

THFM-3502-050 (6 credit hours)

DRAMA IN EDUCATION

Fall/Winter,
Wednesday Evenings, 6:00-9:00 pm
Room 2T05

Instructor: Jey Thibedeau-Silver
Office: 4T06
Phone: 204-283-2839 (h)
204-612-1200 (cel)
E-Mail: jts1962@mymts.net
Office Hours: W 5:30-6:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course undertakes a survey of the major approaches to the use of dramatic and theatrical techniques within the field of education and relates them specifically to the new Manitoba Education K-8 Drama Curriculum. This course will examine theories and techniques regarding how drama can be taught as an art and a craft. Of equal importance will be how drama and theatre can enrich the lives of all young children, youth, and adults, thus creating a safe environment that fosters trust, builds confidence, and boosts self-esteem.

On-going consideration will also be given to how dramatic techniques can cross over into various parts of the curriculum.

The ultimate goal will always be to emphasize the rich rewards of a humanities and arts-based approach to the development and education of all students.

COURSE FORMAT

At its most fundamental level, drama is all about play. Therefore, all students will be expected to fully participate in all in-class theatre games and activities. What might feel initially "uncomfortable" or "silly" will eventually develop communication skills and techniques that enhance a safe environment where every student can feel free to take risks.

At the conclusion of all activities, considerable time will be devoted to discussing learned skills as well as exploring personal comfort levels.

All students are encouraged to wear clothing and footwear that allows for physical movement and comfort.

Successful drama and theatre emphasizes the importance of having a community of learners and therefore I encourage all of you to cement skills and relationships by researching, reading, talking, and practicing outside of class hours. One particular project involving scene work will need to be practiced and perfected outside of class time.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Improvisation for the Theatre, Viola Spolin

Dorothy Heathcote: Drama as a Learning Medium, Betty Jane Wagner

Stages: Creative Ideas for Teaching Drama, Talia Pura

K-8 Dramatic Arts Education Curriculum: Manitoba Education (Available online; address to be provided)

A Practical Handbook for the Actor, Melissa Bruder, *et al* (optional resource)

Various scenes and monologues as required. Also, some library/Internet research may be required.

GRADING**Fall Term**

Class participation (on-going)	10%
Presentation of a theatre game	5%
Follow-up self-critique (due Nov 19)	5%
Journals (due Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 15, 29, Nov. 5).....	10%
Mid-term annotated bibliography and draft project (typed) (due Nov. 5)	5%
Mid-term project final copy (based on Spolin & Heathcote) (typed) (due Nov 19)	15%

Subtotal..... 50%

Winter Term

Class participation (on-going)	10%
Journals (due Jan 14, 28, Feb. 11 Mar. 4, 18)	10%
Scene presentation.....	5%
Boal Unit presentation	5%
Final exam (no equipment or ID required) (date/time TBA – check on-line schedule).....	20%

Subtotal..... 50%

TOTAL..... 100%

Students should ensure that all work is handed in on time. All late work will be subject to a late penalty of **MINUS 10% PER WORKING DAY**. **Absences** known ahead of time need to be reported to the instructor.

Important DATES**First Semester – September 3 – November 19, 2014**

Theatre games presentation – individually scheduled in class (Fall & Winter term)
 Self-critique – due in last class in Fall Term: Wed, Nov 19
 Journal Entries – first term entries due Sept. 17, October 1, 15, 29, November 5
 Mid-term bibliography and draft project proposal – due in by Nov 5
 Mid Term FINAL Project – due in by November 19, 2014

Second Semester – January 7 - April 1, 2015

Scene presentations – individually scheduled in class (Winter term)
 Boal Workshop – Winter 2015
 Journal entries – due January 14, 28, February 11, March 4, 18
 Reading Week – February 15-21, 2015
 Final Exam – Date and Room TBA (check the University's Website) 6:00-9:00 p.m.

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+	79 – 70.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Fall Term

An Introduction to Drama

In this term, emphasis will be placed on the development of dramatic and personal skills through the use of story drama, creative drama and theatre exercises. The techniques and theories of Dorothy Heathcote and Viola Spolin will be introduced, discussed, and practiced. It will be up to each individual student to read Spolin's and Heathcote's work extensively in order to participate fully in classroom discussion, activities and work on a final project due at the end of term.

Students will also be expected to introduce a theatre game or technique and teach it to the rest of the class. A critical self-evaluation will follow.

Fall term will take on the form of various workshops highlighting different aspects of the Manitoba K-8 Drama Framework and the development of the dramatic artist; Drama Language and Performance Skills, Creative Expression in Drama, Understanding Drama in Context, and Valuing Drama Experience. Pacing of the classes as well as emphasis on topics will be determined to a large extent by the students themselves.

Winter Term

Theatre Arts and Education

This term will explore how dramatic principles can enrich the personal lives of all the students. Some topics to be covered include creating and rehearsing improv and theatre groups; putting on plays and scene nights; and Theatre of the Oppressed.

This term will also emphasize basic dramatic theory regarding how to analyze blocks of text for realistic monologue and scene work. The theories of Stanislavski and various other realists will be explored within this context. Students will be expected to apply such techniques to an established scene, rehearse it, and present it to the class.

A brief unit on Augusto Boal will be introduced with the intent of diverse classroom integration of his techniques. The unit will culminate with a collective exploration of chosen topics.

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 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.