



TPP 6517-0001 Graduate Movement Studio III

Fall Semester 2017: MTWRF 1:30 – 2:20 T110 Studio 2 2 credits

professor: Christopher Niess Office: T234 Office Phone: 407 823-0874
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Office Hours: *

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, DOODLE ACCOUNT:

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

Text: *Playing Period Plays*, Lyn Oxenford

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This is a special topics class constructed to work on professional skills for the actor, based on the needs and interests of the Graduate Acting class. For 2017, this class will cover circus skills for the actor. The content of the class will include abstract and specific movement exercises designed to guide the actor in the use of circus presentation in order to promote the development of physical clowning and circus skills – these exercises may include/cover clowning, gymnastics, body balancing, commedia del arte, juggling and improvisation. Exercises will include a degree of ensemble work, which will require the energy, focus and participation of all students.

Course Objectives

- To give the student an experiential understanding of a variety of circus skills.
- To introduce the student to basic movement exercises development of circus characterization (clowning).
- To prepare the actor for effective physical interpretation of character through clowning.
- To introduce the student to a variety of circus skills exercises, including but not limited to tumbling, balancing, juggling, ensemble work.

Course Requirements

Equipment/Materials

- Newspaper, Tape (Duct, Gaffers, Electricians, etc) for homemade clubs (instructions provided).
- Red Nose.
- Make Up Kit.
- Sweat Towel.
- Water Bottle. Constant water intake is healthy and essential to physical activity. There will not be opportunity for constant water breaks from class. Please bring your own water bottle for use during class. (Water only...other food and drink are prohibited in the rehearsal studios.)

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.

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 Assessment

You will be assessed in basic skills once before the final exam period) for 100 points.

Final Improv/Exam

You will be assessed at the end of the semester through both a written exam and a final performance project for 200 points total.

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH 7:00 – 9:50pm

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	Grading Scale:	A	465-
Basic Skills	100		A-	450-464
			B+	435-449
			B	415-434
			B-	400-414
Final Exam / Performance Project	200		C+	385-399
			C	365-384
			C-	350-364
Total Points	500		D+	335-349
			D	315-334
			D-	300-314

COURSE CALENDAR

TPP 6517 GRADUATE MOVEMENT STUDIO III proposed calendar Fall Semester 2017: MTWRF 1:30 – 2:20

Proposed Calendar

WEEK 1	introduction, syllabus, intro to juggling / tumbling
WEEK 2	intro to tumbling / juggling balls / pins / weight sharing / balancing
WEEK 3	rolls / falls / prat falls / balancing / juggling balls & pins cont'd
WEEK 4	comic fights and slaps / rolls, falls and prat falls / balancing cont'd
WEEK 5	fights and falls cont'd / balancing / juggling balls and pins cont'd
WEEK 6	intro to clowning
WEEK 7	commedia characterization and scenario
WEEK 8	commedia characterization and scenario
WEEK 9	personal clown
WEEK 10	Balancing / (fights/falls review)
WEEK 11	body balancing (handstands, chair)
WEEK 12	body balancing cont'd (fights/falls review and scenario)
WEEK 13	creating the scenario (skills review)
WEEK 14	SKILLS ASSESSMENT developing the scenario (skills review)
WEEK 15	

developing scenario

FINAL EXAM / PROJECT PRESENTATION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH 7:00 – 9:50pm

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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."

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

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

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

TPP 4531 Period Movement Styles Fall 2016: TR 9:00-10:20pm T115 STUDIO 3

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