

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY FACULTY OF ARTS

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Course Number and Title: Drama 500 Advanced Acting II

Session: Movement – S01 (Fall 2020)

Instructor	Peter Balkwill
Office	CHD 06
Email	peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours	By appointment and on line by zoom
Day(s),time(s) and	Friday 11:00 – 1:50, CHF 101
location of Class	
Learning resources:	No required text. Reading materials will be provided or recommended by the
required readings,	Instructor and available through the Library or on D2L. A notebook and pencil are
textbooks and materials	required for class. Everyone is required to have a mask and face shield for all in-
	class meetings
Learning Technologies	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other
and Requirements	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:
	 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 400 or permission from Acting Head and Chair of department.
Course description	Further studies in the investigation of the actor's body and use thereof in the
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	pursuit of acting. This course will explore different states of presence, not only of
	the human form but also shared energy between performers and the audience.
	Focus will be tied to stylized physical performance including mask, dance and the
	application of physical impulse in relationship to the rise and fall of dramatic
	tension.
Course learning	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:
outcomes	1. Invest in physical warm up practices that develop and foster strength and
	flexibility.
	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.
	3. Develop a strong sense of focus and concentration to the end of performance as well as rehearsal and creation work.
	4. Articulate an understanding of dramatic tension with a physical ability to convey story in the absence of text.
	5. Discover physical truth in the development of character.
	2. Discover physical truth in the development of character.

6. Explore mask performance through specific progressions.

- 7. Express pre-determined paths of movement to other ensemble members in the pursuit of choreography.
- 8. Present a semi-formal talk on the nature of a specific movement practitioner tied to the history of physical theatre.

Course schedule

Unit 1: Warm up and investigation of muscle isolation and motor function with a strong focus on physical endurance and flexibility. Continued exploration of the modalities of Tadashi Suzuki: this unit will deconstruct some of the exercises in Suzuki training through the application of mask.

Unit 2: Introduction to clarity within the silent narrative utilizing physical impulse tied to rising and lowering dramatic tension. Exploring physical truth in character through full character masks.

Unit 3: Exploration of basic choreography: this unit will explore putting formal vocabulary to the idea of theatrical-movement-based dance, and will deconstruct the idea and nature of dance in theatrical performance.

Unit 4: Presentation of a historical physical theatre practitioner: students will research and prepare a short paper on the practice of a professional, physical theatre artist – to be presented as a 10-minute talk in class.

Assessment components

Assignment 1: Landing the Physical Form – Suzuki / warm up

Assessment Method: Physical demonstration

Description: Further investigation of the physical warm up with a focus on variations in gaining flexibility and strength, including integration of ballet, mime and yoga techniques. Continued exploration of Suzuki methodology with departures into mask performance.

Weight: 10%

Due Date: On going

<u>Assignment 2:</u> Physical Impulse / Full Character Mask Assessment Method: Physical demonstration, written

Description: An in-depth study of dramatic tension and its relationship to physical tension. Students will study and chart the different manners in which tension shifts with connection to the body and will apply this understanding toward achieving strong clarity in dramatic action with no text — articulating the silent narrative. This work will be applied to an exploration of full character mask (each student will be assigned a personal mask for the semester and will be the only one handling it) and a study of truth in physical character. The end result will be a short scene in pairs.

Weight: 30%

Due Date: November 20, 2020 (note these will be presented to a small invited audience December 4th, 2020)

Assignment 3: Exploring choreography

Assessment method: Physical demonstration, written.

Description: An exploration of scripting choreography with an intent to disseminate and teach others. Students will select a song through consensus, break it down to sections and select one. Dance steps will be developed with a mind toward character movement and then taught to the rest of the class until the entire song is choreographed. Students will demonstrate and hand in their written choreography.

Weight: 20%

Due date: On going with the final song choreographed and performed to a small invited audience December 4th, 2020.

Assignment 4: Researching Historic Movement Practitioners

Assessment method: Presentation / written

Description: Students will select an individual that has presented innovation and impact within the history of physical performance, they will research this individual and present their work to the class – a strong focus in this assignment will be given toward theatricality within presentation and may or may not include text. Students will be required to hand in a one-page document outlining their research.

Weight: 20 %

Due date: October 30th, 2020

Assignment 5: Participation – Growth - Preparation

Assessment method: Physical demonstration

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 certain exercises.

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.

Weight: 20%
Due Date: On going

Please note – 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 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.

Appropriate Clothing

Much of the work in this class is physical in nature therefor proper *neutral* 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 if needed.

Please bring a personal yoga mat if you feel this is needed.

Assessment expectations

Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:

See expectations for writing.

Missed or Late Assignments:

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.

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.

Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass

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 impact your grade by one letter point i.e.: B to B-. The class starts on time, 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; 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.

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.

- 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 reach a letter grade:

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

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

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.

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.

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/.

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.).

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 *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 – 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.

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 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.

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/.

Academic integrity, plagiarism

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.

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. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.

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/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-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 (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 .
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