

THFM-4133-001 (6 credit hours)

DEvised THEATRE

Fall/Winter 2014-2015
M/W 2:30-5:15 Room
Room 2T05

Instructor: Claire Borody
Office: 3T04
Phone: 204-786-9385
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:30 PM
E-Mail: c.borody@uwinnipeg.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the research, construction and performance of original work. Students will be provided with opportunities to explore a range of models for generating and developing this performance work and will be expected to engage in the exploration of a variety of performance-creation research methods, construction processes and presentational forms. Course-work will be organized around two major projects: the creation of a solo performance piece in the fall term and the construction of a large-scale ensemble piece in the winter term. Both projects will require scheduled evening rehearsals.

Each project is designed to increase the resourcefulness and independence of senior acting students and will require students to complete a series of assignments and tasks that will contribute to multiple aspects of each performance. These tasks will not only include creating content, performing and writing but will also encompass production aspects of performance such as lighting, props, costumes and music etc. Students will be working with non-realistic, post-modernist and interdisciplinary technique and form in the creation of their performance work.

Throughout the year students will explore specifically chosen performance principles, vocabulary and technique via in-class workshops. These workshops will consist of discussions, practical exercises and student presentations.

TEXTS

Required:

Bogart, Anne. *And Then, You Act*.
Murray, Simon and John Keefe. *Physical Theatres: A Critical Introduction*.
Mumaw, Stefan and Wendy Lee Oldfield. *Caffeine for the Creative Mind*.
Tharp, Twyla. *The Creative Habit*.

Suggested:

Murray, Simon and John Keefe. *Physical Theatres: A Critical Reader*.

Assumed:

Bigelow, Michael and Joel A. Smith (eds.) *Anne Bogart Viewpoints*.

Further Reading and Research:

Students will be required to engage in regular independent research activity including further reading, viewing audio-visual clips and preparing concrete material to be developed in class.

MARK BREAKDOWN

Solo Performance, Construction, and Protocol	40%
Process Portfolio Presentation	10%
Ensemble Performance, Construction, and Protocol	40%
Process Essay.....	10%
TOTAL	<u>100%</u>

PERFORMANCE DATES AND EVENING REHEARSALS

Solo Rehearsal.....	November 3-7, 2014
Solo Production	November 8-15, 2014
Portfolio Presentation	November 17-26, 2014
Ensemble Rehearsal	February 23 - March 13, 2015
Ensemble Production Week.....	March 14-21, 2015
Process Essay.....	April 10, 2015

Please make note of the following scheduling details:

NOVEMBER 2014

Solo performance rehearsal hours are: Monday – Friday, November 3-7, from 6:00 -10:00 PM.

Solo performance production week hours are: Saturday, November 8 from 10:00 – 6:00 PM; Sunday, November 9 from 10:00 – 6:00 PM; Monday – Friday, November 10-14 from 6:00-10:00 PM; and Saturday, November 15 from 5:00-9:00 PM.

On Q and A nights add another 30 minutes to end time.

PLEASE NOTE: Performance end times may be extended for the solo show series.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2015

Ensemble performance rehearsal hours are: Monday – Friday, February 23 – 27, March 2-6 and March 9-13 from 6:00-10:00 PM.

Ensemble performance production week hours are: Saturday, March 16 and Sunday March 17 from 12:00 – 6:00 PM; Monday – Friday, March 16-20 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM; and Saturday, March 21 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM.

On Q and A nights add another 30 minutes to end time.

ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES

Deadlines for practical assignments contributing to performance projects are non-negotiable except in situations deemed to be an emergency by all parties involved.

Portfolios will only be accepted on the date of the scheduled presentation. Guidelines for collection and presentation of material will be provided. Performers will book a specific time within the defined time-line to present their solo project research portfolio.

Late essays will be penalized at the rate of **2% per day** (weekends excluded) up to the final stated deadline. 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, 2015**, one week after the original deadline. Essays will NOT be accepted after this point unless there are extenuating circumstances or arrangements have been made prior to the deadline date.

PROTOCOL

Developing knowledge and skill in the craft of acting requires participation and commitment. **Therefore, regular attendance and punctuality is necessary.** Students are required to be in attendance and ready to work by the posted class start time. **Late students may be denied entry.**

The professor and students are responsible for developing a creative, supportive, and protective atmosphere in class in order to best serve the work. Students must accept artistic individualities and help

their colleagues with constructive criticism. The unity, creativity, and health of the class is placed above any antagonism, personal or artistic differences, temperaments, and idiosyncrasies.

See reference to ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (in department notes later in course outline) for protocol concerning tardiness and absence from class.

The lab class is very physical in nature and therefore students are asked to wear comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement. Please observe the following guidelines: no street shoes, no hats, no jewelry AND no gum.

With the exception of water, no food and beverages will be allowed in class.

Students are required to keep the room clean and put away all props/rehearsal items used.

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%.

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, playwrighting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance at **ALL** lectures is **MANDATORY** for **ALL** Honours students in Theatre (all areas), **as well as students in: THFM-3101 Acting III: General, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II.** Two percent (2%) of the student's final grade in the core course (above) will be deducted **for each lecture missed** to a maximum of ten percent (10%). Please arrange your schedule **NOW** so that you are available for these lectures; attendance will be taken. **If you absolutely cannot attend, you must discuss this with your professor PRIOR to the event (don't call Patty).**

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.