

**PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR THE ACTOR**

Winter 2018  
MWF 9:00-10:20 am  
Room 2T15

Instructor: Ali Robson  
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Office Hours: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course is designed to establish a practical and intellectual foundation for the actor's physicality and introduce the student to the basic principles of training and fitness necessary to reach their full expressive potential. The knowledge acquired from the course will support and directly apply to further studies in expressive movement, physical training methodologies, and to acting technique in general.

Studies include the following:

- Remedial exercises to develop core strength, balance, and endurance
- Ongoing patterned movement classes, similar to a modern dance class, to develop applied balance, endurance, range of expression, spatial awareness, rhythm, and ensemble
- Non-patterned movement improvisation to increase movement potential and expressiveness, sensitivity, awareness, spontaneity, and confidence
- Partnering work to develop trust and sensitivity
- Guest lecturers from the Department of Kinesiology and Health for anatomy, body mechanics, training principles for maximum efficiency, and injury prevention

**TEXTS**

No text is required; students may receive a series of handouts throughout the term.

**EVALUATION**

**The class will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis (65% or higher constitutes a passing grade). Grades will be based on the following criteria.**

Remedial Exercises .....	10%
Centre Work .....	10%
Sequence .....	10%
Partner Work .....	10%
Written Tests (3 x 10%) .....	30%
Final Paper.....	15%
Studio Participation, Professionalism and Class Performance.....	15%
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>100%</b>

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

Students will be required to submit a mid-term progress report and a final paper (minimum 2,000 words). The papers should summarize the material covered in the class and comment on the student's own discoveries and growth. The assignments will be discussed in detail in class. The final paper is worth 15% and due **Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. A hard copy of the final paper must be dropped off to Room 4T06 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Final papers will not be accepted late. Be sure to keep a record of all written assignments.

## ATTENDANCE

The class is largely experiential in nature. Consequently attendance is compulsory. Unexcused absences will be penalized at 2% of the final grade per incident for the first three incidents and 4% of the total grade for each incident thereafter. Lateness will be penalized at 1% of the total grade for the first three incidents and 2% for each incident thereafter. It is the student's responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation for excused absences. See department attendance policy below.

## 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%.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Please Note:** The schedule as presented indicates a progression from the introduction of subject matter. In practice material may be introduced with more overlap and certain material may be revisited throughout the year.

### **Winter Term:**

January	5	Introduction/ Alignment and Breath
	8	Alignment and Breath/Core Strength
	10	Alignment and Breath/Core Strength/Remedial Exercises
	12	Guest Lecture (Topic TBA)
	15	Alignment/Core Strength/ Remedial Exercises
	17	Alignment/Core Strength/Remedial Exercises
	19	Alignment/Core Strength/ Remedial Exercises
	22	Alignment/Core Strength/ Remedial Exercises
	24	Alignment/Core Strength/ Remedial Exercises
	26	Guest Lecture (Topic TBA)
	29	Alignment/Core Strength/ Remedial Exercises
31	<b>Assessment Period: Remedial Exercises (10%)</b>	
February	2	<b>Assessment Period: Remedial Exercises (10%)</b>
	5	Partner Work/Patterned Movement
	7	<b>First Written Test (10% of 30%)</b>
	9	Partner Work/Patterned Movement
	12	Partner Work/Patterned Movement
	14	Partner Work/Patterned Movement
	16	Guest Lecture (Topic TBA)
	18-24	<b>NO CLASSES-MID-TERM READING WEEK</b>
	26	Partner Work/Patterned Movement
	28	Partner Work/Patterned Movement

March	2	<b>Second Written Test (10% of 30%)</b>
	5	Partner Work/Patterned Movement <b>Assignment for Final Paper Given</b>
	7	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement
	9	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement
	12	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement <b>***FINAL DATE to withdraw without academic penalty MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>***</b>
	14	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement
	16	Guest Lecture (Topic TBA)
	19	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement
	21	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement
	23	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement
	26	Partner Work/ Patterned Movement
	28	<b>Third Written Test (10% of 30%)</b>
	30	<b>No classes - Good Friday – Make-up day on Thursday, April 5th</b>
April	2	Partner Work/Patterned Movement
	4	<b>Assessment Period: Centre Work (10%) / Sequence (10%) / Partner Work (10%)</b>
	5	<b>Make up class for March 30<sup>th</sup>- Assessment Period</b>
	9	<b>Final Paper Due – Hand in directly to Professor in Room 4T06 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm</b>

### ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

This class involves physical, cognitive, and/or vocal demands. Those with challenges in these areas must seek departmental guidance PRIOR to registration: 204-786-9955 or [theatre@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:theatre@uwinnipeg.ca).

### 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 at out-of-class rehearsals are of the utmost importance. Unexcused absences from lectures, labs, or rehearsals will be penalized at a rate of 2% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lectures, labs, or rehearsals 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 in which casts 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 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 Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Jan 17, Feb 28, Mar 14. 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.

## **HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (ex. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.)

## **TAFSA**

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. We are looking forward to regular **Performance Jams**, **Socials**, and the very popular **24/7 Event** during which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours! This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

## **BUILDING SECURITY**

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. 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://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> 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.

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 sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals, (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> 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](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect).

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in January 2018 and end in April 2018 (2018 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.