

ACTING III: Movement

Spring 2019

University of Alaska Fairbanks Theatre & Film Department

Course: FLPA F321 F01

CRN: 34896, 3 credits

Required Prerequisites: FLPA F121 Fundamentals of Acting, FLPA F320 Acting II: Voice and Speech

Location: Artisan's Courtyard, Studio 2

Dates: January 14- May 4, 2017

Time: Tuesday & Thursdays 9:30-11am

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 1-2:30pm or by appointment

I. Course Description:

This course introduces the principles of stage movement and period acting. The class will include introduction to movement dynamics, contact improvisation, stage combat, clowning, physical character development, and period scene study.

II. Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

- To increase flexibility, balance, and physical awareness.
- To improve posture, alignment, coordination, and centering.
- To strengthen and lengthen your body through yoga-based warm-ups.
- To discover and access your full creative self through movement.
- To gain a practical understanding of the Contact Improvisation movement technique.
- To gain a preliminary understanding of basic hand-to-hand stage combat.
- To experiment with clown work and physical character development.
- To introduce period acting techniques through scene study.
- To apply all of the above in performance!

III. Instructional Methods:

This class is very active! Students will constantly participate in physical exercises, lie on the floor for yoga warm-ups, and engage the body in rigorous physical activity. Work will include solo movement, close partnered movement, and group exercises. The class will also include discussions, four movement projects, and a Restoration period acting scene.

IV. Required Reading & Materials:

- *Movement for Actors*, ed. Nicole Potter, Allworth Press ISBN: 1-58115-233-7. There is a copy of this in the library on two-hour/ overnight reserve. It is also available for purchase (hard copy or digital) through the UAF Bookstore.
- Handouts from: Michael Chekhov (*Imagination and Concentration* and *Incorporation and Characterization*), Cohen (*Acting Two*) and Green (*The Wearing of Costume*).
- You need to purchase **Character Shoes** for this class. You can find them for about \$30 on www.amazon.com or in town at Mo Holland Dance Studio or Dance Art Academy. For women's dress, you need a 2" heel with a strap; for men's dress, you need a basic dress shoe with a hard sole. Theatre & Film UAF's costume shop will provide corsets, rehearsal skirts, and fans for actors inc women's dress and vests, jackets, and handkerchiefs for actors in men's dress.
- Each student must bring a personal **Yoga Mat** to class each day. If you do not own one, they are available for purchase at the bookstore or any sporting goods store in town.

V. Audition:

All *Acting III* students are encouraged to attend Spring Student Drama Association Auditions Saturday January 19, 2019. Find more information about this and the Theatre/Film season at www.uaf.edu/theatrefilm/.

VI. Absence Policy:

Attendance to all classes is mandatory. Exercises, improvisations, discussions, and scene work cannot be made up for the simple reason that they happen in class. If you miss classes, you are missing the course.

Students are permitted two unexcused absences. Excused absences must be supported with written documentation (such as a doctor's note) presented when you return to the following class. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade. Missing a class in which you are scheduled to perform is unacceptable and will further reduce your grade. When possible, notify me via email or phone before class if you will be absent. All handouts and assignments will be given in class; if you miss a class, you are responsible for getting all handouts and assignments. All course paperwork (syllabus, assignments) will also be posted on Blackboard (online).

Please arrive to class on time. You are graded each day on attendance (including lateness) and participation. Each unexcused absence will reduce your Participation grade by 1 point. Being late will also reduce your grade. Three lates will equal one unexcused absence and reduce your grade accordingly. Come to class every day and be on time. I expect the highest level of professionalism and responsibility from each of you.

VII. Grading Policy:

Please note: Grading will be based on a +/- system this semester. A minimum grade of C- is required for all prerequisites and major courses in the 2018-19 catalog.

Attendance/ Class Participation/ Attitude.....	15 points
Weekly Response Papers.....	15 points
Movement Projects (4).....	40 points
Molière or Restoration Scene Performances.....	10 points
Final Public Performance & Paper.....	20 points
TOTAL POINTS: 100	

Grading System:				
97-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	Below 60: F
93-96: A	83-86: B	73-76: C	63-66: D	
90-92: A-	80-82: B-	70-72: C-	60-62: D-	

A. Attendance (& Lateness)/ Class Participation/ Attitude (15 points):

Your attendance, level of participation, enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to work in this class is of the utmost importance. Respect for others is integral to the work we do in *Acting III*. Extensive reading, preparation, and rehearsal outside of class is expected. The work we will be doing is extremely physical and demanding. Our work will involve intense physical partnering, weight exchange exercises, and lifts, so full commitment and attention to one another is key. I expect each of you to be committed to creating a positive, supportive, respectful, safe atmosphere. I have zero tolerance for mocking, ridiculing, or in any way insulting or harassing a classmate. This classroom is a safe and respectful space. You are graded each class for attendance, participation, and attitude.

