

THFM-1001-050 (6 credit hours)

## INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE: PERFORMANCE

Fall/Winter, 2017/2018  
Mondays: 6:00-9:00 pm  
Room 2T05

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Office Hours: TBA

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts of theatre. Emphasis is placed on the art and craft of the performer.

In first term students will be introduced to the basics of modern acting technique through acting exercises, improvisation, movement, vocal work and script analysis. The skills covered in each term will be evaluated through the presentation of a monologue in first term and a contemporary scripted scene in the second term. Students will also be expected to keep an acting journal throughout the year. The journal should reflect acting experiences and discoveries made in class or rehearsal and will be the basis for an acting paper due at the end of the second term.

Students will also be introduced to various forms of modern drama and script interpretation through an examination of three plays representing a range of contemporary work: *Tribes* by Nina Raine, *Jail Baby* by Cairn Moore and Hope McIntyre, and *Top Girls* by Carol Churchill. The student's understanding of these plays will be evaluated through three short quizzes and two written tests. Both tests will also include the basic principles in our primary text: *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*, as well as the live theatre we attend.

Over the course of the University year, students will participate in three field trips to experience live theatre in three different venues. In first term we will attend an evening of new works by emerging female playwrights at *FemFest*, and *Tribes* at Winnipeg Jewish Theatre. In second term we will attend a show (TBA) at Prairie Theatre Exchange, Attending these three performances is a course requirement. Students will be required to pay for their tickets at a reduced group rate.

### TEXTS

#### Required

Bruder, *et al.* *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* (Random House)

Raine, Nina, *Tribes* (Dramatist PlayService Inc.)

Moore & McIntyre, *Jail Baby* (Scirocco)

Churchill, Carol, *Top Girls* (Methuen)

### MARK BREAKDOWN

1 <sup>st</sup> Term Test ( <i>A Practical Handbook, Class Lectures, Tribes</i> ) <b>Nov. 13, 2017 (Room TBA)</b> .....	15%
Monologue Presentation ( <b>December 04, 2017</b> ) .....	15%
Play Quizzes ( <i>Tribes, Jail Baby, Top Girls</i> ) .....	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Test ( <i>Jail Baby, Top Girls, Practical Handbook, Class lectures</i> ) <b>March 19, 2018 (TBA)</b> .....	15%
Final Essay ( <b>Due in class: March 19, 2018</b> ) .....	15%
Scene Presentation ( <b>April 04, 2018</b> ).....	20%
Scene Analysis ( <b>Nov. 20, 2017 &amp; March 26, 2018</b> ) .....	5%
Class Participation .....	5%
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **CONVERSION SCALE**

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 1% per day (weekends excluded). For example, if your essay is given a mark of 70% and it is a week late, you would receive 65%. The mark would then be converted to a mark out of twenty. Papers will **NOT** be accepted after the final deadline **March 20, 2018**.

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Class participation includes:

- attendance (In class as well as field trips)
  - punctuality
  - preparation
  - participation in discussion and acting exercises

## **REHEARSALS**

Throughout this course, all students will be required to take part in ongoing scene rehearsals outside of scheduled class time. This requirement will involve a **MINIMUM** of two to four hours per week. Students unable or unwilling to comply with this requirement are asked to withdraw from the course immediately.

Any student who repeatedly misses rehearsals, comes late, or fails to rehearse adequately will be asked to withdraw from the course. This includes all classes and out-of-class rehearsals. This provision has been established to protect the educational interests of scene partners and other classmates.

Scenes and Monologues must be approved by the instructor **PRIOR** to the start of the allotted rehearsal period.

## **QUIZZES**

Students will be given a short quiz on each of the three plays discussed and studied in this course. Collectively, the three quizzes will represent 10% of the overall mark. Quizzes will not be given subsequent to the quiz date.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)****Fall Term**

Sept.	11	Review of Course Outline / Theatre Games
	18	Aristotle / Freytag's Pyramid / <b>Field Trip: FemFest Bake Off</b> (7:00 p.m.)
	25	Stanislavski / 3 W's / Drama Without Words
Oct.	02	Playing Action (Practical Handbook) Memorization Technique/ Dance Drama
	09	<b>Thanksgiving: No classes</b>
	16	<b>QUIZ Tribes</b> / Analyzing a Monologue / 1 minute of monologues
	23	<b>Field Trip: Tribes</b> Winnipeg Jewish Theatre (Show runs October 21-29 <sup>th</sup> , 2017)
	30	Discussion of <i>Tribes</i> / Punctuation / 2 minutes of monologues
Nov.	06	Voice and Text Workshop (Vowels & Consonants) / 2 minutes of monologues
	13	<b>First Term Test</b> (Room TBA) / Three minutes of Monologues
	20	<b>Monologue Analysis Due</b> / Status / Robert Munsch / 3 minutes of monologues (Actors off- book)
	27	Warm Up / Dress Rehearsal (Notes) / Confirmation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Scene Partner
Dec.	04	Warm up / <b>Presentation of Monologues</b>

