

TPP 6933: Acting Studio V

Class Location: OST

T TR 8:00AM - 9:50AM

Instructor: David Reed

David.Reed@ucf.edu

PAC T219, 407-823-2397

Office Hours: T,R, F 11:30AM - 2:20PM
Or by appointment



Course Syllabus

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course is designed to develop the skills required of an actor combatant competent in the use of Unarmed and Single Sword through an overview of the historical context of the weapon, training in safe and proper technique, and performance. The course is primarily a demonstration/active participation class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

General Goals

- The understanding and demonstration of stage combat technique.
- The use of the body with or without a prop to communicate violent intention within a scene

Specific goals:

- To acquire a basic understanding of acting, particularly action and believability
- To acquire an experiential understanding of physical and vocal exercises
- To diminish self-consciousness and enhance self-awareness, self-respect, and self-confidence
- To develop a respectful and cooperative ensemble approach to performance work
- To demonstrate stage combat skills and acting technique in a performance setting

REQUIREMENTS

Attire

- Please wear **athletic-style clothing** that allows for complete freedom of movement. Do not wear any restrictive clothing or anything which will be uncomfortable for moving. This is an acting class.
- Closed toe Athletic shoes only. No flip-flops, heels, boots, climbing spikes, bare feet, or house shoes.
- Leather palmed gloves must be brought to every class meeting are required for handling any weapons.
- No jewelry or loose accessories of any kind are to be worn in class including earrings, watches, rings, necklaces, or anything else that can get caught or cause injury.
- Failure to adhere to attire requirement will result in dismissal from class for the day.

Note

- This class will be mentally and physically demanding. Additionally, you will be called upon to be in close physical proximity to the instructor and the other students in the class. *If these demands are of concern, please speak with the professor regarding your success in the course.*

POLICIES

- Safety is always the number one consideration for any class participation. If you are unsure of a sequence, fatigued, physically incapable or for any reason unable to perform with complete attention to safety protocols –STOP, put down your weapon and alert your partner and instructor immediately. The safety of everyone in the class depends on your ability to be completely responsible about your ability to approach potentially hazardous situations with honesty and self-awareness.
- Any and all weapons used in class are truly dangerous and therefore must always be used in the presence of an instructor. Weapons must remain in the classroom and return to their locked storage at the end of class. Inappropriate use of weapons or “horsing around” with or in the presence of weapons will not be tolerated and can result in immediate dismissal from class or possible failure of the course.
- There will be many people with many weapons and scenes in the room at once. It is everyone’s responsibility to look out for each other and help maintain a safe environment. Report immediately to the instructor any broken weapons, misuse of weapons, slippery floors, inappropriate behavior or anything else that may jeopardize the safety and health of any participants.
- The art of acting requires taking risks, allowing yourself to be vulnerable and trusting the work. Do not be afraid of failure. This is how we learn. There is no right or wrong in the artistic process.
- Respect for all persons at all times is necessary. (Opinions, Cultural Backgrounds, Sexual Preferences, Religion, etc.). Sometimes, texts, topics or characters explored in class might use language or subjects that are uncomfortable for you personally. Understand your limits and the limits of others and be open to discover strategies for respectfully handling these situations.
- Constructive criticism of classmate’s work is necessary. Commitment to the group dynamic and respect for the ensemble.
- Warm-ups are mandatory. You should begin warming up as soon as you enter the class and finish with a group warm-up when all students have arrived.

Attendance is mandatory and will be strictly monitored.

- Perfect attendance is assumed.
- A second absence will result in the dropping of a full letter grade.
- Five absences will result in your dismissal from the class.
- Lateness is disrespectful. It is not tolerated in the professional world nor in this class.
 - 3 lates = 1 absence
- The following will be counted as excused absences with no penalty:
 - Authorized UCF functions, including participation in sporting events, 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 submit 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 30th.
- ... ALL MUST BE DOCUMENTED within one week after returning to class. No late documentation will be accepted.
- All missed class work (excused or otherwise) must be made-up.

Academic Integrity

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. 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.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic Integrity](#). For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices](#)."

- **Cheating of any kind will result in the suggestion of failure for the semester**
- Make sure you understand your professor's guidelines about working with other students on assignments, receiving assistance from other students on assignments, citing sources, and using notes or exams from previous classes. If in doubt – ASK YOUR PROFESSOR!

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their 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. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review 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, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including 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](#).

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 (SAS) <<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>> (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.

Syllabus

- This syllabus may be modified by the course instructor.
- Notice of such changes will be made by announcement in class or by email notice.
- Any handouts provided to the student with guidelines for written or performance projects are to be considered part of the syllabus. In addition, verbal or written changes to the syllabus as announced during class, a lesson or via electronic means, are the responsibility of the student.

GRADING CRITERIA

- This class will observe the plus and minus grade system. Realize that C is considered to be a failing grade for a BFA student.

A = 1,000-940	A- = 939-900	B+ = 899-870	B = 869-840
B- = 839-800	C+ = 799-770	C = 769-740	C- = 739-700
D+ = 699-670	D = 669-640	D- = 639-600	F = 599-0

ASSIGNMENTS

• Daily Attendance	220
• Tests	
▪ Memorization test	100
▪ Parts of the Weapon	100
▪ Choreography Test	100
▪ Outside Rehearsal (2 @50)	100
• Classroom Participation	80
• Graduate Student Choreography	300

Graduate Student Total 1000 pts

Scenes

- Students will choose a scene from a play (not a television script, movie, webisode, or self written scene) from which to perform the choreography. The students will be required to memorize the scene and perform the work with choreography. The instructor will work with each pairing of students to sculpt choreography to the particular scene (Blocking Rehearsal). The final Rehearsal is also the Mock Adjudication. Rehearsal time will be provided in class, but to insure the optimum performance, outside preparation is encouraged.

Choreography Test

- Each student will be required to perform the fight choreography as part of the grade in the course. The grading will be conducted at various periods throughout the semester.

Parts of the Weapon Test

- Students will be asked to apply the classroom vocabulary to a diagram of a stage weapon

Scene Memorization Test

- Students will be asked to perform a memorization test in order to insure that the final performance is reached in a timely manner.

Choreography

- Graduate students will be called upon to demonstrate their understanding of stage combat techniques and its use in dramatic acts of violence. Graduate students will choreograph three scenes at various points throughout the semester. All scenes will be chosen by the instructor. Graduate students will be asked to create scenes of dramatic violence in line with a director's conceptual approach for a production.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Activities	Quizzes and/or Assignments Due
Tues 8/21	First day of Classes	
Thurs 8/23	Syllabus Day and Warm up	
Tues 8/28	Unarmed	
Thurs 8/30	Unarmed	
Tues 9/4	Unarmed	
Thurs 9/6	Unarmed	
Tues 9/11	Sword	
Thurs 9/13	Sword	
Tues 9/18	Sword	
Thurs 9/20	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 9/25	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 9/27	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 10/2	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 10/4	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 10/9	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 10/11	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 10/16	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 10/18	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 10/23	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 10/25	Sword - Unarmed	

Tues 10/30	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 11/1	Sword – Unarmed Possible Travel to Smash	
Tues 11/6	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 11/8	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 11/13	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 11/15	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 11/20	Open Play	
Thurs 11/22	No Class - Thanksgiving	No Class - Thanksgiving
Tues 11/26	Open Play	
Thurs 11/29	Mock adjudication / Performance	
Final		