It is your responsibility to gauge your own body in this class and to protect yourself from injury. Only you know how much physical work is too much for you. You must always be aware of protecting your body from injury. Please notify me on the class waiver of any chronic injuries or medical conditions that you have.

Some Important Points:

- Please wear workout clothes to this class. Nothing too baggy. You will sweat. At times, you will be layering corsets, rehearsal skirts, vests, and jackets over your clothes.
- All warm-ups and movement work will be done in bare-feet. Wear indoor sneakers for stage combat classes. Wear your character shoes for scene work.
- Bring your yoga mat to class for warm-ups.
- Artisan’s Courtyard changing rooms and lockers are available for your use. Please bring your own lock!!
- Shut off cell phones.
- Bring a bottle of WATER to class every day.

- Please arrive to class on time, dressed properly, and ready to work, armed with an open mind and spirit!

B. Weekly Reading Response Papers (15 points):

I think you will find the readings in Potter and various handouts to be very informative and great supplements to the movement work that you will be doing in this class. On the Tuesday of each week that there is a reading assignment you will hand in a 1-page (double spaced) response to the reading paper. You may respond to anything in the reading that intrigued you or inspired thought and reflection. I want to see that you have done the reading and have thought about it in a comprehensive way, connecting it to our work in class. These papers are not formal in style, but rather a space for you to respond to the reading material: What interests you? What sparks ideas? What inspires you? What connects to our work in class? You will write a total of 8 response papers during the semester. Keep up with the reading and write about what you think about it!

C. Movement Projects (40 points):

- Movement Piece #1 (Solo 3-5 minutes).....10 points
- Stage Combat Piece: (Partnered 3-5 minutes).....10 points
- Clown Piece (Solo 3-5 minutes).....10 points
- Movement Piece #2 (Partnered 3-5 minutes).....10 points

This semester you will perform four movement pieces: two solo pieces and two partnered pieces. These are all non-vocal, non-verbal pieces. These pieces are an opportunity for you to experiment with techniques and tools that you will be learning in class. You may want to experiment with using music and/or props. For your Clown Piece, I will provide each of you with a red nose. This is your time to create original work, so have fun and give yourself enough rehearsal time. In performance, these pieces should be choreographed, not improvised. Improvisation will inevitably be part of the process in creating these pieces, but you should not come in and just “wing it” in performance. Movement pieces are another form of theatre and of storytelling, so put the same time and commitment into rehearsal that you would put into rehearsing a spoken scene. I strongly suggest timing your pieces in rehearsal so that you stay in the given time range. I will assign partners for the Stage Combat Piece and Movement Piece #2.

D. Molière or Restoration Scene Performances (10 points):

You will present one Molière or Restoration scene this semester. I will assign partners and material for all scenes. For the first showing, you will present the scene and we will work on it in class. You will then have a final showing of the improved scene. When you present the scene in class for the first showing, you need to come in with the scene rehearsed, blocked, and off-book. Also, you should dress appropriately for your character (corsets/ vests, skirts/ period pants, character shoes, etc) in the scene and have necessary props.

E. Final Public Performance & Paper (20 points):

For the final public performance you will present your Molière or Restoration scene (final showing) and other work from the semester that has been further rehearsed and improved.

Final Self-Assessment Paper: Three double-spaced typed pages. Due at the final performance. Assess your own work and physical development as an actor during the semester.

VIII. Important selections from the UAF Student Code of Conduct:

“UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the rights of others is prohibited.... Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

- Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
- Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
- No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.”

If you cheat or plagiarize in this class, you will FAIL the assignment and possibly the entire class.

IX. Student Protections and Services Statement:

Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disabilities services, veteran’s services, rural student services, etc to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook/

X. Support Services:

- Disability Services: <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>
- Student Support Services <https://uaf.edu/sss/>
- Rural Student Services <https://uaf.edu/ruralss/>
- Military and Veteran Services: <https://uaf.edu/veterans/>
- UAF Writing Center <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/>

XI. Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

- 1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043.
- 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599.
- 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721.

XI. TENTATIVE Semester Overview (always subject to change!):

NOTE: Each class will begin with a 20 minute physical warm-up of cardio activity, stretching and yoga. Because of the location of the class, I will be extra aware of letting you leave on time...but this means that class must start on time and I expect everyone to be ready to work at the start of class.

Weekly Reading response papers are due each TUESDAY unless otherwise noted.

