

DRAMA 1490  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
Winter, 2008



INSTRUCTOR: ANNIE SMITH, PHD  
OFFICE: L112  
PHONE: 539-2882  
EMAIL: [asmith@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:asmith@gprc.ab.ca)

Classroom: L104  
M, W 14:30 – 17:20

Course 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.

Course Content: The course flows between individual preparation, group preparation, and group creation, practice, and presentation. Activities will include acting/improv. exercises, ensemble exercises, creating, rehearsing, and presenting scenes within class. There are possibilities for presenting work outside of class on campus and off campus and for a final class presentation of scenes for invited guests. Students will keep journals of their process and will be required to attend at least two live theatre performances (outside of class time) for which they will write a short response paper. Students need to commit to rehearsal time and coaching time outside of class, especially in preparation for their scenes.

Evaluation: Evaluation is based on class participation (30%), presentation of scenes (30%), journal (20%), and 2 response papers (20%). Journals will be handed in at midterm and at the end of term. There will be a student teacher consultation at mid-term and end of term to discuss the student's progress and the instructor is always available for student-initiated consultation.

Required Materials: Students need to have comfortable, flexible clothing (no zippers, or belts) that they use for class. No jewelry is to be worn during class.

Additional Costs: Theatre performance admission is the student's responsibility.

Attendance: More than 10% absenteeism (a max. of 2 absences) may constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's letter will be required. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for class.

STUDENTS MUST BE PREPARED TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS TO REHEARSE WITH THEIR SCENE PARTNERS, FOR MIDTERM AND END OF TERM INTERVIEWS, AND FOR SCENE COACHING SESSIONS FOR THEIR 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SCENES.

## Class Calendar:

*Each class will begin with a circle check-in. Then we will spend at least 3/4 hour doing our physical preparation/warm-up (more time in the first classes where we are learning techniques). Then we will go into the work that is the focus of each class. The class will end with a circle check-out.*

*While general foci are set now, we will adjust over the term to attend to what is most important for the learning of the class.*

*Students must arrive on time and ready to work – already changed into workout clothes. Bring food for the break – usually after the warm-up.*

<b>January</b>	7, 9	Intro week – learning about each other and setting the foundation for the term’s work. Explain Journal assignment.
Week 1	14, 16	Focus on physical training – breath, spine, flexibility, voice – and ensemble building – continues during each class.
Week 2	21, 23	Focus on movement improv – Columbian Hypnosis, flocking, responding to sound.
Week 3	28, 30	Movement Improv con’t - working from the elements. Choose scene partners for <b>Scene 1</b> – (movement and sound only) Focus on Relationships of Power and Status; Creating and Animating still images.

## February

Week 4	4, 6	Focus on Work shopping Scene 1 in class.
Week 5	<b>11</b> 13	<b>Presenting Scene 1</b> + debrief. Focus on Dramatic Tension: Character objectives and tactics – what do I want and what do I do to get it? Discussing response paper assignment(s)

**\*\*\*Reading Week – students will attend a performance of Unity (1918) – Feb 21, 22, 23\*\*\***

Week 6	<b>25</b>  27	<b>Response paper due 25<sup>th</sup></b> . Sign up for mid-term interviews. <b>Hand in Journals.</b> Dramatic Tension con’t. Choose scene partners for <b>Scene 2</b> (with dialogue). Focus on Creating Character – assignment.
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## March

**\*\*\*Mid-term interviews will be held from March 3 to 7 – Journals returned\*\*\***

**\*\*\*dress rehearsal for Ovation’s Dinner Theatre production of Maggie’s Getting Married – March 4 – hostessing opportunities for other nights. Response paper due March 10\*\*\***

Week 7 3, 5 Creating Character con't.  
Sign up for coaching sessions.

**\*\*\*Coaching sessions for Scene 2 will happen from March 10 to 14\*\*\***

Week 8 10, 12 **Response paper due 10th.** Focus on Work shopping Scene 2 in class.

Week 9 17 **Presenting Scene 2** + debrief.  
19 RSVP – learning the process.  
Choose scene partners for **Scene 3**. Sign up for coaching sessions.

Week 10 24 RSVP in scene groups.  
26 Focus on using dramatic tensions – space, rhythm, sound/silence, character – in designing scenes.

**\*\*\*Coaching sessions for Scene 3 will happen from March 31 to April 4. \*\*\***

week 11 31 Work shopping/dress rehearsals of scene 3 in class.

## **April**

2 Work shopping/dress rehearsals of scene 3 in class.

Week 12 7 **Public Presentation of Scene 3 in class.**  
9 Final class – debrief and wrap up.  
**Hand in Journals.**

**\*\*\*April 14 - 17 Exam Period: End of term interviews. Journals returned.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*students are invited to attend rehearsals of Unity (1918)\*\*\***

**in L104:**

**Sunday, Jan 27, 7-9:30**

**Wednesday, Jan 30, 6:30-9:30**

**Wednesday, Feb 6, 6:30-9:30**

**Sunday, February 10, 7-9:30**

**Wednesday, February 13, 6:30-9:30**

**Saturday, Feb 16, 11 – 5**

**Sunday, Feb 17, 7-9:30**

**in Douglas Cardinal Centre for the Performing Arts:**

**Tuesday, Feb 19, 7-9:30**

**Wednesday, Feb 20, 7-9:30**