



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Course Number and Title: Drama 400 Advanced Acting I
Session: Fall 2020 – Winter 2021

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Peter Balkwill CHD 06 peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca by appointment and through zoom
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	Monday – 17:00 – 19:50 Synchronous web-based instruction – zoom link provided prior to class Wednesday – 17:00 – 19:50 In person CHF 101
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. Everyone is required to have a mask and face shield for all in-class meetings
Learning Technologies and Requirements	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). 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"> • 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. Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.
Prerequisites	Drama 300 or 302, audition and consent of the Division Chair, Drama.
Course description	Advanced practice of creative, technical and interpretive aspects of acting with emphasis on the integration of physical, vocal and textual components. Course Hours: 6 units; (3S-6) Further studies in the investigation of acting and live theatrical performance: introductions into the ensemble building and performance exercises of Tadashi Suzuki, exploration into the application of classical and naturalistic forms of performance, with an emphasis on partnered-scene-work and monologues – as well as self-generated work.
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in physical and vocal articulation warm ups necessary to accomplish the performance needs of naturalistic and classical theatre. 2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the relevance of abstract exploration to the practical task of acting – in this case connected to the modalities of Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki as well as others. 3. Have a clear process to break down and analyze a given script or text to assist actors in the development of a character, it's needs, objectives and intentions.

	<p>4. Develop a level of focus and concentration required in formal rehearsal processes.</p> <p>5. Practice rehearsal etiquette.</p> <p>6. Develop an observant eye with regard to strengths and weaknesses in the execution of acting.</p> <p>7. Develop the work ethic needed to succeed as an actor in live performance and toward the pursuit of entering the professional market.</p> <p>8. Understand the relationships between games and the playing of games with that of performance and acting.</p> <p>9. Explore the process of self-generated work.</p> <p>10. Demonstrate a clear understanding of dramatic tension and utilize this to heighten the quality of acting within performance.</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. Dates will be listed to indicate the pace of the class.</p> <p>Unit 1: [September – October] Development of presence and deconstructing the idea of acting. Introduction to the modalities of Tadashi Suzuki: this unit will address effective posture and presence on stage while also identifying the individual’s place within an ensemble, and creating an individual out of the ensemble. This work will also deconstruct the artist’s instinct to demonstrate an idea of acting as opposed to engaging in a real-truthful moment. This unit will explore structures of physical and vocal warm-up which will carry throughout the entire year. Scene work will address contemporary performance.</p> <p>Unit 2: Considering the Sonnet: further practice in the preparation and delivery of classical text – see below for assessment and assignments.</p> <p>Unit 3: Hamlet: students will investigate, break down and perform various scenes within the work of Shakespeare – see below for assessment and assignments.</p> <p>Unit 4: Investigation of modern classic: students will explore naturalistic acting styles connected to Anton Chekhov’s “The Seagull” – see below for assessment and assignments.</p> <p>Unit 5: Soap Box: students will generate self-created work tied to current issues of society – see below for assessment and assignments.</p>
Assessment components	<p>A note on grading: each semester will be graded to 100% and then divided by half and added together to reach a final grade for the entire year. This will provide two thirds of the final grade – the other third in each semester coming from the portion of voice and movement respectively.</p> <p><u>Fall Semester</u></p> <p><u>Assignment 1:</u> Suzuki Training Assessment Method: Physical demonstration in class Value: 20% Due Date: On going</p>

Description: An introduction to the physical and vocal exercises of Tadashi Suzuki. Students will move through various physical exercises developing strength, flexibility, balance and a physical relationship with their Ki energy, and its shared relationship with the observing audience. The nature of focus and concentration will also be explored drawing upon a formal nature to work in rehearsal and performance. This work is expected to challenge a student's level of seriousness within the work and will begin to challenge the notion of presenting ideas of acting – resulting in truth in action and honest presence in an immediate moment.

Assignment 2: Contemporary Scene Work – Script to be determined

Assessment Method: Physical demonstration / Written

Value: 20%

Due Date: October 7th, 2020

Description: An exploration of contemporary text applying ideas developed within the exploration of Suzuki work. Students will continue script analysis techniques introduced in previous years with an additional lens of charting the dramatic tension inherent within the scene.

Students will be required to submit written script analysis and character development work in work documents on line.

Note: Script to be introduced in class and is subject to discussion and collective approval.

Assignment 3: Considering the Sonnet

Assessment Method: Physical demonstration / written

Value: 20%

Due Date: November 18th, 2020

Students will select one sonnet from the cannon of William Shakespeare and will adapt and dramatize action held within the text. This assignment carries a strong investigation of research and preparation to be able to deliver classical text with a solid understanding of each word within the text. Students will be required to hand in their scripts with each word clearly defined.

