



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
DRAM 209 Introduction to Acting 1
Fall 2019

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Jane MacFarlane CHD 002 jane.macfarlane2@ucalgary.ca TTH 11:00 AM - 12:00PM
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	SEM: Tuesdays 8:00AM - 10:50 AM Lab:Thursdays 8:00AM - 9:50AM CHE 004
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Reading materials will be provided or recommended by the Instructor and available through the Library or on D2L. A notebook and pencil are required for class. Clothing that you are comfortable to move in is required Attendance at performances of <i>This is War</i> and <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> is required.
Prerequisites	None
Course description	This course is an introduction to the art of acting, through practical application of theories of acting and experiential learning. Students will build a greater confidence in performance and will learn skills that help them make strong choices that help them to command the attention of their audience
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply introductory skills to prepare for live performance, such as a physical and vocal warm up. 2. Demonstrate, through the analysis of simple texts, how an actor prepares for rehearsal and performance. 3. Craft a performance applying basic acting theories to scenes through script analysis such as character development, given circumstances, objectives, tactics and obstacles. 4. Work as part of an ensemble to create a dynamic performance as a group 5. Demonstrate greater confidence in presenting in front of a group, while applying the techniques learned in class. 6. Evaluate performance structures by developing and articulating a constructive, critical eye for witnessing performances.
Course schedule	Unit 1: [September] Presence - basic physical and vocal techniques to make the student's presence more effective. Be prepared to keep a journal of all exercises, to begin crafting a practice that leads to risk taking and making strong choices in the scene work. On-going improvisation and acting exercises to engage in the process and techniques we will be examining. We will also begin looking at the semester long project, <i>the Myth Project</i> Unit 2: [October] Acting theories - how to analyze and break down a script for information that helps to build character. We will be taking the work of unit 1 forward into preparing a performance through individually created oral presentations. As the work is cumulative, we will continue to build on the processes we began in Unit 1, including on-going improvisation work. The project for this unit is the research project - <i>Oral Presentations on Acting Theories</i>

	<p>Unit 3: [November / Dec] Scene work - we will begin working with open scenes to develop character, make choices, connect to a scene partner, develop a critical eye when witnessing the work of our scene partners as well as the work of other colleagues and how to make offers to move the work forward. This unit will be a culmination of the work of the term, through presenting the scenes, focusing on incorporating the presence work with the scene analysis . We will also be looking at how to constructively critique a production.</p>
<p>Assessment components</p>	<p>Assignment 1: Building the Collective Ensemble - The Myth Project Assessment Method: Presentation/ Written Description: Two Part Project: Each group is assigned the same myth but must present with certain theatrical limitations, i.e. one group must perform the story through movement only, another through sound only, etc.</p> <p>In the second part each group will retell their myth from the first part incorporating short self-written monologues. [Details posted on D2L]</p> <p>Weight: 20%</p> <p>Due Date: Dec. 3, 2019</p> <p>Assignment 2: Oral Presentations On Various Acting Theories and/or Solo Performers. Assessment Method: Presentation / Written</p> <p>Description: Students will be placed in groups and given an Acting Theory Book to study. They will present their findings to the class and have their peers try some of the book’s applications. Each student will be required to record the process in a journal fashion. [Details posted on D2L]</p> <p>Weight: 10%</p> <p>Due Date: Oct. 10, 2019</p> <p>Assignment 3: Open Scene / Text Analysis Assessment Method: Presentation / Written</p> <p>Description: In pairs, students will analyze, breakdown and score their script by applying the primary elements of acting technique, following each character’s objectives and intentions. Students will be ‘off book’ half-way through the process and present their scenes to the class. Each student’s script will be handed in to demonstrate how each script has been scored. [Details posted on D2L]</p> <p>Weight: 20%</p> <p>Due Date: Nov. 26, 2019</p> <p>Assignment 4: Play Critique Assessment Method: Written</p>

Description: Students will attend and critique this semester's SCPA main stage shows, *This is War* and *The Merchant of Venice*

Weight: 10% each critique

Due Date: TBA

Assignment 5: Reflection Essay

Assessment Method: Written

Description: Throughout the class each student will keep a journal and make entries connected to all classes the work therein. This journal then becomes the basis for an essay format document, reflecting on the student's experience throughout the semester. [Details posted on D2L]

Weight: 10%

Due Date: Dec. 5, 2019

Assignment 6: Participation / Growth and Development

Value: 20%

Due Date: On going

Description:

Participation includes attendance and constructive contribution to class discussions and the overall environment. *Growth and Development* includes an evaluation of an individual student's focus, concentration and effort in class – demonstrating concern and accountability toward the objectives and exercises presented to the group. This grade stems from an individual 's demonstrated ability and is gauged on the arc of improvement throughout the entire class, but also the singular investment in the progress of the ensemble.

