

TPP 5515C-0001: Graduate Movement Studio I

Intro to Movement Principles

Department of Theatre, School of Performing Arts, College of Arts and Humanities

3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

Instructor: **Christopher Niess**

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Office Hours: TBA and by appointment - visit the [Doodle schedule \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site. to sign up for an appointment

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Teaching Assistants

GTA(s) N/A

Email: N/A

Course Information

Term: Fall Semester 2018

Course Number & Section: TPP 5515C-0001

Course Name: Graduate Movement Studio I (Introduction to Movement Principles)

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Days: Monday thru Friday

Class Meeting Time: 1:30 - 2:20

Class Location: PAC T0110 (Studio 2)

Course Modality: F2F (M)

Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites (if applicable): Acceptance as a Graduate Candidate in the UCF Theatre Program, or Instructor Permission

Course Co-requisites (if applicable): None.

Other Enrollment Requirements (if applicable): None.

Course Description

This class is part of a four semester sequence. It will serve as an introduction to stage movement for the advanced actor. 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. Exercises will include a degree of ensemble work, which will require the energy, focus and participation of all students.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Materials/Resources

Acrobat of the Heart, David Wanhg

Uniform.

- Plain, fitted, solid black sweats and t-shirts so that the outlined “calligraphy of the body” of the actor can be clearly visible at all times.
- Men must purchase dance belts. (and wear them).
- Hair must be restrained and pulled away from the face and off the neck.
- We will work barefooted in all exercises.
- No jewelry.
- Street shoes must be removed at the door.

Optional Materials/Resources

Reading material will be suggested from time to time. I will attempt to find free or cheap sources if possible.

Student Learning Outcomes

The actor will develop an experiential understanding of a variety of stage movement techniques reflected in test scores and demonstrated physical skill.

The actor will learn basic movement exercises for the freeing of the physical instrument (including voice) and develop dexterity and ease in their execution.

The actor will begin to develop effective physical interpretation of character unheeded by personal habitual movement.

The actor will develop a personal ongoing warm-up regimen.

Course Activities

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

Daily Grade

- You have the possibility of earning daily points during regular classes (when projects are not being presented/assessed). These will total 250 points (approximately 5 per class)
- These points are for a combination of attendance, participation/development.

Group Discussion Journal

- You will write in a group discussion Journal (under Discussions on Webcourses). These journals are a tool to aid your assimilation of the material in class by sharing thoughts and ideas. They should be a ‘working through’ of the concepts discovered in class with the intent of gaining insight.
- They are not meant to be a simple parroting of the material or a listing of exercises that you do in class. They will include observations from outside class - from your other classes, rehearsals, observation of people in different situations.
- The Group Discussion Journal is also obviously in a public forum. It can only be viewed by actors in this class, but it can be viewed by each of you. We must maintain the integrity of the studio by respecting that the correspondence is privileged information amongst our group. There also is no expectation that you must share personal information that you do not want to -- there is no value to improve your grade by being controversial. Having said that, we will find a rhythm of dialogue that doesn't have to be artificially confined to a politically correct universe.
- I will provide prompts from time to time, and comment within the discussion. While I will not count words, it is expected that you contribute consistently on a weekly basis. If you need a minimum, 2-3 entries a week at least.
- I will assess your journaling early in the semester, for 10 points based on your entries. As part of your final exam/project, you will give a short 5-10 minute presentation summarizing your journal as a reflection on your development as an actor during the semester.

Basic Skills Assessment

- You will be assessed on basic skills four times during the semester for 25 points each.

Final Project and Exam

- You will complete a final project and take an exam during the final exam period.

Activity Submissions

Group Discussion Journal prompts can be accessed through the Discussion tab in Webcourses. Other assignment rubrics will be posted prior to the assignment.

Attendance/Participation

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 totaling 200 points for attendance and work you complete in class as a group. 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 – note that the project presentations are worth 150 points out of 500, so if you have an ‘unexcused’ absence that day, the best grade you will get for the course is a ‘D+’.

No Excuses

- 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.)

University Policy -

- - 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 25th. The following will be counted as excused absences with no penalty.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

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.

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

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. 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.

Students will also be required to sign a “hold-harmless” statement acknowledging the possibility of risk in a physically active studio class.

Cheating/Dishonesty

For the purposes of this class, no monologue or scene work 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.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Assignment	Grade Points
Daily Grade	250
Basic Skills (four)	100
Group Discussion Journal	(10 + 40)
Final Exam/Presentation	100
Total	500

Letter Grade	Points
A	465 points
A-	450-464 points
B+	435-449 points
B	415-434 points
B-	400-414 points
C+	385-399 points
C	365-384 points
C-	350-364 points

D+	335-349 points
D	315-334 points

Course Schedule

SCHEDULE

Policy Statements

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with [UCF's Rules of Conduct](#). According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.

Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.

Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.

Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.

Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic Integrity \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site..

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site."

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, [The Golden Rule](#). UCF faculty members have a responsibility for

students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with [Student Accessibility Services](#) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.

Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.

Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.

If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html> (click on link from menu on left).

To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert," fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."

Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video. [You CAN Survive an Active Shooter \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to



[an external site.](#)

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.