

THFM-2101-002 & THFM-2101L-071 (6 credit hours)

ACTING THEORY AND PRACTICE

Fall/Winter 2018-2019
Lecture: T/TH 1:30-2:20 PM Room 2T05
Lab: T/TH 2:30-3:45 PM Room 2T05

Fall Instructor: Tanja Woloshen
Office: 4T06
Email: tfwoloshen@gmail.com
Office Hours: T/Th 12:30-1:30

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with a theoretical knowledge of select movements of contemporary acting and actor training and to develop student competence in the practical application of concepts and principles from these movements. Students will explore a range of 20th and 21st century approaches to acting both theoretically and practically.

The fall term will focus on developing performer preparation, with a focus on embodied practices, listening skills, application of learned skills to performance contexts, and research. Classes in the winter term will focus on Anne Bogart's Viewpoints, the work of select master theorist/practitioners and the practical application of these techniques to styles other than Realism.

Lecture classes will consist of lectures, discussions, demonstrations and student presentations. Labs will emphasize scene-study and will include exercises and discussions that connect the theoretical components of the course to practical work.

Students will be required to participate in departmental productions. **See details below.**

TEXTS

Required:

Hodge, Alison. Twentieth Century Acting Training.

Students will also be required to purchase a course-pack from the instructors covering additional topics of study.

Suggested (winter term):

Bigelow, Michael and Joel A. Smith (eds.). Anne Bogart Viewpoints.
Marshall, Lorna. The Body Speaks.

Assumed (winter term):

Bruder et al. A Practical Handbook for the Actor.

Reference:

Students are responsible for finding their own scene and monologue material. The Library and the UW bookstore carry a selection of scene and monologue anthologies. A number of scripts are also available for loan from the Departmental Script Library; see Melinda Tallin (3T03, 786-9955) for details.

PRODUCTION REQUIREMENT

Students are required to assist in a production capacity on one of the major departmental shows. Tim Babcock, Aaron Frost, James Thurmeier, Crew Chief, or Melinda Tallin (as appropriate) must sign your form confirming that you have completed this requirement. Failure to do so will result in a 5% grade penalty. No partial marks will be assigned for this credit. Sign-up sheets will be available outside Room 3T03 (Melinda’s office) by Monday, September 24th; sign up early for best choice.

MARK BREAKDOWN

FALL 2018

Lab (Practice)

Embodied Practices	10%
Listening Skills	10%
Fall Scene	10%
Class Participation and Protocol	5%

Lecture (Theory)

Research Portfolio	5%
Essay	5%

Fall Grade..... 45%

WINTER 2019

Lab (Practice)

Viewpoints Group Assignment.....	7.5%
Monologue.....	7.5%
Winter Scene.....	20%
Class Participation and Protocol	5%

Lecture (Theory)

Group Presentation.....	10%
Process Essay.....	5%

Winter Grade..... 55%

TOTAL GRADE..... 100%

ASSIGNMENT AND PERFORMANCE DEADLINES

FALL

- Background Paper..... Tuesday, September 11, 2018
- Skills Observation Tuesday, October 16, & Thursday October 18, 2018
- Research Portfolio..... Thursday, November 15, 2018
- Scene Tuesday, November 27 **OR** Thurs. November 29, 2018
- Essay Thursday, December 6, 2018

WINTER

- Viewpoints Tuesday, January 29, 2019
- Monologue Tuesday, February 12, 2019
- Process Essay..... Thursday, April 4, 2019
- Scene Wednesday, April 10, 2019 **OR** Thursday, April 11, 2019 AT 7:00 PM

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Each student is required to participate in one group presentation. This is to be a group effort and all group members will receive the same mark. The presentation is to be organized within one fifty-minute time slot and will cover a significant theorist/practitioner in the field of acting theory or applied theory. Group members (or representatives from each group) are required to meet with the instructor prior to their presentation. Groups presenting in early January will be booked for meetings in December. Any student who fails to participate adequately in both preparation and presentation of the group project will be required to write an additional essay. Peer evaluation will serve as the determining factor for this action.

Selection for groups will occur in September. Group presentations will be scheduled in Thursday lecture sections in January and early February: January 17, January 24, January 31, February 7 and February 14, 2019.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments 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 (5 x 2%), you would receive 60%. The absolute deadline – with penalty – for the essay assignment in the Fall Term is **Friday, December 07, 2018.**

The absolute deadline – with penalty – for the essay assignment in the Winter Term is **Thursday, April 18, 2019.** Papers will NOT be accepted after this date unless there are extenuating circumstances OR arrangements have been made prior to the deadline date.

REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to work in pairs and/or larger groups and must be able to arrange rehearsals and meetings outside of class time. This requirement will involve a MINIMUM of 4-5 hours per week. Students unable or unwilling to comply with the rehearsal requirement are asked to withdraw from the course immediately. Students will be required to document and submit a listing of out-of-class rehearsals. A file of printed booking sheets would be ideal. During the year, any student who repeatedly misses rehearsals, comes late, or fails to rehearse adequately will be asked to withdraw from the course.

The above provision is in place to protect the educational interests of scene partners and other classmates.

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.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE (subject to change)**September – October**

Performer Preparation
 Embodied Practices
 Listening Skills
 Levels of Tension
 Creating Imagery

October – December

Understanding Action
 Approaching Style
 Developing a Research Portfolio
 Scene Work and Performance
 Process Essay due
 * Student meetings with Instructors

* **Please Note:** Meetings with students will be scheduled with the Fall Term Instructor to discuss students' progress during the term. These meetings will be scheduled on December 10 and 11 2018. Additional meetings with students will be scheduled with the Winter Term Instructor to discuss winter term presentations. These meetings will be arranged with the Winter Term Instructor during the Fall Term.

January

Introduction
 Viewpoints – Anne Bogart
 Practical workshops
 Group presentations

February

Skill development
 Monologue Work and Presentation
 Group Presentations
 Scene selection and construction

VW DATE for courses beginning in September 2018: February 15, 2019.

March

Skill development
 Scene Work

April

Process Essay Due
 Scene Presentations

Either Wednesday, April 10, 2019 **OR** Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

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.

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 on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept 19th (Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, playwright and arts administrator), Oct 17th, Nov 14th, Jan 16th, Feb 27th, Mar 13th. 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 (see Attendance note, above).

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.**

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 accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca 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. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>

2018 ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term, introduce our new students to faculty and other students; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Monday, September 10, 2018, 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.

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** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), 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! Please join TAFSA to find out more at its organizational meeting, tentatively scheduled for Mon Sept 17, 12:30-1:20 pm, Room OT10. 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.

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>

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms. ***Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.***

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin September 4, 2018 and end April 5, 2019 (2018-19 Fall/Winter Term).

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

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.