

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY FACULTY OF ARTS SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Drama 209 - Introduction to Acting I Session: 1

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Nicola Elson Craigie Hall D215 nelson@ucalgary.ca By Appointment
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	CHE 004 Laboratory - Wednesday 9:00 - 10:50 Seminar - Mondays 9:00 - 11:50
Out of class activities	 Students must attend Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman in the Reeve Theatre (on Campus) Nov 24th - Dec 2nd, 7:30pm Please refer to the 'Claim Your Seat' program described below on how to obtain tickets There will be a surprise field trip Note - field trip costs are in lieu of having to purchase text books
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	 Audition: everything an actor needs to know to get the part (Shurtleff) Sanford Meisner on acting (Meisner) An actor prepares (Stanislavski) On method acting (Easty) Stella Adler: the art of acting (Adler) The Lee Strasberg notes (Strasberg) Respect for acting (Uta Hagen) Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus (Caldrone / Williams) Note: Do not purchase these books. They are available at the University Library. A notebook / Journal and writing utensil
Prerequisites	None
Supplementary fees	None
Course description	Practical experience in acting; improvisation and introductory work from texts; the development of communication skills and personal acting creativity.

Course learning outcomes

By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- 1. Know how to prep scenes by (a) reading the entire play, (b) finding a piece that the student can engage with in an authentic / personal way.
- 2. Analyze and breakdown a script by applying the primary elements of acting technique, including playing objectives, tactics and listening.
- Understand the difference between demonstrating/indicating versus truthful, embodied acting
- 4. Be willing to take risks and commit fully to the moment
- 5. Be physically and vocally expressive
- 6. Be responsive and open to acting partner/partners in scripted work
- 7. Be able to collaborate effectively with partners and/or groups in creation based work
- 8. Explore basic playwriting, dramaturgical and directing skills
- 9. Develop skills for presentational speaking

The class work is designed to develop an appreciation of introductory physical and vocal techniques for the actor, building confidence in script analysis of scene study by offering structure and coaching. In addition, students will explore interpersonal dynamics through collective creation, character work and story telling through a solo creation project. This course aims to deepen a personal relationship to the art form of theatre while at the same time, increasing awareness of self and others. Students will be given the tools to develop critical skills as an audience member while experiencing a University Production. The outcome of this course should build work ethics, rehearsal etiquette, safety, respect and generosity.

Classes involve physical activity and students are required to dress appropriately: loose fitting and layered clothing, bare feet or soft-soled dance shoes.

Turn off cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices

*Note for Drama 300:

'Students wishing to be considered for enrolment in Drama 300 must participate in the auditions scheduled during the third week of April. Please note that Drama 200 instructors will be consulted in assessing student readiness to enrol in this intermediate acting course and factors such as commitment, maturity and ensemble skills will be taken into consideration in the selection process.'

Course schedule **SEPT** M11 3 - Meet and Greet, Warm Up, Exercise W13 2 - Warm Up / Intro Collective Creation M18 3 - Warm Up / Collective Creation W20 2 - Warm Up / Collective Creation 3 - Warm Up / Collective Creation / Presentations / Feedback M25 W27 2 - Warm Up / Scene Analysis / Handing Out Scenes (Homework to read play) **OCT** M2 3 - Warm Up / Scene analysis / Oral Presentations- Acting Theory W4 2 - Warm Up / 3 scenes (coaching) M9 3 - Warm Up / 4 scenes (coaching) / Exercise W11 2 - Warm Up / 3 scenes (coaching) M16 Surprise Field Trip (Homework - Scenes memorized) W18 2 - Warm Up / 3 scenes (coaching) 3 - Warm Up / 4 scenes (coaching) / Exercise M23 W25 2 - Warm Up / 3 scenes (coaching) 3 - Warm Up / Mask Workshop M30 NOV W1 2 - Warm Up / Using Animal Movement and Mask Work in your scene M6 3 - Warm Up / 6 Scene Presentations W8 2 - Warm Up / 4 Scene Presentations (Homework - Self Written Monologues - Becoming the Playwright) M -**NO CLASS** W15 2 - Warm Up / Share Self Written Monologues M20 3 - Warm Up / Rehearse in Groups (Turn monologues into scenes) W22 2 - Warm Up / Coach Group 1 + 2 3 - Warm Up / Coach Group 2, 3, 4 M27 W29 2 - Warm Up / Coach Group 5

DEC

M4 3 - Presentations- Becoming the Playwright / Group Discussion (Critique of 'Metamorphoses' Due)

W6 2 - Presentations Continued (Last Class)

F8th (Reflections Essay Due - No Class)

Note: Schedule may shift slightly if a project takes less or more time than anticipated

Assessment components

Assignment 1: Collective Creation (The Myth Project)

Value: **10%**

Due Date: **Sept 25th**Type: **Performance Based**

Description: Group will be given the same myth but different theatrical limitations, i.e. one group must tell the story through movement only, another, through sound

only, etc.

