



TPP 3510C MOVEMENT FOR THE ACTOR I

Fall Semester 2017: TR 3:30 – 4:50 T107 Studio 1 2 credits

professor: Christopher Niess Office: T234 Office Phone: 407 823-0874
Christopher.Niess@ucf.edu

Office Hours: *

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, DOODLE ACCOUNT:

<https://doodle.com/poll/54t9u27zcwdcks6p> (24 hour notice needed)

Text: None required

Prerequisites: TPP 5516C Graduate Movement Studio II or instructor permission, and Graduate level standing,

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This class is an introduction to the concepts of stage movement, improvisation and dramatic composition for the actor. It will be an active physical exploration of relaxation, release, and strengthening exercises designed to help the actor develop a more expressive body. The content of the class will include abstract and specific movement exercises designed to free the actor in their use of voice and body in order to promote the development of physical range and dynamics. It will also include improvisation with movement, text and vocalization.

Course Objectives

- To begin to free the actor of personal habitual movement patterns and expand the range of physical choices within a dramatic context.
- To prepare the actor for effective physical interpretation of character unheeded by personal habitual movement.
- To develop an awareness of and build proficiency at working from a physically neutral focus.
- To develop an awareness of and build proficiency at working with an acting ensemble.
- To give the student an experiential understanding of the demands of movement for the stage.
- To begin to develop a process for the physical development of character.

Course Requirements

Attire

- **Uniform.** Following this introductory meeting, students will come to class dressed in close fitting sweats (no shorts) and t-shirts. These are to be plain, solid black to maintain neutrality within the ensemble so that the outlined and framed "calligraphy of the body" of the actor can be clearly visible at all times. Jazz pants are acceptable, as long as the legs are not so wide that they mask the lower body.
- Hair must be restrained and pulled away from the face.
- This is a physically active class. Dance belts for men and sports bras for women are suggested.
- We will work barefooted in many exercises. When specified, dance shoes (either ballet, soft jazz or gymnastic) may be used.
- No jewelry. None.
- Street shoes must be removed at the door. There are locker facilities in the restrooms.
- All cell phones, alarms, instant messengers, electronic personal assistants named Siri, Alexa and otherwise, etc must be turned off.

Equipment/Materials

- Journal

Instruction/Content

- Since Theatre requires the use of mind, voice, and body, there may be situations requiring a certain amount of physical contact between you and the instructor and other students, especially in a movement class. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to assess your chances for success in the course.
- There are plays and materials which may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language. If this presents a problem for you, please see the instructor immediately to assess your chances for success in this course.

Attendance

- Punctual (on time) attendance in class – as for rehearsals and show calls -- is mandatory.
- You will not be admitted after the class begins (at the scheduled time).
- Guests will not be permitted in class (without prior consent of the instructor and the class).
- You will be given a daily grade for the work you complete in class. If you are not present, you will not receive those points. If we are presenting projects that day, and you are absent without an excuse (see paragraph below) you will not be allowed to make up that project and will receive a zero (0) for that project.

Lack of...

- If an absence from class is "excused", the student will not be penalized for missing that class.
- They must, however, make up the work assigned for that day.
- If the day involves group work, the student may be required to work on an additional assignment outside of class.
- Make ups for assignments will take place during finals week, if the make up is the result of an excused absence.
- If you are absent (unless excused – see guidelines below) during a group scene or project involving other members of the class, you will not be allowed to make up the assignment. (The other members of the group will be given an amended list of guidelines for completing the project without you.)

- All excused absences require documentation from the student (doctor's notes, prescriptions, notification from the athletic dept or other university organization, obituaries, etc)

The following will be counted as excused absences with no penalty.

- University functions, including participation in sporting events, teams, clubs, academic functions, scholarly conferences, etc.
- Illness that is documented by doctor's note or prescription.
- Death or serious illness in the immediate family.
- The observance of religious holy days – **you must notate in writing the dates and names of any religious holy days you must observe during the course of the semester and hand it into the instructor no later than Thursday, August 24th.**

Grading

Students have the possibility of earning 500 points during the semester.

Daily Grade - 200

You have the possibility of earning 200 points during regular classes (when projects are not being presented or assessed) as a percentage of attendance and participation and development – which will be noted on your personal roster on Webcourses:

Basic Skills Assessments - 100

You will be assessed in basic skills five times (BREATH, WEIGHT SHARING, WARMUP/ALIGNMENT, EQUILIBRIUM/DISEQUILIBRIUM, LECOQ BREATH-ENERGY LEVELS) before the final exam period) for 100 points.