Preparation is connected to work outside of class in regard to learning lines and working scenes – this is your homework.

Participation includes but is not limited to the power of observation when others are working and the ability and willingness to offer feedback and critical response. In addition to these assessed components the student's attendance in class will also fall under this criterion – see below for further definition of this.

Please note – cell phones, iPad and computers are not permitted in class in any form, or manner, even during breaks. If a cell phone is needed during a break the student must leave the class. Any cell phones seen in class will be confiscated and returned at the end of class – this event will negatively impact the Growth – Participation – Preparation grade. Please come with a writing instrument and a journal in which to take notes.

Appropriate Clothing

	<p>Much of the work in this class is physical in nature therefore proper <i>neutral</i> movement cloths are required, no dresses or skirts. Please wear clothes that allow for flexibility in movement, being on the floor, dress in layers as the work will make you heat up and cool off intermittently. Make sure to have a pair of indoor shoes – outdoor shoes will not be permitted in class.</p>																		
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments</p> <p>Written assignments must be delivered in hard copy to the teacher at the beginning of class on the due date – or in the department office by the end of the day.</p> <p>Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass Expectations for attendance:</p> <p>The growth of students both individual and collective is directly connected to attendance – attendance is mandatory. Without prior notice to the instructor, lateness or absence will negatively impact the participation and growth grade. Prior notice should be in the form of a message to the office of the instructor or through email – it cannot come after the missed class. Three missed classes will impact your grade by one letter point i.e.: B to B-. The class starts on time and is indicated when the door is closed, any student arriving after this point will be counted “late”. Three lates count to one absence.</p> <p>Acceptance of all excuses is at the discretion of the instructor; prior notice does not always guarantee lenient impact – doctor’s notes will be required for any illness that extends into two classes.</p> <p>Expectations for Writing:</p> <p>Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p> <p>Late Assignments: No late work will be accepted except in the case of extenuating circumstances that have been brought to the attention of and agreed upon by the instructor well in advance of the due date. Grade deduction will be at the discretion of the instructor based upon the circumstances.</p>																		
<p>Grading scale</p>	<p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2019-2020 OR as outlined in the section H.1 Distribution of Grades of the Graduate Calendar for 2019-2020:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="505 1650 1503 1961"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Grade Point Value</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A+</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Outstanding performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Excellent performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>3.70</td> <td>Approaching excellent performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+</td> <td>3.30</td> <td>Exceeding good performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>3.00</td> <td>Good performance</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance	A	4.00	Excellent performance	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance	B	3.00	Good performance
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	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance	
	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	
	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance	
	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.	
	*D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	
	*D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.	
	F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.	
	**I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.	
	CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable	
	<p>The following numerical equivalences will be used:</p> <p>A+ = 95-100% A = 90-94 A- = 85-89 B+ = 80-84 B = 75-79 B- = 71-74 C+ = 67-70 C = 63-66 C- = 59-62 D+ = 55-58 D = 50-54 F = 0-49</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations. • The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy. 			
Student Support	Please visit this link for a concise list of UCalgary's student support services: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines			
Academic integrity, plagiarism	The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar (ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html ; ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html) and are reminded that plagiarism—using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it—is an extremely serious academic offence. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.			

Internet and electronic communication device	<p>elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app</p> <p>The in-class use of computers may be approved by your Instructor. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be silenced or turned off upon entering the classroom. If you violate the Instructor's policy regarding the use of electronic communication devices in the classroom, you may be asked to leave the classroom; repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without explicit permission of the Instructor. For more information on Freedom of Information and Privacy visit: ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip</p>
Copyright	<p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.</p>