



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
Course Number and Title: Drama 409 Advanced Acting I
Session: Fall 2022

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| Instructor Office Email Office Hours | Peter Balkwill CHD06 peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca Tuesday by zoom 1:30 – 3:00, or in office Monday 12:00 – 2:00, or by appointment |
| Day(s), time(s) and location of Class | Monday / Wednesday: 9:00 – 11:45 CHD 015 |
| 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 this class. Please invest in a personal yoga mat if you require one for stretching sessions. |
| 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). |
| Prerequisites | Drama 309/310 and 318 A/B, or permission by the Drama Division Lead |
| Course description | Investigation and development of the actor’s process with a deepening rigor toward integrating vocal and physical modalities as they connect to dramatic text. A study of best practice in rehearsal, and advanced development of live-public performance. |
| Course learning outcomes | By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Invest in physical and vocal articulation warm-ups necessary to accomplish the performance needs of naturalistic and classical theatre, as well as stylized physical performance. 2. Have a clear process to break down and analyze a given script or text to assist actors in the development of a character, its needs, objectives and intentions. 3. Develop a level of focus and concentration required in formal rehearsal processes. 4. Understand best practice within rehearsal etiquette. 5. Develop an observant and critical eye with regard to strengths and weaknesses in the execution of acting. 6. Develop the personal-work ethic needed to succeed as an actor in live performance and toward the pursuit of entering the professional market. 7. Articulate the nature of game and play in performance and acting. 8. Display processes toward the creation of self-generated work. 9. Demonstrate a clear understanding of dramatic tension and utilize this to heighten the quality of acting within performance. 10. Script the silent narrative within stories and list concise action within all dramatic text. |
| Course schedule | Note to course schedule: The following demonstrates a broad arc through the semester of this class. Due to the nature of the physical practice of live performance, and the varied rate at which the collective ensemble will mature in their ability to execute precision in the work, certain units may be extended or shortened. Please see all updates to the proposed schedule posted on D2L. |

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| | <p>Unit 1: [<i>Ongoing throughout the semester</i>] Development of presence and deconstructing the idea of acting. Some modalities tied to Suzuki training and slow tempo will be introduced to advance the student’s work in 418, with an emphasis on the nature of vital (Ki) energy and its role in performance. This unit will explore and lay the foundations of physical and vocal warm-ups to develop flexibility, strength and balance. Work in this unit will also be tied to rehearsal practice and preparation.</p> <p>Unit 2: (<i>September – October</i>) Introduction to physical truth in character development, basic mask and stylized performance.</p> <p>Unit 3: (<i>November – December</i>) Investigation of modern classics and alternative ways of exploring text.</p> |
| Assessment components | <p>Assignment 1: Warm-up / Physical Presence Assessment Method: Physical demonstration in class Description: An introduction to various physical and vocal warm-up exercises. 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 and best practice in rehearsal and performance. This work is expected to challenge a student’s level of seriousness within the work. Weight: 20% Due Date: Ongoing with various assessment points throughout the semester. Please see Assignment sheet posted on D2L.</p> <p>Assignment 2: Rigor in Rehearsal Assessment Method: Presentation in class Description: Students will be required to choose a sonnet from the collected works of Shakespeare and memorize to off-book within a week. The body of text will be used as a tool for additional warm-up exercises throughout the semester. Weight: 10% Due Date: September 14, 2022</p> <p>Assignment 3: Discovering Truth in Character Assessment Method: Physical execution / written Description: Students will apply basic physical exercises in mask to discover a deeper sense of a character that they are cast with from a piece of classical modern text. Students will then create a silent moment in the life of this character that demonstrates a basic arc of dramatic tension. Each student will also create a detailed character analysis to hand in. - please see assignment sheet posted on D2L for breakdown of assessment and writing requirements. Weight: 25% Due Date: November 2, 2022</p> <p>Assignment 4: Exploration of Classical Modern Text / Naturalistic Performance. Assessment Method: Physical Execution/Written Description: Advancing the work of assignment 3, students will apply the physical exploration of the character work into a naturalistic style of performance for the presentation of scenes from one of Chekhov’s Seven Short Farces. Students will be required to hand in a detailed script analysis of the scene demonstrating an</p> |

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| | <p>understanding of the beats, tempo shifts and the journey of the dramatic tension within the text.</p> <p>Weight: 25% - please see assignment sheet posted on D2L for breakdown of assessment and criteria for written work.</p> <p>Due Date: Wednesday December 7, 2022</p> <p>Secondary Due Date: Participation and attendance in the Acting Stream Performance Marathon day – Friday December 9 – is also mandatory. It is important to be present not only for the presentation of class work but also to bear witness to the work of others. Please plan to attend the entire day – lunch to be provided.</p> <p>Assignment 5: Participation – Growth – Preparation Assessment Method: Connected to in-class activities – observatory in nature. 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.</p> <p>Preparation is connected to work outside of class in regard to learning lines and scene work preparation – meeting off-book deadlines – 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 Assessment Expectations for more information.</p> <p><u>Appropriate Clothing</u> Much of the work in this class is physical in nature, therefore proper <i>neutral</i> movement clothes 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><u>Digital Technology</u> 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 to engage with it. 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>Assessment expectations</p> | <p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> See expectations for writing.</p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> 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. This policy is at the discretion of the instructor and is open to discussion with the students but sits</p> |

as a general policy and will be employed if there is no advance notice of need for an extension.

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. **All written assignments must be handed in on the due date emailed to the instructor in Microsoft Word document form attached directly to the email (not in the form of a link to external sites) – no PDFs will be accepted and will be regarded as not handed in.**

Attendance and Participation Expectations: Please see Participation, Growth and Preparation noted under assessment components. Students will be required to sign in at the top of class and the sign-up sheet will be pulled at the start of class. Students who arrive after the warm-up will have to sign in at the end of class and will be noted as late. 3 – late arrivals will count as one absence and each late arrival will also impact the results of Assignment 1. As the work in this class is based on the physical execution of the material it is imperative that you are in class to participate, therefore lateness and absence will have a negative impact on your final grade. It is up to the student to check in with classmates to obtain the material missed in class.

It is recognized that life may create situations where a class is missed, or a person is late (even the instructor may experience such situations), but patterns of missed classes or late arrivals are easily determined and will be addressed as such in negative impacts to final grades.

Appropriate Clothing

All of the work in this class is physical in nature therefore proper *neutral* movement clothes 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.

Formal training attire: In respect to formal nature of this training all students are required to purchase a pair of grey wool socks with an iconic white band and red stripe at the top. These socks will be considered the formal uniform of training and must be worn for every class.

Digital Technology

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 to engage with it. 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.

Mainstage performance:

Students must maintain a minimum of B- in Drama 409 to be eligible for participation in mainstage and direction studio performance. All casting must be approved by the Division Lead. Grades falling below B- in courses may result in withdrawal from a production of project.

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| <p>Grading scale</p> | <p>Undergraduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.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>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</p> <p>Graduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
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| <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 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/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> |
| <p>Academic integrity, plagiarism</p> | <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. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.</p> |

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| 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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf . |
| 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 (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 unauthorized 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 . |
| 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 |
| 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 ascarts@ucalgary.ca . You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns. |
| Faculty of Graduate Studies: | For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938. Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/ |