amazing teacher, I learned a lot.

It was very fun but we also learned a lot. Judyie was always positive and had so much energy. Judyie is an incredible teacher with an amazing attitude that inspires learning.

I loved the fact that I was forced to leave my comfort zone every class.

She was very lively and helped each student come out of their shells. It should be more than two days.

The fact that we were learning while having fun.

This course and the instructor are amazing, I'd take it again. Judyie Al-Bilali is an amazing teacher I'd recommend everyone to take her class.

Fall 2016

Judyie has really helped me to think deeper about acting and what it means. This course has been infused with so many fun and engaging semester long commitments. Judyie is a great teacher! I would recommend anyone to take her class who wants to act or interested in acting. You will learn so much!

The course tested my limits of creativity which was great. Loved the class.

We had time to learn effectively and have fun. There was group learning and lots of individual feedback.

The feedback and passion for teaching us to be ourselves while improving our craft. Also the exercises and life lessons she taught us. Love the class would recommend it highly.

She really helps us learn the techniques of being an actor. Love that she is so hands on and helpful. Judyie, thank you for everything you are amazing!

Judyie has an incredible ability to engage even first time actors. She knows how to being out the best in actors of all levels.

As an engineering major, the class allows for the exercise of the creative half of my brain. I truly enjoyed this class. Thank you, Judyie.

Judyie is a goddess. Enlightening. Encouraging. She really wants students to succeed. Best class I have taken at UMass. I wish I'd taken it sooner because now it is too late to change my major.

Judyie is the best professor I've ever had.

I liked how acting is likened to the science/observation of human behavior. The class definitely helped to put myself out there. Thank you for the wonderful class!

What I like most about the course is how interactive and engaging it is. It was nice to be able to take an artistic class with more of an emphasis on experience than grades. Judyie created a wonderful class environment.

Spring 2017

Judyie ROCKS. She is so enthusiastic, positive and smart. Her teaching inspires students who don't usually participate to sing, dance, and express themselves.

I like that we were encouraged to interact with our classmates during breaks due to the No Phones Rule. I like that we were given space to play and took turns leading the class.

I love Judyie's method of introducing acting/performance techniques. I have learned so much about myself, my habits, and what being an actor consists of...I learned so much and the readings changed my whole perspective of what being on the stage means.

Judyie is incredible passionate and inspires interest in the course. Judyie has been one of the best professors I've had at the university. It's been an incredible memorable semester.

The gradual progression of learning - cumulative learning of acting techniques.

Judyie's amazing. Class is very welcoming, accepting, and interactive. I recommend this class to all my friends.

I felt very comfortable in this learning environment and felt that I learned a lot about acting techniques and myself.

Judyie was patient and understanding when teaching material. I not only benefitted from my acting experience, but was emotionally benefitted as well. This class allowed me to learn about myself in ways I didn't know a class could. An amazing class/professor.

Judyie is the best professor and acting teacher I have ever had. Period.

Fall 2017

Judyie Al-Bilali is an amazing professor. She engages her students and encourages them to be expressive. She works with each student individually and builds on their strengths and potential. This is my favorite class I have taken at UMass. Every student should take a class with Judyje Al-Bilali before they graduate UMass.

Professor Al-Bilali is a truly gifted teacher who knows how to bring out the best in every student and show them their capacity as an actor. She strikes the perfect balance between being a skilled mentor who critiques students' work to make it better, and letting students have the autonomy to make artistic choices for themselves and explain their choices. She made the class fun and engaging for everyone and is an inspirational actor, professor, and human being. I have never had a two hour and twenty minute class go by so fast. I cannot stress enough how wonderful Professor Al-Bilali is. This was one of the most fun, unique courses I've ever taken and a big part of that was Professor's Al-Bilali's energy and how she engaged everyone and really brought the class together. I encourage everyone to take this class with Professor Al-Bilali if they are truly open to learning more about themselves and about others.

A theater class is a non-traditional classroom setting and so I loved that. Judyie is AMAZING and despite none of us being theater majors, she transformed us into artists along the semester. She is lighthearted and upbeat, and made all of us want to come to class every day. I learned so many valuable lessons in this course that will be useful throughout my life, and I think that is the highest value I can place on a class. Judyie is the BEST professor that I have had at UMass!

Judyie knows so much about acting and gives us amazing feedback. Her instruction is beyond surface level- we don't really focus so much on theory, but rather she shows us how to use the body, voice, impulses, and objectives. She shows us how to get out of our minds and into our bodies. Her instruction is amazing. Best class I've ever taken at UMass!

Judyie is amazing. I have learned a lot about acting, myself, and life in general throughout her teachings. She is so inspirational, but I've liked how she taught us to be present the most. She pushed me more than any teacher I've had and I can't thank her enough.