

THFM-1001-002 (6 credit hours)

## INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE: PERFORMANCE

Fall/Winter 2013-2014  
T/TH 1:00-2:15 pm  
Room 2T05

Instructor: Dr. Claire Borody  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts of theatre with an emphasis on the art and craft of the performer. The course focuses on developing performance skills, text analysis, and spectator skills.

Performance Skills: The Fall term focuses on basic performance skill development including foundational movement and improvisation. In the Winter term, students will rehearse and perform two scenes selected from contemporary dramatic literature. Scene One is to be selected from *The Shape of Things* by Neil LaBute. The stylistic focus of performed scene-work is Realism.

*A Practical Handbook for the Actor* will be used as a technical guide. Knowledge of this material will be tested in written form.

Text Analysis: Four play texts will be studied over the course of the year (see list). Knowledge of this content will be tested in quizzes.

Spectatorship: Students are required to purchase tickets to three selected professional performances: *Trumpets and Raspberries*, *The Seagull* and *I On the Sky*. Attendance at these performances is **mandatory**. Performances will be discussed in class as well as reviewed in written form. Students are responsible for booking and attending the play well **BEFORE** the due date for the review and class discussion.

Classes will consist of lectures, group discussions, practical exercises and projects, and workshop sessions focussing on prepared performance material. **Students are expected to bring notebooks and pencils to all classes.**

### TEXTS

#### Required:

Bruder et al. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*.  
Chekhov, Anton. *The Seagull*.  
Churchill, Caryl. *Top Girls*.  
LaBute, Neil. *The Shape of Things*.  
Mighton, John. *Possible Worlds*.

Students **may** also be required to purchase a course-pack from the instructor covering additional topics of study.

#### Reference:

Students are responsible for finding scene material for Scene Two in the Winter term. The Library and the UW bookstore carry a selection of scene and monologue anthologies. A number of scripts are also available for loan from the Departmental Script Library; see Patty Hawkins (3T03, 786-9955) for details.

**MARK BREAKDOWN**

Group Movement Evaluation.....	7.5%
Performance Skills Evaluation .....	7.5%
Quizzes (four).....	10%
Test.....	10%
Reviews (three) .....	10%
Scene One .....	15%
Scene Two .....	20%
Process Essay.....	10%
Class Participation and Protocol .....	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>100%</u></b>

**ASSIGNMENT AND PERFORMANCE DEADLINES**Fall Term

Group Movement Evaluation (October 10, 2013) .....	7.5%
Performance Skills Evaluation (November 7, 2013).....	7.5%
Quizzes (TSOT, September 24 and TG, November 19, 2013).....	5%
Test (November 14, 2013) .....	10%
Reviews (TAR, November 26, 2013).....	5%
Class Participation and Protocol (November 2013) .....	5%
<b>Total: 40%</b>	

Winter Term

Scene One (February 4 and 6, 2014).....	15%
Reviews (TS, February 11 and IOTS, March 18, 2014 .....	5%
Quizzes (PW, January 7 and TS, February 11) .....	5%
Scene Two (April 2 and 4, 2014).....	20%
Process Essay (April 4, 2014).....	10%
Class Participation and Protocol (April 2014) .....	5%
<b>Total: 60%</b>	

**ATTENDING PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTIONS**

Students will be required to attend three selected professional theatre productions and to write reviews for each production. Each review will each be assigned a mark out of 5 and the total mark (15) will be reduced to a mark out of 10 after the third review submission. An outline for the review will be provided at the beginning of the Fall term.

This activity will not be arranged as a field trip. Students are required to book their own tickets for each performances allowing sufficient time to write a review prior to scheduled class discussion. Booking links are provided below.

***Trumpets and Raspberries:*** Adhere and Deny

November 20 – 25, 2013 (**Make Note:** The run is until November 30 but class discussion is scheduled for November 26, 2013). Make reservations as soon as possible as the theatre is very small.