**Winter Term**

Jan.	08	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Scene selections / <i>Practical Handbook: Analyzing a Scene</i>
	15	/ Playing Objectives
	22	<b>Quiz</b> / Discussion of <i>Jail Baby</i> / Listening
	29	Jail Baby Workshop / One Minute of Scenes (Who, what, where)
	<b>30</b>	<b>Field Trip: Salt Water Moon Prairie Theatre Exchange /Talk Back Tuesday 7:00 P.M.</b>
Feb.	05	Neutral Dialogue / Subtext
	12	Playing Action / One Minute of Scenes
	<b>14</b>	<b>Withdraw Without Academic Penalty</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Reading Week; No classes Feb. 19-25</b>
	26	Table Work / Two Minutes of Scenes
Mar.	05	<b>QUIZ</b> / Discussion of <i>Top Girls</i> / Two Minutes of Scenes
	12	Workshop <i>Top Girls</i> / Scene work / (Actors Off Book) / <b>Scene Analysis Due</b>
	19	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Term Test</b> (Room TBA) / Scene work
	26	Dress Rehearsal / <b>Essay Due</b>
April	02	Warm up / <b>Final Scene Presentation</b>

**ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

This class involves physical, cognitive, and/or vocal demands. Those with challenges in these areas must seek departmental guidance PRIOR to registration: 204-786-9955 or [theatre@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:theatre@uwinnipeg.ca).

### **ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (for first-year Performance classes)**

Given that this is a practical studio course, extensive participation and professionalism are required. As a result, punctuality and attendance at class and in out-of-class rehearsals are of the utmost importance. Unexcused absences from lecture, lab, or out-of-class rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of 1% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lecture, lab, or out-of-class rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of .5% per instance. Attendance and punctuality will be recorded at the beginning of every class. After a **THIRD** late or absence, the instructor will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss withdrawal from the course. After a **FIFTH** unexcused absence the student will be required to meet with the Chair of the department to discuss withdrawal from the course.

Excused absences or lates require a medical note or prior arrangement with the instructor. It is at the instructor's discretion whether or not to excuse a non-medical absence. After **FIVE** excused absences the student will be required to meet with the Instructor to discuss whether it is realistic for him/her to continue in the course.

Given the rigorous, practical nature of studio courses, and the demands these courses make in terms of attendance and punctuality, students with chronic medical conditions that will require extensive absence should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss whether the course is appropriate for them.

### **NOTES FOR PERFORMANCE COURSES**

Rehearsals for final presentations and public exercises are scheduled well in advance; students must arrange their university and work schedules so as not to conflict with them. Students must attend **ALL** scheduled rehearsals.

Any student who repeatedly misses rehearsals, comes late, or fails to rehearse adequately will be asked to withdraw from the course (see Attendance note, above).

As many of our classes are physical in nature, students are asked to wear comfortable clothing.

Outdoor footwear **must be removed** before entering **ANY** of the Studios: **0T09** (Concourse Studio), **0T19** (Mime Lab), **1T15** (Theatre), **2T05** (2nd Floor Studio), **2T15** (Movement Studio). We suggest you bring suitable dance shoes or slippers to wear in class. Your professors will monitor and enforce this regulation in order to preserve the integrity of the special flooring in these rooms. Please respect this rule.

Student actors, like professionals, are expected to provide their own basic makeup supplies where required for public exercises. Due to the potential for the transmission of skin diseases it is not recommended that students share makeup.

Senior acting students scheduled to perform in a departmental public exercise are asked not to modify their hair colour or style without first checking with the instructor/director.

Students who bring props, costumes, or furnishings to support scene presentations please note:

- the University will **NOT** be responsible for the loss of any such materials;
- students are responsible for the **IMMEDIATE** removal of such materials after **EACH** use – the department does not provide storage;
- materials not claimed **WILL BE DISPOSED OF** at the student's expense. Grades may be withheld until such costs are recovered;
- students **MUST NOT** move existing furnishings from their current locations.

## **HEALTH AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

Life happens to everyone. If you are experiencing a crisis in your life, or if you have a physical or mental health issue, communicate with your Professor or Accessibility Services – let us know so we can provide support or direct you to those who can. The earlier we know, the earlier we can discuss what resources might be available. Students with documented disabilities, or temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams/presentations (e.g., private space or more time) or during lectures/labs (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them.

## **"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES**

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept 20 (playwright Judith Thompson), Oct 18, Nov 15, Jan 17, Feb 28, Mar 14. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to “the business of the business.”

Attendance at **ALL** lectures is **MANDATORY** for **ALL** Honours students in Theatre (4000-level courses, all areas), **as well as** students in: THFM-3101 Acting III: General, THFM-3201 Styles in Design, THFM-3801 Production II, and THFM-3920 Musical Theatre. Penalties for absence may be assigned by individual instructors.

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/Majors and for Film Majors is optional but highly recommended.

## **2017 ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY**

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to welcome students to the new term, introduce our new students to faculty and other students; provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors; and deliver news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15**. **ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors and Honours students. Those considering Honours are strongly recommended to attend. All others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## **TAFSA**

All students enrolled in at least one theatre or film class are automatically members of TAFSA, the Theatre and Film Students' Association, which plans a number of exciting activities each academic year. We are looking forward to regular **Performance Jams, Socials, DioFest** (an exciting new play festival featuring student written and produced plays), and the very popular **24/7 Event** during which students move into our building and several plays are written, rehearsed, produced, and presented – all in a period of 24 hours! Please join TAFSA to find out more at its organizational meeting: Mon Sept 18, 12:30-1:20, Room 0T10. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with other like-minded people and a way to get involved in the department events.

## **BUILDING SECURITY**

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE**: outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic).

**ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

### **ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA**

Students must check our website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/theatre-film> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the sections 8, 9, and 10 of the *Academic Calendar* for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals, (found on-line at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>).

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect).

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2017 and end in April 2018 (2017-18 Fall/Winter Term).

## **STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

## **COURSE CONTENT NOTE**

### All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

### Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.