



**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS**  
**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017**

**DR1490 (A3): An Introduction to the Dramatic Process – 3 (0-0-6) 90 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Tina Alexander                      **PHONE:** (780)539-2912  
**OFFICE:** L114                                              **E-MAIL:** talexander@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** As posted on office door

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** Speech and movement improvisation with an emphasis on imaginative development will be included. It will be an introduction to the process of acting and to dramatic form.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** None

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Laboratory

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To introduce and explore the elemental and improvisational nature of dramatic expression, to discover and practice fundamentals in the art of acting, and to strengthen presentation and theatre performance skills.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completion of this course the students will have gained a more critical and sophisticated understanding of the following:

- Personal growth and development in relationship to creating and acting in character
- Group process in dramatic ensemble and scene creation
- Increased physical and vocal capacity
- Amplified communicative and delivery skills in presentation
- Critical analysis of live theatre performance and audience response

**TRANSFERABILITY:** UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CUE, BU, GMU, KUC

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page

<http://www.transferralberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlinesearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

### **EVALUATIONS:**

Evaluation: Evaluation is based on individual process and development (20%), presentation of scenes (45%), reflections (15%), response paper (10%), and reflective paper (10%). There will be a student/teacher consultation at mid-term and the end of term to discuss the student's progress and the instructor is always available for student-initiated consultation. Late assignments will not be accepted unless by prior arrangement.

### **Assignments:**

Scenes: students will work in groups of 3-4 people to create 3 scenes throughout the course. The first scene will be assigned, the next two will be original. You will be responsible for creating a Character Development Worksheet for each scene. It is expected that you will rehearse your scenes extensively outside of class time. The final scene will be performed for the public in the end of term Drama Scenes.

Reflections: Students will write a total of 7 reflections (250-500 words) on class activities, assigned topics, rehearsals, performances, visitors, their questions and observations. Reflections may also include artwork, creative writing, clippings etc. The purpose of the Reflection is for the student to think and write reflectively and analytically about the work they are doing and what they are learning in the class. Reflections will also assist the Midterm and End of term Interviews. Guidelines to writing reflections will be available to students well in advance of the first reflections due date. **DO NOT LOSE YOUR REFLECTIONS AS THEY ARE YOUR NOTES FOR THE REFLECTIVE PAPER.**

Reflective Paper: Students will write a summative Reflective Paper (1500-2000 words) that will draw on their weekly reflections throughout the course. An assignment outline will be provided later in the semester.

Response Paper: Students will write a Response Paper (1000-1500 words) This Response Paper assignment will be made available early in the semester and is due one week after seeing the performance.

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

*Individual Process and Development in Class (20%):* Individual process and development is assessed for the midterm evaluation (10%) and the end of term evaluation (10%)

1. keen participation in class physical and vocal training and exercises
2. discipline in training and in persona; and artistic growth
3. dedication to quality, commitment, and teamwork
4. cooperation within class setting
5. contribution to group discussion
6. reflective and critical thinking

7. feedback to other students

*Scene Work (45%):* First scenes is worth 10%, the second scenes is worth 15%, and the third scene is worth 20% of the total mark. In the scene work, **1/3 of the mark is based on your character development and preparation, 1/3 on your workshopping/rehearsal, and 1/3 on your performance.**

1. proactive contribution to group process of scene creation
2. scene and character research assignments
3. professionalism and dependability in rehearsal and performance
4. dedication to quality, commitment, and teamwork
5. focus, presence, adaptability in rehearsal and performance
6. originality in character and scene creation

*Reflective Writings (15%):* There are 7 assignments. A focus will be given for each assignment. Each writing will be graded out of 10 based on the following:

1. thinking and writing reflectively on class work and process
2. reflecting critically and analytically on scene work
3. creativity and originality in writing
4. quality of discussion of assigned focus

*Reflective Paper (10%):* The paper will be grade on:

1. ability to summarize and draw connections between reflective writings
2. attention to observed details and questions raised
3. reflective and critical analysis of personal and artistic growth
4. creativity, originality, and clarity in reflective writing and thinking
5. matters of correctness (grammar, punctuation, spelling etc...)
6. structure of paper (introduction, discussion, conclusion)

*Response Paper (10%):* The paper will be graded on:

1. ability to summarize content of the play
2. awareness of the context (or multiple contexts) of the play
3. ability to reflect critically on the different elements of the theatre production including but not limited to: scenography, acting, directing, marketing, impact/connection to audience
4. matters of correctness (grammar, punctuation, spelling etc...)
5. structure of paper (introduction, discussion, conclusion)

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59

B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

**COURSE CONTENT:** The course will flow between individual and group physical and vocal training, improvisational exercises and group creation, practice and presentation. Activities will include a physical and vocal warm-up, improvisation, enactment, acting, drama/theatre and ensemble exercises, creating, rehearsing, and presenting scenes within class. There will be a public performance of the final scenes during the final week of classes, details will be announced as soon as possible. Students will write a number of reflections of their learning process, a final reflective paper for the course, and a number of character sketches. Students must commit to rehearsal time outside of class. Students are expected to attend a Visitor in the Arts event as is becomes available (see schedule below), and at least one of the performances of the GPLT winter/spring production. Students will write a response paper on one of the live theatre productions available during the course.

*Visitor in the Arts:* Confirmed dates:

- Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 11:30am- 12:30pm in L106- Janet Youngdahl (soprano) is Professor of Voice and Choir at the University of Lethbridge.
- Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 11:30am- 12:30pm in L106- Emilio De Mercato, Musical Director of the Alberta Symphony Orchestra.

