Movement For Theatre Performance I
Syllabus
Fall 2013

Instructor: Samuel Munoz  Office: NH 207
Course: TH 108M-01 (11088)  Office Hrs: Mon & Wed 9:30-10:30am
Class Time: Mon & Wed 11:00am – 12:40am  Email: samuel.munoz@csun.edu
Class Location: Nordoff Hall 214  Dept. Number: (818) 677-6614

Course Objectives / Description:
Movement for Theatre Performance I is an acting class designed to further the development and understanding of the actor's body and mind connection.

To increase awareness, range, and freedom in the full physicality of your body as the instrument of your artistic expression.

To have an understanding of the actual anatomical design of your body, your postural coordination system, breath/movement connection and to experience the affects of this on the range and the depth of your performance skills.

To provide a fundamental understanding of the importance of movement, space, weight, and time as theatrical principles.

To foster a collaborative approach to theater through partner work and ensemble building projects.

To develop a foundation for increasingly creative, spontaneous choice making in your acting journey in classroom, rehearsal, performance, and life.

Emphasis is placed on the self and the many possibilities the self has to offer.

To develop a physical warm-up, based on movement principles learned in class.

Course Structure:
This class will consist of warm-ups, group exercises, Laban, Alexander Technique, View Points, watching live performances and videos, memorizing, performances, researching, writing papers, reading, and quizzes.

Course Requirements:
There will be handouts over the course of the semester to read and discuss.
**Decorum:**
This class is a safe space for all. Be attentive and respectful of your fellow classmates and the instructor. You are responsible for finding value in the work we do together and for supporting your classmates as they strive to find value in the work. It is your responsibility to maintain enthusiasm, curiosity, and a strong work ethic in this class for the duration of the semester. Your participation grade reflects these qualities in addition to your participation in discussions and group reflections.

Refrain from talking except when called upon during discussion. Remember to be constructive in your comments and not destructive. Use “I” statements when speaking as opposed to speaking for a group; avoid generalities.

There is no tolerance for conduct and behavior that endangers or inhibits another person or the working environment. If I feel at any time you are responsible for making anyone feel uncomfortable, or if I feel your behavior is inappropriate you will be told to leave. The Chair and Dean of the department will be notified with further actions and possible dismissal from the course.

**Leave It At The Door:**
Whatever issues or problems you may be experiencing outside of class you are expected to leave them at the door. When you enter the classroom quietly, prepare yourself for the class and bring your focus to the work at hand with open and unencumbered dedication. If must talk at length with someone let it be outside the classroom prior to the class beginning.

**Dress Code / Class Readiness / Caring for the Space:**
Arrive dressed for class. This is a movement class, with full emphasis on the use of the whole body. Dress appropriately. No tight or restrictive clothing. No Jeans. No skirts or dresses. No short shorts. No hats are to be worn in class. No Jewelry. Shoes must be taken off before entering the Studio. Bare feet are recommended. Be prepared to role on the ground. Be prepared to sweat.

You should always have a notebook/journal. If you are working with a text you must have 2 copies with you each day.

You are responsible for preparing the room for class. It must be cleared of furniture at the beginning of class and restored at end of class. Clear all trash out of the space before you leave. TURN OFF YOUR PHONES! No vibrate or silence! Turn it OFF! The use of cell phones, including texting and other electronic devices, is strictly prohibited during class time. No food, gum, candy or beverages permitted. Water is allowed and recommended. Infractions will result in being dismissed from class and will affect the overall grade. The Theater Department is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen personal items.
**Attendance:**
Punctuality, attendance, and participation are mandatory.

Rubric: Participation (weighted x4) Total Points Possible: 20

- **Superior: 5**
  - The student is timely and physically present to participate in all class activities and discussions.
  - The student consistently shows evidence of being prepared for all class activities and discussions by completing all assigned readings and other preparatory work necessary for drama experiences.
  - The student consistently contributes to class discussions the understandings, learnings, and questions raised from readings and drama experiences.
  - The student consistently volunteers rather than waits to be called upon.
  - The student consistently offers ideas during discussions, makes leaps into activities, and asks questions.

- **Strong: 4**
  - The student is timely and physically present to participate in all class activities and discussions.
  - The student regularly shows evidence of being prepared for class activities and discussions by completing all assigned readings and other preparatory work necessary for drama experiences.
  - The student regularly volunteers rather than waits to be called upon.
  - The student regularly offers ideas during discussions, makes leaps into activities, and asks questions.

- **Adequate: 3.5**
  - The student is timely and physically present to participate in class activities and discussions.
  - The student shows evidence of being prepared for class activities and discussions by completing assigned readings and other preparatory work necessary for drama experiences.
  - The student usually volunteers rather than waits to be called upon.
  - The student offers ideas during discussions, fully participates in activities, and asks questions.

