

**THFM-1001-005 (6 credit hours)**  
**Introduction to Theatre: Performance**

Fall/Winter, 2019/2020  
Tues/Thurs 11:30 am - 12:45 pm  
Room 2T05

Instructor: Erin McGrath

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE: PERFORMANCE is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts of theatre with an emphasis on the art and process of the performer. While this class will primarily focus on the development of acting technique, this course is an introduction to the many facets of theatre. We will discuss and explore the various creative roles in the theatre, as well tackling textual analysis and reading a sampling of dramatic literature: specifically *Bang Bang* by Kat Sandler, *New World Brave* by De Ba Jeh Mu Jig and *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen. The students' understanding of these plays and other class readings will be evaluated through brief written quizzes.

Students will also be required to attend 3 professional performances **outside of class time** in the Winnipeg Theatre community, *Bang Bang* at RMTC (Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>), *The Wedding Party* at PTE (Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>-Dec 8<sup>th</sup>) and *The Mush Hole* at MTYP (Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>) \*Please note this show has 3 performances ONLY.

During both terms students will be required to take part in continuous, ongoing exercises and rehearsals privately and with classmates/instructor **outside of class time**.

Topics to be covered include:

- Improvisation
- Listening and Reacting
- Animal Work
- Creating a Character Body
- Contentless Scenes
- Monologue
- Taking Direction
- Clown Exploration
- Scene work
- Script analysis
- Working with a director/fellow actors

## PREPARATION AND PROTOCOL

The standards of the profession are expected in terms of discipline and commitment. This means that everyone must arrive on time and be appropriately dressed and prepared mentally, emotionally, and physically to begin work immediately. Class time is short, we will use every minute of it. Teacher and students are responsible for a creative, supportive, and protective atmosphere in order to best serve the work. While the work in class may be exciting at times, students are reminded that respect for the work, fellow students, and the instructor is always expected. Socializing before and after classes or rehearsals and performances is part of the actor's etiquette, but quiet, listening, focus, and attention during classes, rehearsals, and presentations are absolutely necessary. Students unable to comply will be asked to withdraw from the course. The unity, creativity, and health of the class are more important than any antagonism, personal or artistic differences, temperaments, and idiosyncrasies.

Students are strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately if any concerns arise about activities or climate associated with the class.

Clothing must be comfortable and conducive to movement. We will be rolling, sliding, climbing etc – do not wear clothing you are worried about getting dirty, scuffed or floor burned. Please feel free to bring and use knee- pads any time. Long hair must be tied back and dangling or large jewellery should be removed.

There is no food allowed in the classroom, please bring a water bottle. Students are required to keep the room clean and put away all props/rehearsal items used.

Each student must ALWAYS have a notebook and pencil. Pen is acceptable for note taking; however working with a script is a constantly shifting process so be sure to have a pencil and eraser handy.

Phones are off and away during class.

## TEXTS

Bruder, *et al. A Practical Handbook for the Actor*

Nguyen, *Qui She Kills Monsters*

Sandler, Kat *Bang Bang*

De Ba Jeh Mu Jig, *Stories from the Bush*

3 Viewings of Professional Productions (see Class Schedule for Details – ticket prices TBA pending group booking).

Various Playscripts: TBA (Students may be required to purchase additional scripts to support scene or project work later in the year.)

**EVALUATION**Fall

Participation.....	5%
Journal.....	P/F
Improv/Ensemble Exploration.....	5%
Animal Work.....	5%
Contentless Scenes.....	10%
Contentless Scenes (first pass).....	P/F
Quizzes (x2).....	5%
<b>Total Fall.....</b>	<b>30%</b>

Winter

Studio Participation and Professionalism .....	5%
Journal.....	P/F
Monologue Exploration .....	10%
Partner Support .....	P/F
Monologue Script Analysis.....	5%
Clown Exploration .....	5%
Practical Handbook Test .....	5%
Final Scene.....	20%
First Pass.....	P/F
Instructor Rehearsal.....	P/F
Partner Evaluation.....	P/F
Script Analysis/Process Paper.....	15%
Journal.....	P/F
Quizzes (x2).....	5%
<b>Total Winter .....</b>	<b>70%</b>

**Total Fall and Winter .....****100%**

**CONVERSION SCALE**

Regarding Pass/Fail (P/F): A number of the performance assignments include a pass/fail component. This component is a necessary part of the process. If the student fails this component it will result in a 10% reduction in the final grade for the assignment.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation includes:

- preparation; line-learning; attendance; punctuality
- meeting outlined deadlines for in-class activities
- committed participation in class activities and discussions
- Successfully maintained a personal journal to reflect on personal progress and discoveries.
- demonstrated commitment to the course and work in class

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Deadlines for practical assignments are non-negotiable, except in emergency situations.

Papers will **NOT** be accepted after the due date. Extensions may be granted but only BEFORE the due date and with a valid reason, at the professor's discretion. **N.B. It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or virtual copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.**

Should a student be absent (unexcused) on the day of an assigned performance, the student will receive **0%** for that assignment. Should that student's absence affect a scene partner or partners, alternate arrangements will be made for their evaluation.