Assignment 4: Hamlet - Monologue

Assessment Method: Physical demonstration / written

Value 20%

Due Date: December 9th, 2020

Description: An investigation of the play "Hamlet" by W. Shakespeare. Students will explore monologues with an emphasis on clarity of action and intention held within classic text. Work will contain a direct relationship to discoveries received in the previous assignments as well as the Suzuki work that continues to be on going. Students will be required to present a solid analysis of the script and word research, as well as written investigation connected to character development.

Assignment 5: Participation – Growth - Preparation

Assessment Method: Connected to in-class and online activities – observatory in nature.

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.

Preparation is connected to work outside of class in regard to learning lines and scene work preparation – 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 Assessment Expectations for more information.

Winter Semester

Assignment 1: Suzuki Training - continued

Assessment method: physical demonstration

Value: 10%

Due Date: On going

Description: A continued investment in the journey of presence and discovering truth in the execution of acting. Students will explore variation on some of the modalities of Tadashi Suzuki.

Assignment 2: Hamlet – Scene work

Assessment method: Physical demonstration / written

Value: 20%

Due date: January 27th, 2021

Description: Students will continue to explore and develop previous work within the text of Shakespeare's "Hamlet". Scenes will be attached to previously worked monologues and an exploration of the arc of dramatic tension will be explored. Students will be required to hand in written assessments of the scenes as well detailed character analysis.

Assignment 3: "The Seagull" by Anton Chekhov – approaches to naturalistic acting.

Assessment method: Physical / written

Value: 20%

Due Date: March 3rd, 2021

Description: Students will investigate components of naturalistic acting styles through the work of the modern-classics – continued work on script analysis and character development with an emphasis on the subtext contained, but not articulated on the page. Students will be broken into groups of varying sizes and explore an arc of scenes through the play exploring rehearsal with larger groups.

Assignment 4: Soap Box

Assessment method: Physical / written

Value: 20%

Due Date: April 14th, 2021

Description: Development of self-generated work. Students will research and document a current social, political, environmental or ethical issue and develop and draft a five-minute satirical monologue from the material. The work will be developed into a staged presentation and performed to the class and a small number of invited guests. Students will be required to hand in developed scripts.

Assignment 5: Class journals

	<p>Assessment method: written Value: 10% Due Date: April 14th, 2021 Description: As important as prep work like the character and script analysis it is vital that actors and artists catalogue their process through post reflection, also this journal becomes a future reference as students move down the path of artistic and educational work. Students will draft a 1500-word reflective essay connected to the work of the class, generated from material that they keep within their journals.</p> <p>Assignment 6: Participation – Growth – Preparation - continued Assessment method: observatory Value: 20% Due Date: On going – see above for details.</p> <p>Please note – cell phones, iPad and computers are not permitted in class in any form, or manner, even during breaks, unless otherwise stated. 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 therefore 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 socks at every class, as well as indoor shoes.</p>
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> See expectations for writing.</p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> As per Drama policy any late work will be downgraded one letter grade for every day late. That is, work that would be graded at an A will receive an F after six days late.</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. All written assignments must be handed in on the due date emailed to the instructor in Microsoft word document form.</p> <p><u>Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass</u> Expectations for attendance: The growth of students both individual and collective is directly connected to attendance – attendance is mandatory. Without prior notice to the instructor, lateness or absence will negatively impact the participation and growth grade. Prior notice should be in the form of a message to the office of the instructor or through email – it cannot come after the missed class. Three missed classes will</p>

	<p>impact your grade by one letter point i.e.: B to B-. The class starts on time and is indicated when the door is closed, any student arriving after this point will be counted “late”. Three lates count to one absence.</p> <p>Acceptance of all excuses is at the discretion of the instructor; prior notice does not always guarantee lenient impact – doctor’s notes will be required for any illness that extends into two classes. Please bear in mind that during times of the current pandemic that this stipulation is at the discretion of the instructor.</p>															
<p>Grading scale</p>	<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: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html.</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. <p>The following numerical rubric will be applied to arrive at the letter grade:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A+ 97.6-100</td> <td>A 92.6-97.5</td> <td>A- 90-92.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+ 87.6-89.9</td> <td>B 82.6-87.5</td> <td>B- 80-82.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+ 77.6- 79.9</td> <td>C 72.6-77.5</td> <td>C- 70-72.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D+ 67.6-69.9</td> <td>D 62.6-67.5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>F 0-62.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	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		
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<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 Code of Conduct). 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. Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). 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: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/.</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>
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 https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.</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 (https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf). 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> <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://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf and https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/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/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-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 (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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.</p>

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: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines