

**DRAMA IN EDUCATION**

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

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**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.

**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.

**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 (Available online [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/K12/cur/arts/framework/drama\\_K8.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/K12/cur/arts/framework/drama_K8.pdf) )

*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 concentration, collaboration and involvement in classroom activities) .....	10%
Presentation of a theatre game .....	5%
Follow-up self critique .....	5%
Journals due Sept. 23, Oct. 7, 21 Nov. 4, 18 .....	10%
Mid-term annotated bibliography and draft project (typed) due Nov. 4.....	5%
Mid-term project final copy (based on Spolin & Heathcote) (typed) due Nov.25.....	15%

**Subtotal .....** 50%

**Winter Term**

Class participation (on-going) .....	10%
Journals due Jan 20, Feb. 3, 24, Mar. 9, 23.....	10%
Scene presentation .....	5%
Boal Unit presentation.....	5%
Final exam (no equipment or ID required) .....	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% of the value of the assignment PER WORKING DAY. Absences** known ahead of time need to be reported to the instructor.

### **ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (for 2nd- through 4th-year 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. Absences from lecture, lab, or rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of 2% 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** 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.

### **Important DATES**

First Semester – September 9 – December 3, 2015

Theatre games presentation – individually scheduled in class (Fall & Winter term)

Self-critique – due last day of term class

Journal Entries – first term entries due Sept. 23, October 7, 21, November 4, 18

Mid-term bibliography and draft project proposal – due in by Nov 4

Mid Term FINAL Project – due in by November 25, 2015

Second Semester – January 6 - April 1, 2016

Scene presentations – individually scheduled in class (Winter term)

Boal Workshop – Winter 2016

Journal entries – due January 20, February 3, 24, March 9, 23

Final Exam – Date and Room TBA (check the University's Website) 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Reading Week – February 14-20, 2016

### **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%.

## **"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES**

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held during the free period (12:30-13:20). Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**:

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 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** (Dance 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.

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;
- 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

**Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors, potential majors, and Honours students; all others are welcome, of course, and are strongly 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 the Accessibility Services at 786-9771 or email [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about Accessibility Services is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

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.

### **BUILDING SECURITY**

Our building 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 **BUT PLEASE NOTE:** outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that students **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession. **THIS INCLUDES ALL EVENING STUDENTS.** If the guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you will be evicted.**

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

### **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.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations. Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of his/her 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 advised to read Section III Registration and Section VII Academic Regulations and Policies of the University of Winnipeg *Calendar* (found on-line at [www.uwinnipeg.ca](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca) under Students/Course Calendar) for the rules regarding Registration, Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2015 and end in April 2016 (2015/16 Fall/Winter Term).