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 (subject to change)**

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

Fall Term:

DATE	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS/DUE DATES
Sept 3	Meet & Greet – course outline review Class Administration	READ: <i>BANG BANG</i> (Quiz Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> ) Journal Assignment
Sept 5	1) Who are we/Goals 2) Warm-up/Improv	
Sept 10 & 12	Improv	
Sept 17 & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Improv	
Sept 24	Improv/Physical Exploration of Character	<b><i>BANG BANG QUIZ</i></b>
Sept 26	Listening and Responding in Character Body	
Oct 1	Long Form Improv	
Oct 3	Ensemble Creation	
Oct 8	Assign & Discuss Animal Work	Read: <i>NEW WORLD BRAVE</i> Quiz Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>

Oct 10	Animal Work	
<b>OCTOBER 3-19</b>	<b>ATTEND BANG BANG RMTC WAREHOUSE</b>	
October 13-19	READING WEEK	READING WEEK
Oct 22& 24	Animal Work/Contentless Scene	Schedule Interview with Professor to receive feedback and available grades.
Oct 29 & 31	Animal Work/Contentless Scene	Assign Monologue Selection – Students must have them approved by Nov. 19th
Oct 29 & 31	Contentless Scene Exploration	
Nov. 5 & 7	Contentless Scene FIRST PASS	<b>NEW WORLD BRAVE QUIZ Nov 5th</b>
Nov 12 & 14	Contentless Scenes FINAL PASS	
<b>NOV 20<sup>TH</sup> – DEC 8TH</b>	<b>ATTEND THE WEDDING PARTY at PTE</b>	
Nov 19 & 21st	Monologue / Script Analysis Lecture	
Nov 26 & 28	Connect with Partner for physical Monologue Exploration	Read: Practical Handbook Test February 25 <sup>th</sup>  Read: <i>SHE KILLS MONSTERS</i> Quiz Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>
TBA	INTERVIEWS	
	<b>HOLIDAYS</b>	
Jan 7 & 9	Monologue work OFF BOOK	<b>SHE KILLS MONSTERS QUIZ Jan 7<sup>th</sup></b> Assign Monologue Script Analysis Due Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>
Jan 14 & 16	Monologue: Creating “Loop”	
<b>JAN 21<sup>ST</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, 29<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>THE MUSH HOLE at MTYP *** please note there are only 3 performances BOOK EARLY</b>	
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> - Feb 6	Clown Workshop (be prepared to use text from monologues)	
Feb 11 & 13	Monologue Showings	Assign Scenes Assign Script Analysis & Process Paper – DUE APRIL 2
<b>FEB 16-22</b>	<b>WINTER READING WEEK</b>	
Feb 25	Theatre Terminology Lecture	<b>Practical Handbook Test</b> Terminology Quiz March 24 <sup>th</sup>
Feb 27 – March 12	Scene work	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> Begin to Schedule Interview with Professor to receive feedback and grades.
March 17& 19	Scene FIRST PASS	
March 24 & 26	Scene Work	<b>Terminology Quiz (March 24<sup>th</sup>)</b>
March 31 & April 2	FINAL PASS	<b>Script Analysis &amp; Process Paper DUE</b>
TBA	FINAL INTERVIEWS	BRING JOURNAL

## **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](mailto: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. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you do not register with AS, you cannot be granted special consideration (e.g. extra time to write exams/tests, attendance issues because of physical or mental health conditions, etc.).

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of your fellow classmates and your 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. We are asking for your cooperation to create a scent-free environment **on campus** by students, faculty and staff.

## **ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (for first-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 out-of-class rehearsals will be penalized at a rate of 1% per instance.
- Unexcused lateness for lectures, labs, or out-of-class rehearsals will be penalized at a rate of .5% 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.
- 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 presents 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**:

September 18<sup>th</sup> (Yvette Nolan, playwright/director/author/arts administrator)  
October 30<sup>th</sup>  
November 13<sup>th</sup>  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
February 12<sup>th</sup>  
March 4<sup>th</sup>

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 at **ALL** lectures is **MANDATORY** for **ALL Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), as well as students in: THFM-3101 Acting III: General, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, and THFM-3801 Production II**. Penalties for absence may be assigned by individual instructors.

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.**

### **2019 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 **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 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. Activities organized by TAFSA include regular **Performance Jams, Department parties** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and **24/7** (an event in 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-13:20 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 to 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.

All studios and labs are locked outside of building hours. Evening and weekend access can be added to your student card by visiting Melinda in the Department office, 3T03.



### **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.
- 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.***
- 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>).
- Detailed information regarding these policies can be found at the following:
  - Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
  - Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

- *Misuse of Filesharing Sites.* Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.
- *Avoiding Copyright Violation.* Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor /presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.
- 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>

### **VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATES (all courses)**

The voluntary withdrawal dates for each term, without academic penalty, are:

- **FALL TERM COURSES:** November 12, 2019 for Fall courses which begin September 2019 and end December 2019
- **FALL/WINTER TERM COURSES:** February 14, 2020, for Fall/Winter courses which begin September 2019 and end April 2020
- **WINTER TERM COURSES:** March 13, 2020, for Winter courses which begin January 2020 and end April 2020

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

**STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY & COURSE CONTENT**

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**

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.

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.

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.