[www.adhereanddeny.com](http://www.adhereanddeny.com)

***The Seagull:*** Warehouse Theatre

January 23 – February 8, 2014 (Class discussion is scheduled for February 13, 2014)

[www.mtc.mb.ca](http://www.mtc.mb.ca)

***I On the Sky:*** Manitoba Theatre For Young People

March 10 - 16, 2014 (Class discussion is scheduled for March 18, 2014)

[www.mtyp.ca](http://www.mtyp.ca)

### **PROCESS ESSAY AND JOURNALS**

Students will be provided with a series questions at the beginning of the Fall term AND at the end of the Fall term that they will be required to respond to and archive (preferably digitally). These questions, along with collected notes and/or journal entries, as well as information from readings and class discussions, will form the foundation of the process essay. An outline for this essay will be provided at the beginning of the Winter term. **The essay is due April 4, 2014.**

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION AND PROTOCOL**

The class participation and protocol evaluation (10%) is structured with the development of professionalism in mind. The following activities will be evaluated: attendance and punctuality including out of class rehearsals, maintenance of journals and performance notes, preparation for class exercises and discussion, preparation for rehearsal, off-book deadlines, and contribution to in-class discussion.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Dates for quizzes and reviews are **non negotiable**. Medical documentation is required in order to write a missed test. The penalty for submitting a late process essay is 2% per day (weekends excluded) up to the final deadline stated below. For example, if your essay is given a mark of 70% and it is a week late, you would receive 60%. The **absolute deadline** – with penalty – for the essay assignment in the Winter term is **April 17, 2014**, two weeks after original deadline. **Papers will NOT be accepted after this point unless there are extenuating circumstances or arrangements have been made prior to the deadline date.**

### **REHEARSALS**

During the Fall and Winter Terms students will be expected to take part in on-going performance rehearsals outside of scheduled class time. This requirement will involve a **MINIMUM** of two to four hours per week. Students will be required to document these sessions via booking sheets and other means. **Students unable or unwilling to comply with this requirement are asked to withdraw from the class immediately.**

Any student who repeatedly misses rehearsals, arrives late, or fails to rehearse adequately will be asked to withdraw from the course. This includes scheduled classes and out-of-class rehearsals. This provision has been established to protect the educational interests of scene partners and other classmates.

Scenes must be approved **PRIOR** to the start of the allotted rehearsal period.

### **STUDENT INTERVIEWS**

Students **may** be required to attend one-on-one interviews during the mid-term exam period at the end of each term (see tentative time-line for scheduled dates and times). A request from the instructor for an interview is **non negotiable**. A sign-up sheet will be available in class at the end of each term for those who are asked to attend interviews.

**TENTATIVE TIME-LINE****September, 2013**

September 5 Course Intro  
 September 10 Role of the Actor  
 September 12 Play Analysis  
 September 17 The Audience/Spectatorship  
 September 19 Terminology and Realism as a Style  
 September 24 *The Shape of Things*: Discussion  
 September 26 Movement Workshop: Part 1

**TSOT QUIZZ AND RESEARCH****October**

October 1 Movement Workshop: Part 2  
 October 3 Movement Presentation: Phase 1  
 October 8 Movement Presentation: Phase 2  
 October 10 Group Movement Piece Performance and Discussion  
 October 15 *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*  
 October 17 *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*  
 October 22 Performance Skills and Improvisation Workshop 1  
 October 24 Performance Skills and Improvisation Workshop 2  
 October 29 Performance Skills and Improvisation Workshop 3  
 October 31 Performance Skills Presentation: Phase 1

**IMAGE COLLECTION DUE**

**READ PART 1: P. 33 – 66**  
**READ PART 2: P. 33 – 66**  
**ASSIGNMENT 1 - TBA**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2 - TBA**  
**ASSIGNMENT 3 - TBA**  
**PREP - TBA**

**November**

November 5 Performance Skills Presentation: Phase 2  
 November 7 Performance Skills Presentation and Discussion  
 November 12 *The Shape of Things*: Practical Exploration  
 November 14 Test and Neutral Text Work  
 November 19 *Top Girls*: Discussion  
 November 21 *Top Girls*: Practical Exploration  
 November 26 *Trumpets and Raspberries*: Discussion

**TEST**  
**TG QUIZZ AND RESEARCH**

**TAR REVIEW**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A PRODUCTION AND A DESIGN LECTURE OUTSIDE OF CLASS ON A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AND WILL BE DOCUMENTED.**

**December**

December 3 Interviews by request: 12:00-3:00 pm (sign up required).  
 Additional scheduling provided if necessary.