Week 1:

- 1/15 Enrollment, Business, Course Objectives, Grading Policy
- 1/17 Learn warm-up sequence

Week 2:

Weekly Reading: *Movement for Actors: Part One* and Handouts: *Imagination and Concentration* and *Incorporation and Characterization* by Michael Chekhov
RESPONSE PAPER DUE 1/22

- 1/22 Learn warm-up sequence, Room Walk/ Circle Exercises/ Alexander Alignment/ Basic Michael Chekhov Exercises
- 1/24 Isolations/ Room Walk w/ body leading, Balloon, Rope, Tug-o-War

Week 3:

Weekly Reading: *Movement for Actors: Part Two*
RESPONSE PAPER DUE 1/29

MOVEMENT PIECE #1 ASSIGNED 1/31

- 1/29 Balance & Counter-Balance (back/arm stretching w/ standing/sitting, standing/lying down w/partner, back to back, back to front, airplane)/ Trading Fours
- 1/31 Rolls: forward, backward, stand/roll/stand, side, group / Trading Fours

Week 4:

Weekly Reading: *Movement for Actors: Part Three*

RESPONSE PAPER DUE 2/5

2/5 Lifts: back to back, back to front, t-back / Trading Fours into Contact Improv

2/7 Lifts: hip lift, baby, koala / Trading Fours into Contact Improv

Week 5:

Weekly Reading: *Movement for Actors: Part Four*

SOLO MOVEMENT PIECE PERFORMANCES 2/12

RESPONSE PAPER DUE 2/14 Thursday

2/12 **Movement Piece #1: Solo Performances**

2/14 Stage Combat Video: David Boushey

Meet in: THEATRE & FILM DEPARTMENT GREEN ROOM

Week 6:

Weekly Reading: *Movement for Actors: Part Five*

RESPONSE PAPER DUE 2/19

STAGE COMBAT PARTNERS ASSIGNED 2/21

2/19 Stage Combat: slaps, Roundhouse punch, John Wayne punch, blocks, stomach punch, knee to stomach

2/21 Stage Combat: head slams wall/ floor, scratch, hair pull, choke/break-out, stomach kick, face kick, chest kick on floor

Week 7:

Weekly Reading: *Movement for Actors: Part Six*

RESPONSE PAPER DUE 2/26

REHEARSE STAGE COMBAT PIECES

2/26 Stage Combat: body throw/roll, forward fall, side fall, back fall

2/28 Stage Combat Review and Choreography

Week 8:

Weekly Reading: *Movement for Actors: Part Seven*

RESPONSE PAPER DUE 3/5

STAGE COMBAT FIGHT SEQUENCE WRITTEN WORK DUE 3/5

STAGE COMBAT PERFORMANCES 3/7

3/5 Stage Combat Review and Choreography

3/7 **Stage Combat Piece: Partnered Performances**

******* SPRING BREAK *******

Week 9:

CLOWN PIECE ASSIGNED 3/19
MOVEMENT PIECE #2 PARTNERS ASSIGNED 3/21
3/19 Mask & Clowning Work
3/21 Mask & Clowning Work

Week 10:

CLOWN PIECE PERFORMANCES 3/28
REHEARSE MOVEMENT PIECE #2
MOLIERE/ RESTORATION PARTNERS/ SCENES ASSIGNED 3/28
3/26 Mask & Clowning Work
3/28 **Clown Piece: Solo Performance**

Week 11:

MOVEMENT PIECE #2 PERFORMANCES 4/4
REHEARSE MOLIERE/ RESTORATION
4/2 Contact Improv
4/4 **Movement Piece #2: Partnered Performances**

Week 12:

Weekly Reading: Cohen: *Acting Two* Chapters 12 & 13 Handout AND *The Wearing of Costume: Chapter 9* Handout
RESPONSE PAPERS DUE 4/9
MOLIERE/ RESTORATION SCENE PERFORMANCES start 4/11
4/9 Moliere/ Restoration Movement Day/ Animal Exploration
4/11 Moliere/ Restoration Scenes First Showings (1)

Week 13:

MOLIERE/ RESTORATION SCENE PERFORMANCES
4/16 Moliere/ Restoration Scenes First Showings (1)
4/18 Moliere/ Restoration Scenes First Showings (1)

Week 14:

MOLIERE/ RESTORATION SCENE PERFORMANCES
4/23 Moliere/ Restoration Scenes Second Showings (3)
4/25 Final Performance Dress Rehearsal/ Final Discussion

Final Public Performance in Artisan's Courtyard: SATURDAY 4/27 or SUNDAY 4/28 TBD

- **Final Showing: Moliere/ Restoration Scene**
- **Final Performance: selected previous work (movement pieces, combat, clowning)**
- **Final Self-Assessment Paper Due: MONDAY 4/29 by 5PM.**