

THFM-1001-050 (6 credit hours)

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE: PERFORMANCE

Fall/Winter, 2014 / 2015
Mondays: 6:00-9:00 pm
Room 2T05

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Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts of theatre. Emphasis is placed on the art and craft of the performer.

In the first term students will be introduced to the basics of modern acting technique through acting exercises, improvisation, movement, and script analysis. The skills covered in the first half of the course will be evaluated through the presentation of a contemporary scripted scene, as well as a group devised theatre piece. In second term students will again rehearse and perform a contemporary scene. They will also be expected to keep an acting journal during the year. The journal should reflect acting experiences and discoveries made in class or rehearsal and will be the basis for an acting paper due at the end of the second term.

Students will also be introduced to various forms of modern drama and script interpretation through an examination of three plays representing a range of contemporary work: *Jail Baby* by Cairn Moore and Hope McIntyre, *Private Lives* by Noel Coward, and *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill. The student's understanding of these plays will be evaluated through three short quizzes and two written tests. The first test will also include the basic principles in our primary text, *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*.

Over the course of the University year, students will go on three field trips to experience live theatre. In the first term we will attend an evening of scenes at *FemFest*, and *Small Things* by Daniel McIvor at Prairie Theatre Exchange. In second term we will attend Noel Coward's *Private Lives* at the RMTc Warehouse Theatre. Attending these three evenings of theatre is a course requirement. Students will be required to pay for their tickets; if possible, a group reduction will be arranged.

TEXTS

Required

Moore & McIntyre, *Jail Baby* (Scirocco)
Bruder, et al. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* (Random House)
Churchill, Caryl, *Top Girls*, Methuen Student Edition (Methuen Student Editions)
Coward, Noel, *Private Lives* (Samuel French)

Optional

Moore, Cairn, *Generation NeXXt*, (Scirroco Drama)

MARK BREAKDOWN

1st Scene Presentation (Thanksgiving holiday Make-up Class, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014)	15%
Play Quizzes (<i>Jail Baby, Private Lives, Top Girls</i>)	10%
1st Term Mid-Term Exam (<i>Jail Baby, A Practical Handbook, Class Lectures, Small Things,</i> Dec 8, 6-9 pm , Location TBA).....	15%
Final Essay (Due in class: March 30, 2015)	15%
2nd Scene Presentation (April 06, 2015).....	20%
Participation (<i>Field Trips/Class Participation</i>)	5%
2nd Term Final Exam (<i>Private Lives, Top Girls, Class lectures, April 13, 6-9 pm</i> , Location TBA).....	20%
TOTAL	100%

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%.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 1% per day (weekends excluded). For example, if your essay is given a mark of 70% and it is a week late, you would receive 65%. The mark would then be converted to a mark out of twenty. Papers will **NOT** be accepted after the final deadline **March 30, 2015**.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation includes:

- attendance
- punctuality
- preparation
- participation in discussion and acting exercises

REHEARSALS

Throughout this course, all students will be required to take part in ongoing scene rehearsals outside of scheduled class time. This requirement will involve a **MINIMUM** of two to four hours per week. Students unable or unwilling to comply with this requirement are 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.

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

QUIZZES

Students will be given a short quiz on each of the three plays discussed and studied in this course. Collectively, the three quizzes will represent 10% of the overall mark. Quizzes will not be given subsequent to the quiz date.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Fall Term

Sept.	08	Course Introduction/Theatre Games
	15	Warm up / Improvisation / Field Trip: FemFest / Bake Off (7:00 p.m.)
	22	<i>A Practical Handbook for the Actor</i> / Playing Action
	29	Movement / Dance Drama

- Oct. 06 **QUIZ**, Discussion of *Jail Baby* / Scene Analysis
 13 **Thanksgiving: no classes (Make-up day: Wednesday, Nov. 26)**
 20 Listening / One minute of Scenes
 27 Objective / One minutes of scenes
 28 **Field Trip: Talk Back Tuesday, Prairie Theatre Exchange 7:00p.m.**
Small Things by Daniel McIvor
- Nov. 03 Neutral Dialogue
 10 Voice and Text Workshop
 17 Split the Class / 2 minutes of scenes (actors off book.)
 24 Dress Rehearsal
 26 **First Term Scene Presentation** (Make-up class for Thanksgiving) Please note the make up class will be on a Wed. rather than a Mon.
- Dec. 8 **6:00-9:00 pm. Mid-Term Exam** (*Jail Baby, A Practical Handbook for the Actor, class lectures.* Room TBA.
 Confirmation of second term scene partner

Winter Term

- Jan. 12 Scene selection for 2nd term scenes / Truth / Improvisation
 19 **QUIZ** / Discussion of *Private Lives* / Workshop
 21 **Course Withdrawal Deadline**
 26 Improvisation / Acting Exercises

Field Trip: *Private Lives* / **MTC** (Runs Jan.28-Feb.14, 2015)

- Feb. 02 Punctuation / One minute of scenes
 09 Robert Munsch / One minute of scenes
 15 **Reading Week; No classes February 16-20, 2015**
 23 Scene Analysis (table work) / Scene Work

- Mar. 02 Design / Production Lecture / Subtext
 09 **Quiz** / Discussion of *Top Girls* / Churchill Workshop
 16 Split Class / Scene Work
 23 Split Class / Scene Work
 30 Dress Rehearsal / **Essay Due**

April 06 **Final Scene Presentation**

April 13 **6:00-9:00 pm. Final Exam** (*Private Lives, Top Girls, class lectures.*) Room TBA.

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 17, Oct 22, Nov 12, Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11. 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.**

2014 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 10, 2014, 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.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am-5:30 pm weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm 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 *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *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.

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., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the UHREB before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/research-human-ethics> for submission requirements and deadlines."

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

UWinnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of 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.

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.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2014 and end in April 2015 (2014/15 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.