



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
DRAM 481.07 Advanced Topics in Theatre Studies
Clownlife with Zuma Puma
Fall 2022 Block Week

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Zuma (Nelly) Scott nellyzscott@gmail.com daily after class sessions or by appointment
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	Block Week: Monday August 29th - Friday September 2 nd , 2022 MTWRF 9:00 – 12:30 / 13:00 – 16:30 CHF 101
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Appropriate movement clothes are needed for every class. A notebook and pencil or pen are required for every class. A selection of costume pieces will be required from Day 2 to the end of the course. Reading material to be assigned within the research of the class.
Learning Technologies and Requirements	none
Prerequisites	12 units in the field of Drama
Course description	Clownlife Block Week: This class investigates the art and practice of clown for performance and life on and off the stage. Introducing the core aspects of Clowning, derived from a diverse range of performance practices and aesthetics within the art of Clowning from around the world. This course will focus on the foundations of clowning including performance, self-research, presence, connection, self-expression, optimism, honesty, risk-taking, listening with the whole body, vulnerability, confidence, humour, failing well, also known as the flop, major/ minor, improvisation, complicity on stage and how all of these are great tools for performance and for life. Some of the conventions explored shall be through but not limited to performance, improvisation, movement, dance, voice, physical exploration of the body, eye contact, honest expression and physical theatre.
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Stand authentically in front of an audience with eye contact and breath. 2. Viscerally know what it means to be “in connection” with one’s audience and colleagues on stage, embodying a strong understanding of listening with the whole body. 3. Embody and physicalise expression, rhythm, sound and emotion. 4. Understand Major and Minor roles. 5. Understand the oscillation of “the flop/ failing well”. 6. Be present, dedicated and engaged in performance. 7. Gain a strong awareness of oneself and the relationship one has with their environment. 8. Strengthen a willingness to take risks on stage. 9. Practice a healthy and respectful way of communicating and collaborating both in group dynamics and as an audience/ class member. Understanding why and how engagement both on and off stage is paramount to the research and development of new work.

	10. Understand the different aesthetics, lineages and practices of clowning.
Course schedule	<p>Unit One: Presence, Pleasure in the Game and Following Curiosity This unit will explore presence on stage while also identifying the individual’s experience in the game, strengthening one’s ability to follow their authentic joy and curiosity on stage.</p> <p>Unit Two: Connection “Dropping it”- the power of Eye Contact, Breath, Emotion, Tension and Release on Stage This unit will address the potency of presence, awareness and connection on stage. Investigating our breath and dropping into our truth to invite a closer connection with the audience. We will be researching tension and release in comedy and the influence breath and release has on our body and the body of our audience in free form improvisation. This unit will also be exploring the knowledge of body impulse, “listening with the whole body”, exploring emotional range and “dropping it,” a clown term that invites the performer to let the audience into the embodied truth of their experience and world.</p> <p>Unit Three: Improvisation & Performance/ Major & Minor Exploration of comedic improvisation in groups, this Unit will expand on the resources gained from previous units. Researching major and minor roles for a more clearly defined improvisational performance, through a range of clown free-form and improvisational exercises.</p> <p>Unit Four: The Flop/ Failing Well on Stage This unit will introduce the concept of the flop and offer practice in the oscillation of the flop as a means to bring the audience into closer connection with the performer. This unit will play with classic clown tropes, improvisational performance and group devising for stage/class performance.</p>
Assessment components	<p>Assignment 1: Daily Warm-Up and Games Weight: 30% Due Date: on-going Assessment Method: Presence and Level of Engagement Description: An introduction to the physical and vocal exercises of clowning. Students will move through various games and practices to develop presence, malleability, curiosity, full expression and the pleasure to play in the game. Although this is listed as a formal assignment, students will be evaluated on in-class progress of the above-mentioned components as this is essential to the effective training and visceral understanding of clowning as a contemporary performance practice. Please note warm-ups and games will take place at the beginning of every class; lateness will negatively impact this mark.</p> <p>Assignment 2: Clown Turn Weight: 30% Due Date: September 2nd, 2022 Assessment Method: Level of engagement both in preparation and performance; students will be marked on their individual ability to demonstrate the embodied practice of the performance resources learned throughout the course and their individual contribution to devising work within a team. Description:</p>

