

# TPP 4512: Stage Combat

Class Location: PAC 107 (Studio 1)

T TR 3:30PM - 5:20PM

Instructor: David Reed

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PAC T219, 407-823-2397

Zoom Office Hours:

T&R 2:30-3:20 M&F 10:30-11:30

and by appointment

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/9649316833>



## COURSE OVERVIEW

The course is designed to develop the skills required of an actor combatant competent in the use of Unarmed 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

- The understanding and demonstration of technique as both an observer and practitioner.
- The use of the body with or without a prop to communicate violent intention within a scene
- 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

## POLICIES

### 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.

## **Class Policies**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 will be monitored.**

- Please contact the professor if you know that you will be unavailable for class
- All missed class work (excused or otherwise) must be made-up.

## **Covid-19 Policies**

- In the event that UCF deems it necessary to move to remote instruction, this class will meet for synchronous online instruction. Both the students and the instructor will revisit the syllabus to ensure that the instruction in the course meets University, College, and Participant standards.
- To ensure safety for all, please arrive at the scheduled time and do not congregate in the hallways.
- Please adhere to the building’s traffic patterns and entrance/exiting procedures.
- The space and all furniture will need to be sanitized after each use. This is the responsibility of the instructor and the actors that used the material.

### **University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes**

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces (<https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf>.) Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the [Golden Rule](#) for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

### **Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality**

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, you will receive emails about changes specific to this course.

### **COVID-19 and Illness Notification**

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place. Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

### **In Case of Faculty Illness**

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please check the Knights email for alterations to this course.

### **Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement**

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu) to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses. Should this course shift to remote-only instruction, the university has provided several resources to assist students with learning: <https://digitallearning.ucf.edu/newsroom/keeplearning/>

**Live and Recorded Lectures (optional if applicable):** This course will include synchronous (“real time”) sessions that will also be available as a recorded session for later review in [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF). Students who are unable to attend on-campus sessions, are expected to review these available sessions. Students who are unable to actively participate in on-campus or remote learning, should contact their instructor to explore options. Any synchronous meeting times will be announced via [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) and should appear on the [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) calendar should remote instruction be activated. Such recordings/streaming will only be available to students registered for this class. These recordings are the intellectual property of the faculty and they may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit, written consent of the faculty member. Further, students may not share these sessions with those not in the class or upload them to any other online environment. Doing so would be a breach of the Code of Student Conduct, and, in some cases, a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**Technology Access** – Depending upon modality, this course might need to shift to remote or fully online instruction based on medical guidance. This course also could be fully online and thus This could require access to additional technology. If students do not have proper access to technology, including a computer and reliable Wi-Fi, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. Information about technology lending can be found at <https://it.ucf.edu/techcommons/> and <https://library.ucf.edu/libtech>.  
Resources: <https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/>

### **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](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](http://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](mailto: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                   | 400 |
| ▪ Memorization test       |     |
| ▪ Parts of the Weapon     |     |
| • Classroom Participation | 80  |
| • Student Choreography    | 300 |

**Total 1000 pts**

### *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.

### *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.

### *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*

- Students will be called upon to demonstrate their understanding of stage combat techniques and its use in dramatic acts of violence. Undergraduate students will choreograph one scene during the semester while 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 1/12	<b>First day of Classes</b>	
Thurs 1/14	Syllabus Day and Warm up	
Tues 1/19	Unarmed	
Thurs 1/21	Unarmed	
Tues 1/26	Unarmed	
Thurs 1/28	Unarmed	
Tues 2/2	Sword	
Thurs 2/4	Sword	
Tues 2/9	Sword	
Thurs 2/11	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 2/16	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 2/18	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 2/23	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 2/25	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 3/2	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 3/4	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 3/9	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 3/11	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 3/16	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 3/18	Sword - Unarmed	

Tues 3/22	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 3/25	Sword – Unarmed Possible Travel to Smash	
Tues 3/31	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 4/1	Sword - Unarmed	
Tues 4/6	Unarmed - Sword	
Thurs 4/8	Sword - Unarmed	
	<b>Spring Break</b> Tues 4/12 - Thurs 4/16	<b>Spring Break</b> Tues 4/12 - Thurs 4/16
Tues 4/20	Remote	
Thurs 4/22	Remote	
	Final	<b>Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:00 PM – 6:50 PM</b>