



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**  
**DRAM 209 L01 Introduction to Acting I**  
**Fall 2022**

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Valerie Planche TBD <a href="mailto:Valerie.planche@ucalgary.ca">Valerie.planche@ucalgary.ca</a> <i>By appointment and or via email or zoom</i>
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	Monday 8:00 -10:50 AM / Wednesday 8:00 – 9:50 AM CHE 004
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading materials will be provided or recommended by the instructor and available through the university library or on D2L.</li> <li>- A notebook and pencil/pen are required for class.</li> <li>- Clothing that you are comfortable to move in is required for in person classes. Bring layers as body temperature fluctuates with movement.</li> </ul>
Learning Technologies and Requirements	<p>There is a D2L site for this course which will contain required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see <a href="https://d2l.ucalgary.ca">d2l.ucalgary.ca</a>).</p> <p>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:</p> <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> <p>Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker, and microphone.</p>
Prerequisites	N/A
Course description	<p>This course is an introduction to creative resources, theories, and practices for the actor. Through investigating theory, observation and practical experiential learning, and self-driven creation, students will be introduced to the craft of acting.</p> <p>Students will develop a sense of confidence in performance, learning critical skills that will aid in making strong choices as an actor, and commanding the attention of their audience as well as developing a critical eye towards practice and process. Observation of acting techniques through theatre, movies, television, and other performance work is a vital component in learning the HOW of this process.</p> <p>We will be accessing material on <b>Digital Theatre+</b> [<a href="https://edu.digitaltheatreplus.com/login?redirect=%2F">https://edu.digitaltheatreplus.com/login?redirect=%2F</a>] for class discussions, opportunities to observe work from around the globe and to see and experience different forms and methods of acting.</p> <p>Students will be required to see a live (in person) production of the SCPA Drama Division for the play critique assignment.</p>

	Seeing work at a variety of professional theatres in Calgary is highly encouraged.
Course learning outcomes	<p>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply introductory skills to prepare for live performance, such as a physical and vocal warm up to develop basic skills in the art of acting.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate, through the analysis of simple texts, the structural dynamics of how an actor prepares for rehearsal and performance.</li> <li>3. Craft a performance by applying basic acting theories to scene work through script analysis such as character development, given circumstances, objectives, tactics, and obstacles.</li> <li>4. Work as part of an ensemble to create an understanding of the dynamics of performance as a group.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate greater confidence in presenting in front of a group, while applying the techniques learned in class.</li> <li>6. Evaluate performance structures by developing and articulating a constructive, critical eye for witnessing performances.</li> </ol>
Course schedule	<p><b>Unit 1: [September] <i>Presence - Open Scene work</i></b></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 aid in understanding Presence and the energetic body and vocality of the actor, making the student's presence more effective.</li> <li>- Sensory Recall → On-going improvisation and acting exercises to engage in building sensory perception, awareness and presence.</li> <li>- Keeping a journal of all exercises to document the cumulative nature of the process, to record questions and to begin crafting a practice that encourages risk taking and making strong choices in the scene work.</li> <li>- Working with Open Scenes to develop character, make choices, connect to a scene partner, and develop relationship, develop a critical eye when witnessing the work of our scene partners as well as the work of other colleagues, and how to make offers to move the work forward.</li> <li>- Various readings, rehearsals, discussions, and on-going practice will be necessary. This may include watching performances for the purposes of learning how to view work with a constructive, critical eye.</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit 2: [October] <i>Acting Theory – Research and Practice</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will continue to build on the processes we began in Unit 1, including on-going improvisation work.</li> <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>- 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.</li> <li>- In-class time will be spent researching, writing, and rehearsing the presentations. However, outside class time may be needed for further research, rehearsal, and development of the project as a group.</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> <li>- Each student will be required to record the process in a journal fashion which will include a critique on the performances/research the class</li> </ul>

