



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
DRAM 209 Introduction to Acting I
Fall 2019

Instructor	Peter Balkwill
Office	CHD 006
Email	Peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours	Tuesday 12-2 p.m. – or by appointment
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	Mon 1-3:50, Wed 1-2:50 in CHE 004
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	No required texts, some reading assignments may be prescribed and all reading material will be made available either through the professor, drama library or University Library.
Prerequisites	None
Course description	An introduction to creative resources and practices for the actor. Course Hours: 3 units; (3S-2) Antirequisite(s): Credit for Drama 209 and 200 will not be allowed.
Course overview	An introduction to the art of acting through practical experience, investigation of theory and self-driven creation. This course will address the nature of live performance in a theatrical context and will aid students in the development of strength, flexibility and a sense of confidence in working with others while presenting material to a live audience, as well as the fostering of the critical eye with regard to witnessing the art of acting.
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Gain confidence in live performance and presentation to a collective audience. 2. Develop basic skills in the art of acting. 3. Have a basic ability to develop character through prepping and analyzing scenes. 4. Take risks and make strong choices in the execution of intentions or objectives imbedded into theatrical moments. 5. Express basic understanding of collaborative creation in a theatrical context, and the execution thereof. 6. Explore and understand the nature of truth in moment and active presence in the expression and execution of a moment, as opposed to the indication of “an idea” of the aforementioned. 7. Express a basic and introductory knowledge of the structural dynamics inherent in theatrical scripts.
Course schedule	Note: The following is a break down of units explored which are further articulated in Assesment components – as this class deals with the creation of original material some units will take longer than others with unpredictable developments, thus due-dates may be subject to change with appropriate time allotted for success by practicing students. Unit 1: Open Scenes: an introduction to the craft of analyzing and breaking down an open-ended script or body of text. Unit 2: Presentation As An Act Of Performance: exploring the implications of acting and performance presence through oral presentations to class – see below for dates.

	<p>Unit 3: Creation Through Adaptation / Exploring The Playwright: a study of basic performance techniques and an introduction to the event of live performance. Short monologues crafted off of a previous exercise – see below for dates.</p> <p>Unit 4: Fundamentals of stage presence: a series of exercises to explore simple components of stage presence – discovering the strength in stillness.</p> <p>Unit 5: Developing The Critical Eye: Exploring basic theatre review techniques – see below for dates.</p>
Assessment components	<p><u>Assignment 1:</u> Open Scene / Introduction to Text Analysis Value: 15% Due Date: September 30, 2019 Type: Performance / Written Components. Description: In pairs, students will analyze, breakdown and score their script by applying the primary elements of acting technique, following each character’s objectives and intentions. Students will be ‘off book’ half-way through the process and present their scenes to the class. Each student’s script will be handed in to demonstrate how each script has been scored and analyzed</p> <p><u>Assignment 2:</u> Oral Presentations On Various Acting Theories and/or Solo Performers. Value: 15% Due Date: October 23, 2019 Type: Oral Presentation / Class Leading Description: Students will be placed in groups and given the name of an Acting Pioneer – an individual who has made a significant contribution to contemporary forms of acting practice. Each group will study this individual, their process and impact on current acting theories. They will present their findings to the class and have their peers try some of the individual’s applications. Each student will be required to record the process in a journal fashion.</p> <p><u>Assignment 3:</u> Working Within The Collective Ensemble – The Myth Project. Value: 20% Due Date: December 4th, 2019 Type: Physical Performance / Written Description: Two Part Project: Students form groups – through a process each group selects a myth to adapt. By devising as an ensemble groups compose a performance based on selected myth involving certain theatrical limitations - perform the story through movement only, perform through sound only. In the second part each group will retell their myth from the first part incorporating short self-written monologues.</p> <p><u>Assignment 4:</u> Play Critique Value: 20% - 10% to each critique. Due Date: October 30th / December 4th. Type: Written. Description: Students will attend and critique this semester’s SCPA main stage shows, <i>This is War</i> and <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>. Critiques will be 1000 words in word format – please see below for expectations on writing.</p> <p><u>Assignment 5:</u> Reflection Essay Value: 10% Due Date: December 10th Type: Written</p>

	<p>Description: Throughout the class each student will keep a journal and make entries connected to all classes the work therein. This journal then becomes the basis for a 500-word written document in essay format documenting the student’s experience throughout the semester. The journal may be asked to be handed in to demonstrate the student’s diligence in entering data.</p> <p><u>Assignment 6: Participation / Growth and Development</u> Value: 20% Due Date: On going</p> <p>Description: An evaluation of an individual student’s focus, concentration and effort in class – demonstrating concern and accountability toward the objectives and exercises presented to the group. This grade stems from an individual ‘s demonstrated ability and is gauged on the arc of improvement throughout the entire class, but also the singular investment in the progress of the ensemble.</p> <p>This assignment will also cover the various and basic exercises that occur outside of the parameters of expressed units.</p> <p>Preparation is connected to work outside of class in regard to learning lines, working scenes and rehearsing presentations – this is your homework.</p> <p>Participation includes but is not limited to the power of observation when others are working and the ability and willingness to offer feedback and critical response. In addition to these assessed components the student’s attendance in class will also fall under this criterion – see below for further definition of this.</p> <p>Please note – cell phones, iPad and computers are not permitted in class in any form, or manner, even during breaks. If a cell phone is needed during a break the student must leave the class. Any cell phones seen in class will be confiscated and returned at the end of class – this event will negatively impact the Growth – Participation – Preparation grade. Please come with a writing instrument and a journal in which to take notes.</p> <p><u>Appropriate Clothing</u> Much of the work in this class is physical in nature therefor proper <i>neutral</i> movement cloths are required, no dresses or skirts. Please wear clothes that allow for flexibility in movement, being on the floor, dress in layers as the work will make you heat up and cool off intermittently. Make sure to have a pair of indoor shoes – outdoor shoes will not be permitted in class.</p>
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> 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.</p> <p>All written assignments must be handed in on the due date in two forms: hard copy and emailed with a digital attachment – in a word format document.</p> <p>Please note that due to the collective participation aspect of ensemble work and the nature of live performance it not be possible to make up for missed</p>

	assignments. If a single student disrupts the work of a collected ensemble that student may be pulled from the unit – in this case a grade of zero will assigned to this unit for that specific student.																																													
Grading scale	<p>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 2019-2020 OR as outlined in the section H.1 Distribution of Grades of the Graduate Calendar for 2019-2020:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Grade Point Value</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A+</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Outstanding performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Excellent performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>3.70</td> <td>Approaching excellent performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+</td> <td>3.30</td> <td>Exceeding good performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>3.00</td> <td>Good performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-</td> <td>2.70</td> <td>Approaching good performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+</td> <td>2.30</td> <td>Exceeding satisfactory performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>2.00</td> <td>Satisfactory performance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C-</td> <td>1.70</td> <td>Approaching satisfactory performance.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*D+</td> <td>1.30</td> <td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*D</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>**I</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CR</td> <td></td> <td>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</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance	A	4.00	Excellent performance	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance	B	3.00	Good performance	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C	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.	**I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.	CR		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
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Student Support	Please visit this link for a concise list of UCalgary’s student support services: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines																																													
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-3.html ; 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.
Internet and electronic communication device	<p>elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/ ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app</p> <p>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. For more information on Freedom of Information and Privacy visit: ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip</p>
Copyright	<p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.</p>