Assignment 2: Oral Presentations on Various Acting Theories

Value: **10%**

Due Date: October 2nd Type: Oral Presentation

Description: Students will be placed in groups and given an Acting Theory Book to study. They will present their findings to the class and have their peers try some of

the book's applications.

Assignment 3: Scene Presentations / Text Analysis

Value: 20%

Due Date: **Nov 6th, 8th** Type: **Performance Based**

Description: In pairs, students will analyze and breakdown their script by applying the primary elements of acting technique, including playing objectives, tactics and listening. They will be 'off book' half way through the process and present their scenes to the class.

Assignment 4: Becoming the Playwright

Value: 20%

Due Date: Dec 4th, 6th

Type: Self Written Monologues

Description: Students will write their own monologue. It will be performed by one of

their classmates. They will then develop a scene to support the monologue.

Assignment 5: Critique of Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman

Value: **10%**

Due Date: Dec 4th

Type: Written Assignment

Description: Students will watch a University Drama Production and critique it in

essay format.

Assignment 6: Reflections Essay

Value: **10%**

Due Date: Dec 8th

Type: Written Assignment

Description: Students will keep a reflection journal throughout the year documenting

their experiences. They will take the highlights and put it into essay form.

Assignment 7: Participation / Growth and Development

Value: 20%

Due Date: **On going** Description: **See Below**

Assessment expectations

Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:

Students may submit assignments in class, or via instructor e-mail. Assignments must be received by the time specified on the arranged due date.

Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass:

With successful completion of each assignment, a professional and positive attitude, and consistent in-class participation and attendance, students will pass this class without issue.

Expectations for Writing:

Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.

Guidelines for Formatting Assignments:

All written assignments in this class should be submitted in MLA (Modern Language Association) formatting, the standard format for liberal arts and humanities courses. If you are unclear about MLA style and formatting, you can pick up the MLA handbook and style manual at the bookstore.

Late Assignments

The Instructor will accept late assignments by one day - however, a penalty of a half grade will be taken from the over-all score of the assignment. For example: assignment submitted would receive an A- for content, if turned in late, assignment then receives a B+.

Expectations for Attendance and Participation:

Due to the collaborative nature of the class, regular attendance is essential. Participation will be marked using the following criteria:

1. Active and responsible involvement in the group projects.

- a) Contribution to group: questioning, listening, discussing, making suggestions
- b) Active negotiating in large and small groups followed by wholehearted cooperation and commitment when consensus is reached
- c) Compromise ability to lead and follow

*Note – When students are working on projects where the teacher is not there to observe; i.e. outside of class time, etc, students may be asked to complete peer evaluations to determine group dynamics and individual participation. Feedback from peers will effect each students participation grades.

2. Active and responsible involvement in and reflection upon class work.

- a) Using constructive criticism
- b) Differentiating between flaws in structure, story and technique verses knowing your preferred aesthetic

3. Attendance and punctuality:

This is the most crucial component of the course. It is imperative that students have an excellent attendance record. Students must communicate to the instructor that they are unable to attend prior to that class beginning. The instructor will determine on a case by case bases whether the absence will be approved. If a student communicates that he or she is ill (and provides a doctor's note), is involved in an accident, has a family or domestic affliction or religious obligations, the students will not be penalized for an absence. However, if a student has an ongoing reason for not attending, the teacher may ask the student to withdraw and take the course at a later date when regular attendance is possible. Each time a student has an unapproved absence, he or she will lose 5% of their participation and growth and development grade. In additions, three lates over five minutes will be regarded as one

unapproved absence and 5% will be removed from their final participation and growth and development grade. A reminder that this is 20% of the final mark.

Grading scale

For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2017-2018:

Grade	Grade Point	t Value Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
Α	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
В	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
С	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
*D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same
subject		
*D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same
subject.		
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.

**| Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.

Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable

Remedial Work Required. Utilized by the Cumming School of Medicine (MD program). Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.

- A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.
- The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.

