



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**  
**DRAM 209 Introduction to Acting 1**  
**Session: S02**

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Peter Balkwill CHD 06 <a href="mailto:peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca">peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca</a> <i>By appointment via email or Zoom</i>
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	In person - Monday 1 PM – 3:50 PM – RT 127 Synchronous web-based instruction – Wednesday 1 PM – 2:50 PM
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Reading materials will be provided or recommended by the Instructor and available through the Library or on D2L. A notebook and pencil are required for class. <b>Everyone is required to have a mask and face shield for all in-class meetings</b>
Learning Technologies and Requirements	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see <a href="http://d2l.ucalgary.ca">d2l.ucalgary.ca</a> ).  In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;</li> <li>● A current and updated web browser;</li> <li>● Webcam (built-in or external);</li> <li>● Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone;</li> <li>● Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;</li> <li>● Broadband internet connection.</li> </ul> Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.
Prerequisites	N/A
Course description	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply introductory skills in the preparation for live performance, including physical and vocal warm up techniques.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of rehearsal etiquette and process leading toward live performance.</li> <li>3. Craft the dynamics of performance applying basic acting theories to scenes through the analysis of simple text</li> <li>4. Take risks and make strong choices in the execution of intentions or objectives imbedded into theatrical moments.</li> <li>5. Express basic understanding of collaborative creation in a theatrical context, and the execution thereof.</li> </ol>

	<p>6. Explore and understand the nature of truth and active presence in the expression and execution of a moment, as opposed to the indication of “an idea” of the aforementioned.</p> <p>7. Express a basic and introductory knowledge of the structural dynamics inherent in theatrical scripts.</p> <p>8. Evaluate acting in context to the culminating event of theatre in performance by developing and articulating a constructive, critical eye in the witness of such events.</p>
Course schedule	<p>Note: The following is a breakdown of units explored which are further articulated in Assessment components – as this class deals with the creation of original material some units will take longer than others with unpredictable developments, thus due-dates will be determined through the journey of the class, and agreed to with appropriate time allotted for success by practicing students - at the posting of this notice they will be listed as “To Be Announced”.</p> <p><b>Unit 1:</b> [September] <i>Presence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acting skills and theories are cumulative; therefore, the work that is begun in September will continue and be built upon throughout the semester.</li> <li>- Basic physical and vocal warm up techniques will be introduced, to make the student’s presence more effective.</li> <li>- On-going improvisation and acting exercises to engage in the process and techniques we will be examining.</li> <li>- Keeping a journal of all exercises to document the cumulative nature of the process and to begin crafting a practice that leads to risk taking and making strong choices in the scene work.</li> <li>- Open Scene work - we will begin working with open scenes to develop character, make choices, connect to a scene partner, develop a critical eye when witnessing the work of other classmates. We will begin a basic process of analyzing text and scoring scripts.</li> <li>- various readings, discussions, and on-going practice will continue via Zoom for the web-based portion of the course. This will include watching performances for critique, learning how to view work with a constructive eye</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit 2:</b> [October] <i>Acting Theory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examining a variety of methods and techniques to guide the actor towards greater presence in performance, how to work in rehearsal and prepare a character and how to make offers as part of an ensemble</li> <li>- We will continue to build on the processes we began in Unit 1, including on-going improvisation work</li> <li>- The project for this unit is the research project - <i>Oral Presentations on Acting Theories</i>. We will work in groups to develop the presentations as well as do group research into the topic/discipline your group is working on. Research time will be during the Zoom meetings, in breakout sessions. Groups may require separate Zoom meetings to continue the research and analysis of the topics, and to prepare their live-in person- presentation of the work developed.</li> <li>- In-class time will be spent rehearsing the presentations</li> <li>- Further readings, discussions and viewings of work may continue through this unit</li> <li>- A written critique on the performance the class viewed to further develop and articulate the constructive, critical point of view will be due</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit 3:</b> [November-December] <i>The Myth Project</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The focus of this unit is on applying the work of the previous units to the project for presentation</li> <li>- Groups will choose a myth, fairytale or parable to work from, creating a presentation using the techniques covered thus far. Students will study, research, analyze and create a 5-minute piece, based on the story of their choice, which demonstrates a culmination of the theories, practices and ideas explored throughout the semester</li> <li>- The final product must be fully scripted – the performance is not to be improv.</li> <li>- A written critique on the performance the class viewed to further develop and articulate the constructive, critical point of view will be due, as well as a summation of the journal writings as a personal reflection</li> </ul>
Assessment components	<p><u>Assignment 1: Open Scene / Introduct to Text Analysis</u>  Value: 10%  Due Date: October 5, 2020  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: Oral Presentations on Various Acting Theories and/or Solo Performers.</u>  Value: 20%  Due Date: November 9, 2020  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, historical context, and impact on current acting theories. They will present their findings to the class and lead their peers through some of the individual’s applications. Each student will be required to record the process in a journal fashion.</p> <p><u>Assignment 3 &amp; 4: Play Critique</u>  Assessment Method: Written  Description: Students will write two critique of viewed performances, chosen by the Instructor, to demonstrate how they are developing their critical eye.  [Further details outlined on D2L]  Weight: 10% each  Due Date: TBA</p> <p><u>Assignment 5: Reflection Essay</u>  Value: 10%  Due Date: December 7<sup>th</sup>  Type: Written  Description: Throughout the class each student will keep a journal and make entries connected to all classes therein. This journal then becomes the basis for a 500-word written document in essay format documenting the student’s experience throughout the semester. [Further details outlined on D2L]</p>