**January, 2014**

January 7 *Possible Worlds*: Discussion  
 January 9 *Possible Worlds*: Practical Exploration  
 January 14 Scene One Workshop: Character Development  
 January 16 Scene One Workshop: Character Interaction  
 January 21 Scene One Workshop: Scene Construction  
**Jan 21 VW Date**  
 January 23 Scene One Workshop: Production Values  
 January 28 Scene One Dress Rehearsal (group one)  
 January 30 Scene One Dress Rehearsal (group two)

**PW QUIZZ AND RESEARCH****OFF BOOK DEADLILNE**

**February**

February 4	Scene One Performance (group one)	
February 6	Scene One Performance (group two)	
February 11	<i>The Seagull</i> : Discussion Text	<b>TS QUIZZ AND REVIEW DUE</b>
February 13	<i>The Seagull</i> : Discussion MTC performance	
<b>Feb 17-21</b>	<b>Mid-Term Reading Week</b>	
February 25	Workshop: Performance Skills Review	
February 27	Scene Two Workshop: Character Building	

**March**

March 4	Scene Two Workshop: Character Interaction	
March 6	Scene Two Workshop: Scene Construction	
March 11	Scene Two Workshop: Scene Orchestration	
March 13	Scene Two Workshop: Production Values	<b>OFF BOOK DEADLINE</b>
March 18	<i>I on the Sky</i> : Discussion	<b>IOTS REVIEW DUE</b>
March 20	Scene Two Workshop: Fine Tuning	
March 25	Scene Two Workshop: Troubleshooting or Dress Rehearsal <b>TBA</b>	
March 27	Scene Two Workshop: Troubleshooting or Dress Rehearsal <b>TBA</b>	

**April**

April 2	Scene Two Performance (group one)	
April 4	Scene Two Performance (group two)	<b>PROCESS ESSAY DUE</b>
<b>Fri, April 5 - classes end</b>		
April 9	Interviews by request: 12:00 – 3:00 PM (sign up required)	
April 10	Interviews by request: 12:00 – 3:00 PM (sign up required)	

**ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (for first-year Performance classes)**

Given that this is a practical studio course, extensive participation and professionalism are required. As a result, punctuality and attendance at class and in out-of-class rehearsals are of the utmost importance. Unexcused absences from lecture, lab, or out-of-class rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of 1% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lecture, lab, or out-of-class rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of .5% per instance. Attendance and punctuality will be recorded at the beginning of every class. After a **THIRD** late or absence, the instructor will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss withdrawal from the course. After a **FIFTH** unexcused absence the student will be required to meet with the Chair of the department to discuss withdrawal from the course.

Excused absences or lates require a medical note or prior arrangement with the instructor. It is at the instructor's discretion whether or not to excuse a non-medical absence. After **FIVE** excused absences the student will be required to meet with the Instructor to discuss whether it is realistic for him/her to continue in the course.

Given the rigorous, practical nature of studio courses, and the demands these courses make in terms of attendance and punctuality, students with chronic medical conditions that will require extensive absence should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss whether the course is appropriate for them.

**"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES**

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept 18, Oct 23, Nov 13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12. This series will feature speakers from a range

of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

### **NOTES FOR PERFORMANCE COURSES**

Rehearsals for final presentations and public exercises are scheduled well in advance; students must arrange their university and work schedules so as not to conflict with them. Students must attend **ALL** scheduled rehearsals.

Any student who repeatedly misses rehearsals, comes late, or fails to rehearse adequately will be asked to withdraw from the course.

As many of our classes are physical in nature, students are asked to wear comfortable clothing.

Outdoor footwear **must be removed** before entering **ANY** of the Studios: **0T09** (Concourse Studio), **0T19** (Mime Lab), **1T15** (Theatre), **2T05** (2nd Floor Studio), **2T15** (Movement Studio). We suggest you bring suitable dance shoes or slippers to wear in class. Your professors will monitor and enforce this regulation in order to preserve the integrity of the special flooring in these rooms. Please respect this rule.

Student actors, like professionals, are expected to provide their own basic makeup supplies where required for public exercises. Due to the potential for the transmission of skin diseases it is not recommended that students share makeup.

Senior acting students scheduled to perform in a departmental public exercise are asked not to modify their hair colour or style without first checking with the instructor/director.

Students who bring props, costumes, or furnishings to support scene presentations please note:

- the University will **NOT** be responsible for the loss of any such materials;
- students are responsible for the **IMMEDIATE** removal of such materials after **EACH** use – the department does not provide storage;
- materials not claimed **WILL BE DISPOSED OF** at the student's expense. Grades may be withheld until such costs are recovered;
- **students MUST NOT move existing furnishings from their current locations.**

### **ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY**

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to introduce our new students to faculty and other students; to provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and to provide news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

## **BUILDING SECURITY**

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

## **ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA**

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

## **GENERAL NOTES**

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2013 and end in April 2014 (2013/14 Fall/Winter Term).

## **STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required

to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

## **COURSE CONTENT NOTE**

### All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

### Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.