Academic accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf

Academic integrity, plagiarism	The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar (ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html) and are reminded that plagiarism—using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it—is an extremely serious academic offence. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.
SCPA Librarian	Marc Stoeckle, MLIS, BA Learning & Services Librarian for School of Creative & Performing Arts and School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures Libraries & Cultural Resources, University of Calgary Ph: 403.220.6777, Email: mstoeckle@ucalgary.ca, Office: TFDL 160D
Student misconduct	ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html
FOIP	ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip
Emergency evacuation	Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. THE PRIMARY ASSEMBLY POINT FOR CRAIGIE HALL IS THE PROFESSIONAL FACULTIES FOOD COURT. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints
Internet and electronic communication device	elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app The in-class use of computers may be approved by your Instructor. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be silenced or turned off upon entering the classroom. If you violate the Instructor's policy regarding the use of electronic communication devices in the classroom, you may be asked to leave the classroom; repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without explicit permission of the Instructor.
Safewalk	220-5333 anytime. ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk
Students' union and ombudsperson contacts	Student Union: su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ Faculty of Arts reps: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca ; arts4@su.ucalgary.ca Graduate Student's Association: ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/graduate-students-association-gsa-grad.html Student Ombudsman: ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact
Midterm and final examination scheduling	Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period (Dec. 11-21 for Fall 2017 term; Apr. 16-26 for Winter 2018 term; June 28-30 for Spring 2018 term; Aug. 17-20 for Summer 2018 term); students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period. If a student is unable to write an exam through no fault of his or her own for medical or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided and an opportunity to write the missed exam may be given. Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures: ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred final

Deferrals of exams/term work	It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examinations for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with your advisor if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines. ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html
SCPA Claim Your Seat Program: Student Guidelines	 The Claim Your Seat (CYS) program allows all University of Calgary students to attend oncampus School of Creative and Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music) events free of charge. Depending on the performance, there is a limited number of seats available for CYS. There is not a guarantee that tickets will be available for all CYS patrons for every performance, based on audience size, demand, etc. CYS tickets are a privilege. If a student receives a ticket to attend a performance, it is expected that they will respect the value of the admission and attend the performance. Process for students: On the date of the performance, from the time the Box Office opens until 15 minutes prior to the performance start time, they arrive to the CYS table next to the Box Office and show their Unicard. If students arrive after 15 minutes prior to the performance start time, they can go to the Box Office and purchase a ticket at the student rate. Students should not go to the Box Office unless they are purchasing a ticket. If students have a course requirement to attend a performance for a specific date, access to the tickets will be communicated by the instructor to University Theatre Services prior to the event. The best guarantee for a free ticket is to arrive early, up to 45 minutes prior to the performance start time. Respect for the Front of House and theatre staff, performers and fellow patrons is an absolute requirement. Failure to comply with this will lead to being asked to leave the venue and could result in the revoking of CYS privileges.
Academic standing	ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html
Campus security	220-5333. Help phones: located throughout campus, parking lots, and elevators. They connect directly to Campus Security; in case of emergency, press the red button.
Copyright	It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University's Fair Dealing Guidance for Students. Further copyright information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page (library.ucalgary.ca/copyright).
Faculty of Arts program advising and student information resources	For academic advising, visit the Arts Students' Centre (ASC) for answers about course registration, graduation checks, and the 'big picture' on programs and majors. Drop in at SS102, email at assarts@ucalgary.ca or call at 403-220-3580. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns. For academic success support, such as writing support, peer support, success seminars, and learning support, visit the Student Success Centre on the third floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL), email them at success@ucalgary.ca or visit their website at ucalgary.ca/ssc/ for more information or to book an appointment. For enrolment assistance, including registration (add/drop/swap) changes, paying fees, and navigating your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625], by email at futurestudents@ucalgary.ca or visit them at the MacKimmie Block 117.
Course outlines for transfer credit	It is possible that you will be asked for copies of this outline for credit transfers to other institutions or for proof of work done. It is the student's responsibility to keep these outlines and provide them to employers or other universities when requested. Please ensure that outlines of all the courses you take are kept in a safe place for your future reference. Departments/Programs do not guarantee that they will provide copies.
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Letter of permission	If you wish to study at another institution while registered at the U of C, you must have a letter of permission. You can submit your request through your Student Centre at MyUofC. Students must have the Letter of Permission before they take the course at another school. Failure to prepare may result in no credit awarded and could result in suspension from the faculty.
Undergraduate associations	DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society, CHC 005 <u>uofcdus@gmail.com</u> MUS: Music Undergraduate Society, CHF 219 <u>undmusic@ucalgary.ca</u>