- **Minimal: 2**
  - The student is not timely and regularly not physically present to participate in class activities and discussions.
  - The student shows minimal evidence of being prepared for class activities and discussions.
  - The student waits to be called upon.
  - The student minimally participates in class discussions and activities

- **Inadequate: 1**
  - Does not meet any of the criteria above.
**Paper Requirements:**
Papers will only be accepted at the beginning of class on the due dates. They must be typed, stapled, double-spaced, black ink, 12-pt font, New Times Roman and 1 inch margins on all sides including the top and bottom.

**Journals:**
Be sure to date your entries.
The chief documentation of your progress in class is your written journal which should include:
Be personal: write about what worked for you and why, what is challenging for you in class, and what movement issues you need to work on for your continued growth.
What you have noticed about your physicality that is new, different, changing.
Detailed analysis of your specific learning experience in each class, including discoveries made when observing the work of your fellow classmates.
You may list words, ideas, thoughts, concepts, images, drawings, etc.

**Due date:**

**Paper #1:**
My Movement Journey: a detailed history of your significant movement experiences up to this time, including descriptions of early movement training, athletic training, injuries, places in your body that currently hold tension, any other relevant movement experiences. 4-5 pages.

**Due date:**

**Paper #2:**
Select one of the following actors from the list below. Observe and compare the physical choices he/she makes in creating characters from two different films. Select movement concepts you have explored this semester. Evaluate the chosen actor's performance choices. How does he/she live in his/her body in performance? What do you notice about how the actor changes his/her physical choices to create and express character in each film? I suggest you view earlier not-so-known films. Do some research. **I do not want to know what the movies are about.** 4-5 pages.

Cate Blanchett  Meryl Streep  Kathy Bates  Sean Penn
Daniel Day-Lewis  Denzel Washington  Benicio del Toro  Gary Oldman
Angela Bassett  Kate Winslett  Hilary Swank  Leonardo DiCaprio
Don Cheadle  Javier Bardem  Ryan Gosling  Viola Davis

**Due date:**

**Mid-Term:  Laban Vocabulary Test & Monologue Performance I**
One-minute monologue of your choice will be worked in class and rehearsed outside class. It will be presented as a mid-term evaluation and will be performed with your 2nd monologue at the end of the semester. Copy must be submitted.

**Performance date:**
Final: Monologue Performance II
One minute contrasting (different from 1st monologue) monologue of your choice. It will be worked outside of class on your own time (using what you have worked on, learned, and observed in class). This monologue MUST be contemporary (nothing before 2002). Copy must be submitted for approval with proof of copyright year. Once submitted and approved you cannot change the monologue. Have 2 copies of your monologue at all times for possible exercises. Both 2nd and 1st monologues will be performed for final.

Performance date:

All Papers, Performances, and Assignments are due on the date given. You cannot make up mid terms, performances, and final if you are absent.

Pop Quizzes will be at my discretion.

Grading:
Success in this class does not rely on your acting talents, but how much effort you put forth, grow, and learn. You will be graded on your participation and contribution to the class.

Participation & Attendance

Journals

Papers: #1

Paper # 2

Laban Test

Performance#1

Performance#2

Methods of Evaluation
In addition to the rubrics for each assignment and participation, quizzes, the instructor may incorporate written exams to cover all assigned readings and material presented in class lectures, discussions, etc. Tests will be a combination of essay and objective questions. Both objective and subjective criteria will be used in grading. Assignments are subject to change.
Grading will be based on fulfillment and quality of course assignments. A rubric grading scale with specific criteria will be used for each assignment.
Grade of “A”
Prompt completion of all assignments. Each assignment exhibits excellent performance in form and content.
No more than 2 absences for the semester
The student comes to each class prepared and ready to discuss the subject matter and participate in class activities. Assigned material has been read in an attentive manner.
The student actively participates in class by answering or asking questions.

Grade of “C”
Prompt completion of all assignments. Average performance in form and content.
More than 3 absences, but no more than 5.
The student comes to class fully prepared to actively participate in class activities and discussions most of the time, but not all of the time.
The student passively participates by listening to the lecture and taking notes.

Grade of “F”
The student does not complete all assignments. Assignments exhibit several errors in form and content.
High number of absences, usually 6 or more.
Lack of preparation before class.
No contribution to class discussion and activities. Thoughts expressed will generally be a simple regurgitation of phrases from a lecture.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Review the University Catalog for specific policy information. The policy will be strictly enforced in this class.

University Catalog: “The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student within this university and the California State University system. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus is listed in Section 41301, Title V, California Code of Regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction. Academic dishonesty is an especially serious offense and diminishes the quality of scholarship and defrauds those who depend upon the integrity of the campus programs. Such dishonesty includes: cheating, fabricating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.

The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the syllabus.
I ___________________ on this date ______ have received, read, and completely understand the Syllabus my instructor, Samuel Munoz, has given me for Movement For Theatre Performance I Spring 2013 (TH 108M-01).

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