



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
DRAM 209 – S02 Introduction to Acting I
Fall 2022

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Jacqueline Russell TBD jacqueline.russell2@ucalgary.ca Wednesdays 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Day(s), time(s) and location of Class	Monday 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM Wednesday 1:00 PM – 2:50 PM CHE 004
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. Clothing that you are comfortable to move in is required for in-person classes.
Learning Technologies and Requirements	<p>There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates; ● A current and updated web browser; ● Webcam (built-in or external); ● Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone; ● Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled; ● Broadband internet connection. <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 the art of acting, through practical application of theories of acting and experiential learning. Students will build a greater confidence in performance and will learn skills that help them make strong choices that help them to command the attention of their audience.</p> <p>Observation of acting techniques through theatre, movies, television and other performance work is a vital component in learning the HOW of this process. Creation of storytelling techniques is a key component of this course.</p> <p>We will be accessing material on Digital Theatre+ [https://edu.digitaltheatreplus.com/login?redirect=%2F] for class discussions, opportunities to observe work from around the globe and to see and experience different forms and methods of acting.</p> <p>Seeing work at a variety of professional theatres in Calgary is highly encouraged.</p>

Course learning outcomes	<p>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply introductory skills to prepare for live performance, such as a physical and vocal warm up. 2. Demonstrate, through the analysis of simple texts, how an actor prepares for rehearsal and performance. 3. Craft a performance applying basic acting theories to scenes through script analysis such as character development, given circumstances, objectives, tactics and obstacles. 4. Work as part of an ensemble to create a dynamic performance as a group. 5. Demonstrate greater confidence in presenting in front of a group, while applying the techniques learned in class. 6. Evaluate performance structures by developing and articulating a constructive, critical eye for witnessing performances.
Course schedule	<p>Unit 1: [September] <i>Presence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acting skills and theories are cumulative; therefore the work that is begun in September will continue and be built upon throughout the semester. ● Basic physical and vocal warm up techniques will be introduced, to make the student's presence more effective. ● Sensory Recall → On-going improvisation and acting exercises to engage in building sensory perception, awareness and presence. ● 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. ● 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 our scene partners as well as the work of other colleagues and how to make offers to move the work forward. ● various readings, discussions, and on-going practice will continue throughout this course. This will include watching performances for critique, learning how to view work with a constructive eye. <p>Unit 2: [October] <i>Acting Theory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. ● We will continue to build on the processes we began in Unit 1, including on-going improvisation work. ● 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. ● In-class time will be spent researching, writing and rehearsing the presentations. However, outside class time may be needed for further research and development of the project as a group. ● Further readings, discussions and viewings of work may continue through this unit. ● A written critique on the performance the class viewed to further develop and articulate the constructive, critical point of view will be due. <p>Unit 3: [November-December] <i>The Myth Project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The focus of this unit is on applying the work of the previous units to the project for presentation. ● 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 10-minute piece, based on the story of their

	<p>choice, which demonstrates a culmination of the theories, practices and ideas explored throughout the semester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Assessment components</p>	<p><u>Assignment 1:</u> The Open Scene Assessment Method: Presentation / 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’ 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] Weight: 20% Due Date: October 5, 2022</p> <p><u>Assignment 2:</u> History of Acting – Performance Lab 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] Weight: 20% Due Date: November 2, 2022</p> <p><u>Assignment 3:</u> Play Critique Assessment Method: Written Description: Students will write a critique of the production put on by the Drama Division, to demonstrate how they are developing their critical eye. Students are to attend the SCPA / Drama Division production of <i>Hookman</i> by Lauren Yee, directed by Jenna Rodgers, a UCalgary Drama & Chromatic Theatre Co-production, designed by MFA candidates Gal Minnes and Cassie Holmes with Andy Moro and Thomas Geddes, October 21st-29th REEVE THEATRE Weight: 10% Due date: November 14, 2022</p> <p><u>Assignment 4:</u> Journal and Personal Reflection essay Assessment Method: Written Description: Students will keep a detailed journal of the processes and exercises covered in each class. The journal becomes the basis for the personal reflection essay, reflecting upon the student’s experience and growth throughout the semester. [Further details outlined on D2L] Weight: 10% Due Date: December 7, 2022</p> <p><u>Final Assignment:</u> 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 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</p>

	<p>incorporating ideas from the pedagogies covered in the Oral Presentation assignment, including but not limited to movement, vocal techniques, puppetry and small props [built by the group] to illuminate the moral of the tale. Each character will write a personal monologue, no longer than 30 seconds, to reveal character. [Further details outlined on D2L]</p> <p>Weight: 20%</p> <p>Due Date: December 7, 2022</p> <p><u>Growth and Development:</u> Participation, Attendance and Preparation</p> <p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 in regard to 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 - <i>the use of cellphones, tablets, laptops: We encourage a conscious use of technology, respecting the privacy of each individual in the work. Students may use the technology for note-taking and group research in class. While working in class, cellphones, etc, will be turned off and put away. Students must get permission from the Instructor and fellow students for any in-class recording for rehearsal or research purposes only. NO recording of presentations will be allowed.</i> <p>Weight: 20%</p> <p>Due Date: Ongoing</p>
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u></p> <p>For written assignments, they are to be dropped into the appropriate dropbox on D2L by 4:00 PM on the due date. 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></p> <p>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>Attendance and Participation Expectations:</u></p> <p>DRAM 209 is an experiential course and, therefore, attendance is mandatory. The expectation is that the student is in the space ready to begin at the designated start time. Participation in exercises and assignments is directly connected to growth and development in this course and students will be graded according to their level of participation [as outlined above in <i>Growth and Development</i>]</p>

As acting is the revelation of the human condition, there is potential for close contact and non-invasive touch in the course work. This will be respectful and part of a dialogue, if needed in particular, in scene work. There is potential for the Instructor to offer suggestions for physical adjustments in the work, to aid the student in advancing their personal process and understanding of the work of an actor. If the student has any questions or concerns with this, please bring this to the attention of the Instructor.

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.

Grading scale

Undergraduate: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

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 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 complete. 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

- 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.
- The following numerical rubric will be applied to arrive at the letter grade:
A+ 100 – 97 A 96 – 93 A- 92 – 90
B+ 89 – 86 B 85 – 83 B- 82 – 80
C+ 79 – 76 C 75 – 73 C- 72 – 70
D+ 69 – 65 D 64 - 60
F < - 60

Academic Accommodation

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 <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for

	<p>Students with Disabilities (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf).</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 www.ucalgary.ca/access/.</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: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf and https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf.</p> <p>Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.</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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf.</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	<p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.</p>
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	<p>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.</p>
Student Support	<p>Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</p>
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	<p>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 ascarts@ucalgary.ca.</p> <p>You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns.</p>
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	<p>For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938.</p> <p>Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/</p>