Students will be asked to prepare a group clown turn (performance) and to present their work in front of the class on the final day. Please note: groups will be assigned in class on Day 4. Students will be marked on their ability to demonstrate their comprehension and embodied practice of the components researched and taught throughout the course. Students will develop a “connected” clown turn that moves forward, clearly demonstrating major and minor roles with a clear beginning, middle and end.

Assignment 3: Personal Reflection (500 words)

Weight: 10%

Due Date: September 2nd, 2022, midnight

Assessment Method: Demonstrating an awareness and vocabulary of the work, students are asked to write a reflective response to the questions below.

Description:

Students are asked to write a personal reflection about the work (no more than 500 words) answering these questions:

1. What do you find most challenging about this work?
2. What about this work invokes curiosity and intrigue in you? And why?

Participation - Growth - Preparation

Weight: 30%

Due Date: Ongoing

Description: An evaluation of an individual student’s attendance, focus, concentration, and effort in class – demonstrating concern and accountability toward the objectives and exercises presented to the group.

This grade demonstrates an individual’s engagement, participation and preparation throughout the course gauged on an arc of growth as a participant, a performer and an audience member in support of class colleagues.

Preparation is connected to the work one must do outside of class in order to arrive ready for the work. Appropriate clothing and costume homework will be taken into account; please see guidance for appropriate clothing below.

Participation includes but is not limited to observation when others are working and the willingness to offer feedback and critical response when appropriate. 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, iPads 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 negatively impact the Growth – Participation – Preparation grade. Please come with a notebook and pen or pencil in which to take notes.

Appropriate Clothing

Much of the work in this class is physical in nature therefore proper *neutral* movement clothes are required; no dresses or skirts or short shorts. Please wear clothes that allow for flexibility in movement, being on the floor; please dress in layers. Make sure to have a pair of socks at every class, as well as indoor shoes if needed.

	<p><u>Costumes</u></p> <p>Students will be asked to bring a variety of costume options from Day 2 of the course. A student's care, thought and resourcefulness in regards to costume attire will be considered in the mark of Participation – Growth - Preparation. Costumes must be culturally and physically appropriate for class settings and it is expected that students bring a handful of options. Please note we will be using costumes throughout the course. ie. Wigs, hats, fabrics, halloween costumes, vintage clothing, etc. are recommended.</p>
<p>Assessment expectations</p>	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> All written assignments are to be emailed in Microsoft Word document to the Instructor.</p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> The deadline for the written assignment is set and stated above. There will be no extensions offered for any in-class or written assignments. Missed or late assignments will result in a 0% for those components of the class.</p> <p><u>Attendance and Participation Expectations:</u> Attendance is a key component of the work; it is vital that students are in the room working. As a block week course, it is paramount to the work that students arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. As the training in clown strongly focuses on presence, engagement and participation, not to mention that every component of the work builds on the last, it is vital both to the work and the individual's progress to be in attendance. Any missed class will negatively impact the overall mark as it contributes to both the daily warm-ups and games component as well as the Participation - Growth- Preparation portions of the class. As this work compounds one exercise upon the other, it will be very difficult for a student to make up the difference when they miss a class. Any missed class with notification will result in a drop of the Participation grade by 5%. Any un-notified absence will result in a drop in grade point – ie, from a B to a B-. As a block week course it is paramount that students arrive ready and on time.</p> <p>All matters of attendance can and will be evaluated at the discretion of the instructor.</p> <p><u>Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass</u></p> <p>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. 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. Acceptance of all excuses is at the discretion of the instructor.</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>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+ 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</p>
Guidelines for Zoom Sessions	<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>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 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>
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. 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>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 negatively impact the Growth – Participation – Preparation grade. Please come with a notebook and pen or pencil in which to take notes.</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>