

TPP3510C-0001: MOVEMENT FOR THE ACTOR I

School of Performing Arts Department of Theatre

College of Arts and Humanities

2 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

Instructor: **Christopher Niess**

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Teaching Assistants

GTA(s) N/A

Email: N/A

Course Information

Term: Fall Semester 2018

Course Number & Section: TPP3510C-0001

Course Name:MOVEMENT FOR THE ACTOR I

Credit Hours: 2 Credit Hours

Class Meeting Days: T R

Class Meeting Time: 3:30 - 5:20

Class Location: SPA T107

Course Modality: P

Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites (if applicable): acceptance into the UCF THEATRE - BFA ACTING track

Course Co-requisites (if applicable): N/A

Other Enrollment Requirements (if applicable): N/A

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 Materials and Resources

Required Materials/Resources

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.
- Street shoes must be removed at the door.

This class, as most UCF classes are, is housed in Webcourses (Canvas). Therefore you must have regular access to a MAC or PC.

Optional Materials/Resources

Occasional suggested readings. When possible, instructor will provide links to free/affordable options.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student actor will begin to free themselves of personal habitual movement patterns and expand the range of physical choices within a dramatic context, as demonstrated in various classroom exercises.

The student actor will develop effective physical interpretation of character unheeded by personal habitual movement as demonstrated in different movement studies in class.

The student actor will develop an awareness of and build proficiency at working from a physically neutral focus measured by assessment of basic skills.

The student actor will develop an awareness of and build proficiency at working with an acting ensemble, measured by assessment of daily class work.

The student actor will develop an experiential understanding of the demands of movement for the stage, measured by assessment of daily class work.

The student actor will develop a process for the physical development of character, articulated by journal entries.

Course Activities

Daily Attendance and Participation

- 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 four times (four items from: BREATH, WEIGHT SHARING, ALIGNMENT, EQUILIBRIUM/DISEQUILIBRIUM, LECOQ BREATH-ENERGY LEVELS) before the final exam period for 100 points total.

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, 3-4 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.

Final Project and Exam

- You will complete a final project (movement study) and take an exam (multiple choice, on material learned in class) 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 be expected to be warmed up prior to the start of class (after week 3). Daily points will be subtracted if you do not follow this rule.

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 – and then only as observers).

You will be given a daily grade comprised of 5 points 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. If the presentation involves another class member, you will complete the assignment with the partner(s)

(Lack of) Attendance/Participation

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

Excused Absences

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 Friday, August 24th.

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	Percentage of Grade
Daily Attendance and Participation	40%
Basic Skills Assessment	20%
Group Discussion Journal	15%
Final Project/Movement Study and Exam	25%
Total	100%

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
D-	300 – 314 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.