Journals - 75

You will be required to keep an actor's observational journal (further detail will be provided in class) which will be reviewed at the beginning of the semester for 25 points. During the final exam period, you will give a presentation of the material in the journal for 50 points, for a total of 75 points.

Final Improv/Exam – 125 points

You will be assessed at the end of the semester through both a written exam and a final performance project for 125 points total.

FINAL EXAM: The university is still debating when this final will be scheduled, and you will be notified asap.

The "plus-minus" grading system has been implemented to provide a specific assessment of your course grade. You will receive the grade you have earned, with no "extra credit" or negotiation.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on grades within a university community. During the semester the focus of the course will be on personal growth. Targeted areas of personal growth and achievement will be defined by the instructor. In the subjective world of creative endeavor, risk-taking and experimentation are prerequisites to growth. Feedback in this course will be given in terms designed to assist in that growth, whatever the absolute level of achievement of the actor may be.

**Course guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.
Students will be notified of any changes.**

Grade Totals:

Daily Grade	200
Basic Skills	100
Journals / Presentation	75
Final Exam / Performance Project	125
Total Points	500

Grading Scale:

A	465-
A-	450-464
B+	435-449
B	415-434
B-	400-414
C+	385-399
C	365-384
C-	350-364
D+	335-349
D	315-334
D-	300-314

Proposed Calendar

DAY	DATE	WEEK	NOTES	DAY	DATE	WEEK	NOTES
T	22	1	Introductions/syllabus Go Game	T	24	10	Breath Energy
R	24		Breath (always) LAST DAY DROP/SWAP	R	26		Breath Energy
T	29	2	Breath workday	T	31	11	Breath Energy
R	31		NO CLASS – FIU GAME	R	Nov 2		Breath Energy composition due
T	Sep 5	3	Breath/Alignment workday	T	7	12	Laban Effort Shape Theory
R	7		Breath/alignment workday assignment parameters	R	9		Laban Effort Shape Theory
T	12	4	Breath composition due	T	14	13	Laban Effort Shape Theory
R	14		Breath composition due	R	16		Laban Effort Shape Theory workday
T	19	5	Weight Sharing/Alignment workday	T	21	14	NO CLASS – TRAVEL DAY
R	21		Beginning Warmup / Weight Sharing	R	23		THANKSGIVING DAY
T	26	6	Beginning Warmup / Weight Sharing	T	28	15	Final Auto Cours assignment Laban composition workday
R	28		Weight Sharing/Alignment	R	30		JOURNAL PROJECT
T	Oct 3	7	Beginning Warm Up assessment Alignment	T	Dec 5		STUDY DAY
R	5		Weight Sharing composition due	R	Dec 7		FINAL EXAM/JOURNAL PROJECT 1:00 – 3:50
T	10	8	Roller Coaster workday	T	Dec 12		LAST DAY FINALS WEEK
R	12		Roller Coaster (Rock and Roll – {Equilibrium/Disequilibrium})				
T	17	9	Roller Coaster (Rock and Roll – {Equilibrium/Disequilibrium})				
R	20		{Equilibrium/Disequilibrium} composition due				

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Conduct

- Students must follow the University standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in the Golden Rule.
- Students are apprised when they are accepted at the University that they must be aware of and follow these policies of conduct.
- See <http://ucf.edu/goldenrule/> for details.

Cheating/Dishonesty

- For the purposes of this class, no monologue or scenework from another class will be permissible for use unless approved by the instructor. Double use of work as such, unless approved, will result in a zero (0) for that assignment.

Rules/Protocols of Communication

- If you would like to send me email, please add the following to the subject line: "<course prefix>: <Student's last name, first name>". Since I get a variety of email each day, I do not read all emails I receive. By having this heading in the subject line, I will read your email immediately.
- In this class our official mode of communication is through email. All communication between student and instructor and between student and student should be respectful and professional. As of 2009, Knightsmail is the only official student email at UCF. Class rosters list Knightsmail addresses rather than external email addresses, and all official class communications will be sent only to the Knightsmail addresses. Students are responsible for checking their Knightsmail accounts regularly. See www.knightsemail.ucf.edu for further information.

Disability Access

- "The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor."

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Please print, sign and bring to class by Thursday, August 25th.



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I understand the course guidelines listed in the syllabus, and the method of assessment used in this course. I honor the personal religious observances (beyond university observances) listed below (leave blank if there are none.)

signature _____ /_____/_____ date