



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – DR 1490 A3 WINTER 2014

INTRO TO THE DRAMATIC PROCESS – T, TH 2:30 PM – 5:20 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michelle MacArthur **PHONE:** 780-539-2882
OFFICE: L222 **E-MAIL:** mmacarthur@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: M&W 10:00 AM – 11:30AM, T&TH 11:30AM – 1:00PM

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: none

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: none

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the process of acting and to dramatic form, this course is based on explorations of movement, vocal development, scene creation, and ensemble acting through improvisation acting techniques. Students will learn disciplines of physical relaxation, breathing, physical integration, responsivity, and the employment of creative impulse, within themselves and between each other in small group scene creation. Dramatic process is a collaborative process and requires respect, trust, and care for oneself and one's co-creators.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3(0-0-6) (90 hour/term)

DELIVERY MODE(S): Laboratory

OBJECTIVES (OPTIONAL):

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- collaborate with others to produce original, short dramatic scenes
- create scenes through improvisation, adaptation from other media, and interviews
- apply technical and design elements to scene work

- develop physical, emotional, and mental discipline and utilize it in actor training and performance
- demonstrate improved skills in observation, decision-making, team-work, communication, and critical thinking

TRANSFERABILITY:

**** 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**

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:	Scene Work	45%
	Scene Reflections	15%
	Theatre Analysis	10%
	Program Assignment	10%
	Verbatim Portfolios	10%
	Participation	10%

Detailed assignment guidelines will be distributed in class; brief descriptions are provided below.

Scene Work

You will create and perform 3 scenes in small groups. These scenes are designed to build on one another and develop your skills as a theatre artist. The instructor will provide group coaching in class to support your work. The first scene is worth 10%; the second, 15%; and the third, 20%. Each grade is weighted between individual process/performance and group performance, and determined by the following criteria:

- proactive contribution to group process of scene creation
- professionalism and dependability in rehearsal and performance
- focus, presence, adaptability in rehearsal and performance
- originality in character and scene creation
- creative use of technical and design elements to enhance scene

Scene Reflections

For each scene you will be expected to submit a short reflective response the week following your performance. The instructor will provide prompt questions to help you critically reflect upon your development process and performance. In addition to providing written feedback, the instructor will meet students individually in the weeks following Scenes 1 and 2 to deliver feedback in person and discuss progress. These meetings are mandatory—you will receive your scene evaluations at the meetings.

Theatre Analysis

A short response written about a local performance attended as a class this term. This response will focus on description and analysis over evaluation, and will take into account multiple and various elements of production including acting, direction, lighting, set and costume design, and sound, as well as wider material conditions such as marketing, location, socio-historical context, etc. In short, your response should demonstrate an understanding of the theatre experience as shaped by multiple factors – not just the play script.

Program Assignment

Together with your collaborators for Scene 3, you will produce a short and creative program to distribute at your final performance. This program will list critical information about your scene, as well as important background and dramaturgical information about your topic and approach. This is a group mark.

Verbatim Portfolio

A portfolio of materials used to develop Scenes 2 and 3, submitted by your group on the day of performance. This should include all brainstorming notes, interview transcripts, drafts of script, rehearsal notes, and final script; materials should be organized in a clear and logical way and presented professionally. This is a group mark, with the portfolio for Scene 2 worth 5% and for Scene 3 worth 5%.

Participation

This grade is based on your demonstrated commitment to the class: attendance and punctuality, discipline in training, co-operation with peers and the instructor, and contribution to group discussion. Active participation in this class also entails leading at least one warm-up (you will sign-up at the beginning of the term) and completing in-class reflective writing. Two percent of this grade will be awarded for a passing mark on the syllabus quiz (>6/10), administered during the second week of class.

*In-class reflective writing consists of short writing prompts provided in class by the instructor that allow you to reflect on your learning process and voice any concerns. The instructor will collect this writing and respond with brief comments. This writing is ungraded, and meant to be used as a dialogue between you and the instructor.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students must come to class dressed comfortably and ready to move around. Work-out or yoga apparel is more conducive to theatre work than skinny jeans.

Students may choose to purchase costume and prop items for their scenes. Any purchases will remain the student's own property. Theatre tickets and tentative field trip to Edmonton are the responsibility of the student.

More than 10% absenteeism (2 classes) may seriously impact a student's ability to complete the requirements for the course. Medical or extenuating circumstances will need to be documented and a copy given to the instructor. Attendance at theatre outings and field trip is mandatory.

STUDENTS MUST COMMIT TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS TO REHEARSE WITH THEIR SCENE PARTNERS, FOR MIDTERM AND END OF TERM MEETINGS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR, AND FOR COACHING SESSIONS.

RULE OF THUMB: 10 MINUTES OF SCENE REQUIRES 10 HOURS OF REHEARSAL.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

WEEK 1

Jan. 7&9 Introduction to Course and Ice-Breaker Games

WEEK 2

Jan. 14&16 Improvisation Games and Physical, Mental, and Vocal Training
Syllabus Quiz (Jan. 16)

WEEK 3

Jan. 21&23 Improv and Training Techniques continued
Introduction to Scene 1

WEEK 4

Jan. 28&30 Character Development and Exploration
Scene 1 Creation and Rehearsal Time

WEEK 5

Feb. 4 *Visitor in the Arts: Richie Wilcox*
Feb. 6 Scene 1 Presentation in Class
Scene 1 Debrief and Introduction to Verbatim Theatre

WEEK 6

Feb. 11 Verbatim Theatre and Introduction to Scene 2

Feb. 13 Verbatim Theatre: Developing Interview Questions, Creation Schedule
Assignment Deadline: Scene 1 Reflection

READING WEEK (FEB. 17-21) 😊😊😊

The Shape of Things by Neil LaBute (dress rehearsal Feb. 19, opens Feb. 20, runs to Mar. 8th)

WEEK 7

Feb. 25&27 Verbatim Theatre Creation and Rehearsal Time
 Technical Theatre and Design Workshop

WEEK 8

Mar. 4&6 In-Class Coaching and Rehearsal Time

WEEK 9

Mar. 11 Scene 2 Presentation in Class
 Introduction to Scene 3 and Program Assignment

Mar. 13 Verbatim Creation and Rehearsal Time
Assignment Deadline: Theatre Analysis (The Shape of Things)

WEEK 10

Mar. 18 Verbatim Creation and Rehearsal Time
Assignment Deadlines: Scene 2 Reflection and Verbatim Portfolio

Mar. 20 Verbatim Creation and Rehearsal Time

WEEK 11

Mar. 25&27 Verbatim Creation and Rehearsal Time
 Sound Workshop

WEEK 12

Apr. 1 In-Class Coaching and Rehearsal Time

Apr. 3 In-Class Coaching and Rehearsal Time
Assignment Deadline: Program Assignment

WEEK 13

Apr. 8 Tech Rehearsal and Q to Q in Class

Apr. 10 Dress Rehearsal in Class and Evening Performance
Assignment Deadline: Verbatim Portfolio