*Grand Prairie Live Theatre:*

- “Building Madness” runs from January 19<sup>th</sup>- February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. \*Canadian Premiere
- Monty Python’s “Spamalot” runs from February 9<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the DJC Theatre
- “Wait until Dark” runs from March 9<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- “That Darn Plot” runs from April 13<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

*Douglas J. Cardinal Theatre:*

- “Wintersong VIII: A Celebration of the Arts” in DJC on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:30pm features the Fine Arts Faculty from GPRC
- Citie Ballet “Jacinto + Love Articulated” in DJC on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 7:30pm
- “Snowed-In Comedy Tour” in DJC on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 8:00pm

## TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Month	Date	Assignment Due	Class Focus
1	Jan.	5		Intro Class: get to know each other and how the class will work together, course shape and assignments Drama/Theatre Foundations- improve, play, and <i>the play</i> , the relationship of improve to drama and theatre performance, begin physical and vocal training
2		10 12		Physical and vocal training, improve exercises, power and status, communicating and connecting with an audience, character motivation and believability “Dedication to Quality, Commitment and Teamwork” **Choose Scene 1 Partners** Scenes Assigned <i>Possible tour of DJC Theatre</i>
3		17	Weekly Reflection	Continue Physical training and vocal including

		19	#1 Due	relaxation techniques, character development, non-verbal communication, acting, reacting Character business, delivery at a distance, transformation
4		24	Character Development	Workshop/Rehearse Scene 1 in class
		26	Worksheet #1 Due	Workshop/Rehearse Scene 1 in class
5	Feb.	31	Weekly Reflection #2 Due	Present Scene 1 in class Continue Physical and vocal training including relaxation techniques, improv exercises, dramatic tension, staging and maximizing the use of space
		2		
6		7		Continue Physical and vocal training including relaxation techniques, improv exercises creative costuming, props, sound.
		9		“Dedication to Quality, Commitment and Teamwork” **Choose Scene 2 Partners**
7		14	Weekly Reflection #3 Due	Continue physical, vocal, and relaxation training and practice, improv exercises, communicating through Stanislavsky’s fourth wall; audience, pre-show preparation (warm-up and relaxation)
		16	<b>Midterm Evaluation</b>	<b>Winter Break Feb.20-24</b>
8	March	27	Character Development	Workshop/Rehearse Scene 2 in class time
		2	Worksheet #2 Due	Workshop/Rehearse Scene 2 in class time
9		7	Weekly Reflection #4 Due	Present Scene 2 in class Continue physical, vocal, and relaxation training, Character motivation, believability, transformation in character, connecting with audience, rehearsal and memorization techniques.
		9		
10		14	Weekly Reflection #5 Due	Continue physical, vocal, and relaxation training, improv exercises, knowing or sensing the audience, sense awareness and peripheral vision in staging and presentation
		16		“Dedication to Quality, Commitment and Teamwork” **Choose Scene 3 Partners**
11		21	Weekly Reflection #6 Due	Continue physical and vocal warm-ups, relaxation training and practice, improves in character, character journey, why this scene in this time? Personality development through drama/theatre
		23		
12		28	Character Development	Workshop/Rehearse Scene 3 in class
		30	Worksheet #3 Due	Workshop/Rehearse Scene 3 in class
13	April	4	Weekly Reflection #7 Due	Continue physical and vocal warm-ups, relaxation training and practice. Possible guest speaker.
		6		
14		11		

		13		Workshop/Rehearse Scene 3 in class
<b>15</b>		18		Preview Presentation of Scene 3 in Class
		20		
<b>16</b>		25		Final Dress Rehearsal for Drama Scenes Presentation
		27		Drama Scenes Pre-show Set-up and Warm-up; Presentation; Post show Pizza
			<b>Final Reflective Paper submit via email</b>	
			Schedule End of term Interview/Evaluation with Instructor	
			<b>End of Term Evaluations in final classes</b>	

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Class Routine:** Each class will begin with a circle check-in. Then we will spend approximately 20-30 minutes doing our physical and vocal training, followed by the work that is the focus for each class. While general foci are now set, we will adjust over the term to attend to what is most important to the learning of the class. Each class will end with a circle check-out.

Students must arrive on time and be ready to work- changed into workout clothes and jewelry removed. You are encouraged to begin your own warm up process while waiting for the class to begin. A water bottle and snack for the break are advised. Cell phones must be turned off during class.

**Required Material:** Students must have comfortable, flexible clothing (no hard sole shoes or belts) that they use for class. No jewelry is to be worn during class.

**Additional Costs:** Students may choose to purchase costume and prop items for their scenes. Any purchases will remain the student's own property. Theatre tickets are the responsibility of the student.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. More than 15% absenteeism (3 classes) may constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's letter may be required.

**STUDENTS MUST COMMIT TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS TO REHEARSE WITH THEIR SCENE PARTNERS FOR MIDTERM AND FINAL REVIEWS AND REHEARSAL SESSIONS. "RULE OF THUMB: 10 MINUTES OF SCENE REQUIRES 10 HOURS OF REHEARSAL."**

## **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

**Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## **Additional Information (Optional):**

Last day to add or drop courses in most programs is January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Last day to withdraw from courses in most programs with a grade of “W”.

I hope you all have a fun semester in DR1490 learning about yourselves and your artistic capabilities! I am excited already to see your final scenes at the end of this semester. Any changes to this course outline will be discussed in class.