### Assignment 6: The Myth Project

Assessment Method: Presentation / written analysis and script

Description: In different groups from the Oral Presentation, students will choose a myth, fairytale or parable as a base for creating a short play, incorporating all the techniques covered and explored throughout the semester. Students will analyze and breakdown the source to its essential storytelling components, using a variety of techniques – potentially incorporating ideas from the pedagogies covered in the Oral Presentation assignment, including but not limited to movement, vocal techniques, and small props [sourced by the group] to illuminate the tale. (note students are encouraged to adapt the source into a context that is relevant to them). In the second part of the assignment each character will write and perform a personal monologue, no longer than 30 seconds, to reveal their character and alight upon intentions and objectives as well as obstacles within the play. [Further details outlined on D2L]

Weight: 20%

Due Date: December 7, 2020

### Assignment 7: Participation / Growth and Development

Value: 20%

Due Date: On going

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.

This assignment will also cover the various and basic exercises that occur outside of the parameters of expressed units.

Preparation is connected to work outside of class in regard to learning lines, working scenes and rehearsing presentations – this is your homework.

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.

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.

### Appropriate Clothing

Much of the work in this class is physical in nature therefore proper *neutral* 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. Please bring masks and appropriate COVID safety measures to class.

Assessment expectations	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> Students will hand in hard copies of their journal and script analysis [ see each assignment description for details] at the end of class on the due date. Critiques and the Personal Reflection Essay are to be emailed in <b>Microsoft word document</b>, to the Instructor.</p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> No late work will be accepted, aside from the case of extenuating circumstances that have been brought to the attention of and agreed upon by the Instructor well in advance of the due date. Grade deduction will be at the discretion of the instructor based upon the circumstances.</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>																																													
Grading scale	<p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.1.1 Grading System and Transcripts of the Calendar: <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html</a>.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="505 936 1500 1860"> <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><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.</li> </ul>	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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy. The following numerical rubric will be applied to arrive at the letter grade:  A+ 97.6-100    A 92.6-97.5    A- 90-92.5  B+ 87.6-89.9    B 82.6-87.5    B- 80-82.5  C+ 77.6- 79.9    C 72.6-77.5    C- 70-72.5  D+ 67.6-69.9    D 62.6-67.5  F 0-62.5</li> </ul>
<p>Guidelines for Zoom Sessions</p>	<p>Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.</p> <p>To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.</p> <p>The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a>). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g <a href="#">Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy</a>). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <a href="https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/">https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/</a>.</p> <p>Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).</p> <p>Recording Zoom class sessions is at the discretion of the instructor; missing a Zoom class is equivalent to missing an in-person class. The instructor <i>may</i> record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session – but this is not a requirement. Should an instructor choose to record a class session, students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.</p>
<p>Academic Accommodation</p>	<p>It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations</a>.</p> <p>Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf</a>). 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.</p>

	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 <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/">www.ucalgary.ca/access/</a> .
Academic integrity, plagiarism	<p>Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> <p>For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf">https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf</a> and <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf">https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf</a>. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity</a>.</p>
Internet and electronic communication device	The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf</a>
Intellectual Property	Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.
Copyright	All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ( <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf">www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf</a> ) and requirements of the copyright act ( <a href="https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html">https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html</a> ) 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 <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</a> .
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.
Student Support	Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines">https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</a>