

THFM-3103-001 (6 credit hours)

MOVEMENT FOR ACTORS

Fall/Winter, 2013/2014
MF 2:30 – 3:45
Room: 0T09

Instructor: Tom Stroud
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Office: 4T11
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Office Hours: MWF 12:30-13:30 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course has been designed to develop awareness, skill, and confidence in the use of movement as it pertains to the acting process and the staging of productions. Students will participate in an exploration of their own bodies' expressive potential and will gain an awareness of the inner and outer connection between body, mind, and emotion.

Areas that will be studied will include concentration, relaxation, sensitivity, integrating voice and gesture, improvisation, developing the physical and emotional impulse, spatial awareness, and working in the ensemble.

Studies will include the following:

- Understanding alignment and muscle efficiency
- Remedial exercises to develop core strength, balance, and endurance
- Non-patterned movement and improvisation to increase movement potential and expressiveness, sensitivity, awareness, spontaneity, and confidence
- Partnering work to develop trust and sensitivity
- Sound and gesture exercises to integrate voice and body and to increase range of emotional expression

Please be aware that group presentations are part of the class and students will be required to memorize text as well as allot ample time for rehearsals (minimum 3 hours per week).

Given the physical nature of the course and as a standard measure of safe practice, students will be asked to provide a brief background paper to identify any injuries, physical limitations, psychological conditions, or medication that may put them or their class mates at risk. This will ensure that the instructor will be able to take any necessary precautions and/or make any modifications to the exercises and process of evaluation.

TEXTS

Required

None

Reference

The instructor may recommend reading as the course progresses.

EVALUATION

Presentation: Remedial Exercises	5%
Theatre Exercises (Fall).....	5%
Studio Participation and Professionalism (Fall)	10%
Presentation: Partner Work (Fall).....	5%
Presentation: Group Improvisations (Fall)	10%
Theatre Exercises (Winter)	5%
Presentation: Partner Work (Winter)	15%
Presentation: Group Improvisations (Winter).....	15%
Essay (approximately 2,000 words)	20%
Studio Participation and Professionalism (Winter).....	10%
Total	100%

OUT OF CLASS TIME

Each term, students are required to schedule rehearsals outside of class time with fellow students as well as time for a small group session with the instructor. Once rehearsals begin, this requirement will involve a **MINIMUM** of three hours per week. Students unable or unwilling to comply with this requirement will be asked to withdraw from the course immediately.

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

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Papers will **NOT** be accepted after the due date. Extensions may be granted but only **BEFORE** the due date and with a valid reason, at the instructor's discretion.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

Students will be required to submit a final paper (minimum 2,000 words). The paper should summarize the material covered in the class, address how class material is connected to the acting process, and comment on the student's own discoveries about performance and personal growth. The assignment will be discussed in detail in class. The paper is worth 20% and due **April 10, 2014**. A hard copy must be dropped off to Room 4T11 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Final papers will not be accepted late.

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 - 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 - 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 - 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 - 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 - 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 - 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 - 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 - 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0.

Borderline grades will be indicated accordingly, eg. C+/B = 69.5%.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Fall Term:

Sept	6	Breath/Alignment/Remedial Exercises Background Paper Discussed
	9	Breath/Alignment/Remedial Exercises Background Paper Due Text Excerpts Distributed
	13	Remedial Exercises/Developing Range of Expression Assign Groups
	16	Remedial Exercises/Developing Range of Expression
	20	Remedial Exercises /Developing Range of Expression/Working with Text
	23	Remedial Exercises /Developing Range of Expression/Working with Text
	27	Presentation: Remedial Exercises
	30	Partner Work/ Exploring Conflict/Identifying Source/ Emotional Release

Oct.	4	Partner Work/ Exploring Conflict/Identifying Source/ Emotional Release
	7	Partner Work/ Exploring Conflict/Identifying Source/ Emotional Release
	11	Partner Work/ Exploring Conflict/Identifying Source/ Emotional Release
	14	Thanksgiving: University Closed. Make-up Class on Wed, Nov 27, 2013.
	18	Partner Work/Improvisation
	21	Partner Work/ Improvisation
	25	Partner Work/ Improvisation
Nov.	28	Partner Work/ Improvisation
	1	Presentation: Partner Work
	4	Group Improvisation
	8	Group Improvisation
	11	Remembrance Day: University Closed. Make-up class Thurs, Nov 28, 2013
	15	Group Improvisation
	18	Group Improvisation
	22	Group Improvisation
	25	Group Improvisation (Last Class for Fall Term)
	26	Lectures End for Fall Term
27	Presentation: Group Improvisation (Make-up Class for Oct 14)	
28	Presentation: Group Improvisation (Make-up Class for Nov 11)	
Winter Term:		
Jan.	6	First Class of Winter Term Review of Remedial Exercises Distribute Text
	10	Remedial Exercises/Sound and Gesture Assign Groups
	13	Remedial Exercises/ Sound and Gesture /Partner Work
	17	Remedial Exercises/ Sound and Gesture /Partner Work
	20	Partner Work/Sound and Gesture
	21	Final Date to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
	24	Partner Work/Sound and Gesture
	27	Improvisation
	31	Partner Work
	Feb.	3
7		Improvisation
10		Partner Work
14		Improvisation
17		Reading Week: No class.
20		Reading Week: No class.
24		Partner Work
28	Improvisation	
Mar.	3	Partner Work
	7	Improvisation
	10	Partner Work
	14	Improvisation
	17	Partner Work
	21	Improvisation
	2	Partner Work
	28	Presentation: Partner Work
31	Presentation: Improvisation	
April	4	Presentation: Improvisation (Final Class) Lectures End
	10	Final Paper Due – hand in directly to Professor in Room 4T11 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (for 2nd- through 4th-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 rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of 2% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lecture, lab, or rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of 1% 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.

In performance courses that cast and rehearse a show, unexcused lateness and absence will not be tolerated and may result in the recasting of your role after **ONE** incident.

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 to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available online 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.