

THFM-3101-001 (6 credit hours)

ACTING III: GENERAL

Fall/Winter, 2018/19
MWF 10:30 am - 12:20 pm
Room 2T05

Instructors: Eric Blais & Erin McGrath

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Office: 4T06

Office Hours: MWF by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course further develops the work of THFM-2101 Acting Theory and Practice and endeavours to help the actor reveal and develop their unique expression. Students will engage in mask play, improvisation, dramaturgical research and traditional text analysis to encourage a full-range of physical and emotional expression while undertaking a detailed and practical examination of the actor's intellectual, sensual, emotional and imaginative resources as they apply to the development of character, scene work and a staged production.

Topics to be covered include:

- full and half mask
- improvisation
- taking direction
- scene work
- script analysis
- developing character arc or progression
- bringing truth to the work
- using the environment
- harnessing imagination to enrich the performance
- embodying the character and the scene
- working with the director/fellow actors
- understanding process and protocol
- experiencing a script from page to stage

During both terms students will be required to take part in continuous, ongoing exercises and rehearsals with classmates outside of class time. This requirement will involve a minimum of four hours per week preparatory work outside of class and rehearsal will be conducted in accordance with the discipline and responsibility appropriate to the profession of the actor.

PREPARATION AND PROTOCOL

The standards of the profession are expected in terms of discipline and commitment. This means that everyone must arrive on time (which means early) and be prepared mentally, emotionally, and physically to begin work immediately. Teacher and students are responsible for a creative, supportive, and protective atmosphere in order to best serve the work. While the work in class may be exciting at times, students are reminded that respect for the work, fellow students, and the instructor is always expected. Socializing before and after classes or rehearsals and performances is part of the actor’s etiquette, but quiet, listening, focus, and attention during classes, rehearsals, and presentations are absolutely necessary. Students unable to comply will be asked to withdraw from the course. Students must support and help their colleagues with constructive criticism. The unity, creativity, and health of the class are more important than any antagonism, personal or artistic differences, temperaments, and idiosyncrasies. Students are strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately if any concerns arise about activities or climate associated with the class.

There is no food allowed in the classroom. Beverages are allowed (water, coffee, tea, juice). Students are required to keep the room clean and put away all props/rehearsal items used.

Phones are off and away during class. Notes must be taken with paper and pen.

FINAL PROJECT

The Final Project will involve a public presentation. All students must be available for some additional evening rehearsals and rehearsals scheduled outside of normal class time. These rehearsals are compulsory.

EVALUATION

Fall

Warm-up	5%
Mask Work.....	10%
First Scene.....	10%
Listening & Responding through Character Body.....	5%
Lines Memorized for Scripted Scene (Pass/Fail).....	5%
Script Analysis.....	5%
Final Scene Presentation.....	10%
Total Fall.....	50%

Winter

Studio Participation and Professionalism.....	5%
Research Project.....	10%
Script Analysis/Notebook Complete (pass/fail)	5%
Lines Memorized (pass/fail).....	5%
Final Production.....	25%
Total Winter	50%

Total Fall and Winter	100%
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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%.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Please Note: The schedule as presented indicates a progression for the introduction of subject matter. In practice material may be introduced with more overlap and certain material may be revisited throughout the year.

Fall Term:

Sept. 5 to Oct. 22, 2018 – Instructor Eric Blais

Reconnecting to Training
Mask work
Contentless Scenes

Reading week: Oct. 7- 13, 2018

Contentless Scene Presentation – Instructor Transition: October 22nd, 2018

Thanksgiving: Oct. 8, 2018 - University closed

Oct. 24 to Dec. 3, 2018: Instructor Erin McGrath

Physical Connections and silent scenes
Introduction Script analysis
Scripted Scenes MUST be memorized: Nov. 5th, 2018

Remembrance Day Nov. 11, University closed

Script Analysis Due: Nov. 19th, 2018
Final Scripted Scene Presentations: Dec. 28th & 30th, 2018

Dec. 3, 2018 Lectures End for 2018 Fall Term

Winter Term:

Jan. 4, 2019 to April 3, 2019

Research Presentations: Jan 14th & 16th
Page to Stage Rehearsal etc: Jan 18th – End of Term
Lines Memorized: Feb 11th, 2019

Reading Week: Feb. 17th – 23rd, 2019
Louis Riel Day: Feb. 18, university closed

Script Analysis Due: March 4th, 2019
Final Presentation: The week of April 3rd, to be confirmed

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.

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (for 2nd- through 4th-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 at out-of-class rehearsals are of the utmost importance. Unexcused absences from lectures, labs, or rehearsals will be penalized at a rate of 2% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lectures, labs, or rehearsals will be penalized at a rate of 1% 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.

In performance courses in which casts rehearse a show, unexcused lateness and absence will not be tolerated and may result in the recasting of your role after **ONE** incident.

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 require extensive absence should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss whether the course is appropriate for 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 19th (Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, playwright and arts administrator), Oct 17th, Nov 14th, Jan 16th, Feb 27th, Mar 13th. 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, and THFM-3801 Production II**. Penalties for absence may be assigned by individual instructors.

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

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 to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, do not assume that Accessibility Services (AS) has informed your instructor that you have registered with them. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>

2018 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 **Monday, September 10, 2018, 12:30-1:20 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** and **Socials** as well as **DioFest** (a 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, tentatively scheduled for Mon Sept 17, 12:30-1:20 pm, Room OT10. 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.

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>

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated by the instructor), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms. ***Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.***

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin September 4, 2018 and end April 5, 2019 (2018-19 Fall/Winter Term).

Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

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.