	<p>viewed to further develop and articulate their constructive, critical point of view.</p> <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 <b>myth, fairytale, creation story or parable</b> to work from, creating a presentation using the techniques covered thus far. Students will study, research, analyze and create a 10-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>- A summation of the journal writings through a personal reflection essay, in consideration of the processes learned and developed throughout the term, will be due on the final day of classes.</li> </ul>
Assessment components	<p><b><u>Assignment 1: The Open Scene/Introduction to Text Analysis</u></b>  <b>Value: 20%</b>  <b>Due Date: October 12, 2022</b>  Assessment Method: 10% Presentation / 10% written analysis  Description: In pairs, students will begin to apply the techniques being covered in class, demonstrating how they analyze, breakdown and score their script. Students will be applying the primary elements of acting technique, following each character’s objectives and intentions. Students will be ‘off book’ (have their script memorized) 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. [Further details outlined on D2L]</p> <p><b><u>Assignment 2: History of Acting: Performance Lab</u></b>  <b>Value: 20%</b>  <b>Due Date: November 2, 2022</b>  Assessment Method: Presentation / written analysis  Description: Groups will choose an acting theory, method, pedagogy to study, disseminate and demonstrate to the class via scene work and practice. Each group will create a scenario to reveal the method as well as teach a technique to the class [Further details outlined on D2L]</p> <p><b><u>Assignment 3: Play Critique</u></b>  <b>Weight: 10%</b>  <b>Due Date: November 14, 2022</b>  Assessment Method: Written  Description: Students will write a critique of the production of <i>Hookman</i> by Lauren Yee, directed by Jenna Rodgers, a UCalgary Drama &amp; Chromatic Theatre Co-production, designed by MFA candidates Gal Minnes and Cassie Holmes with Andy Moro and Thomas Geddes. <b>October 21<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> REEVE THEATRE</b> to demonstrate how they are developing their critical eye. [Further details outlined on D2L]</p> <p><b><u>Assignment 4: Journal and Personal Reflection essay</u></b>  <b>Weight: 10%</b>  <b>Due Date: December 7, 2022</b>  Assessment Method: Written  Description: A) Students will keep a detailed journal of the processes, questions and exercises covered in each class. B) The journal will be the basis for the</p>

personal reflection essay, reflecting upon the student's experience and growth throughout the semester. [Further details outlined on D2L] It is recommended that journals be written in a document that can also be submitted into the dropbox.

**Final Assignment: The Myth Project**

**Assessment Method: Presentation / written analysis and script**

**Weight: 20%**

**Due Date: December 5, 2022**

Description: **A)** In different groups from the Oral Presentation, students will choose a myth, fairytale, creation story or parable as a base for creating a devised **5-minute** presentation, incorporating all the techniques covered and explored throughout the semester. Students will analyze and breakdown the myth to its essential storytelling, using variety of techniques, potentially incorporating ideas from the pedagogies covered in the Oral Presentation assignment, including but not limited to movement, vocal techniques (including moments of movement only perform or sound only), can include puppetry and small props [built by the group] to illuminate the moral of the tale. **B)** In the second part each group will retell their myth from the first part incorporating short self-written monologues. Each character will write a personal monologue, no longer than **30 seconds**, to reveal character. [Further details outlined on D2L]

**Participation / Growth and Development**

**Value: 20%**

**Due Date: Ongoing**

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.

**Growth and Development: Participation, Attendance and Preparation**

Description:

- **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.
- **Growth and Development** includes 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.
- **Preparation** is connected to work outside of class regarding learning lines and working scenes – this is your homework and research necessary to actively engage in the work of your group for projects and presentations. This includes the understanding and learning of text.

**Protocols around cell phone use and other technology** - the use of cellphones, tablets, laptops: We encourage a conscious use of technology, respecting the privacy of everyone in the work. Students may use the technology for note taking and group research in class. While working in

	<p><i>class, cellphones, etc., will be turned off and put away. <b>Students must get permission from the instructor and fellow students for any in class recording which is to be used for rehearsal or research purposes only. NO recording of presentations will be allowed.</b></i></p>
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> For written assignments, <b>they are to be dropped into the appropriate dropbox on D2L by 4:00PM on the due date.</b> It is recommended that journals be written in a document that can also be submitted into the dropbox.</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>
<p>Grading scale</p>	<p><b>Undergraduate:</b> <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html</a></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> <li>• The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Graduate:</b> <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.</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 behaviour 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</p>

	<p>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>If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). 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>The instructor may 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. 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>
Academic Accommodation	<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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <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>.</p>
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://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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	<p>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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf</a>.</p>
Intellectual Property	<p>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.</p>

Copyright	All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ( <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.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>
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at <a href="mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca">ascarts@ucalgary.ca</a> . You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <a href="http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate">http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate</a> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	For graduate studies email: <a href="mailto:graduate@ucalgary.ca">graduate@ucalgary.ca</a> or call 403 220 4938. Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: <a href="https://grad.ucalgary.ca/">https://grad.ucalgary.ca/</a>