



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – DR 2310 A3 WINTER 2014

SCENE STUDY 1 – M, W 1:00 PM – 3:50 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: DR 1490

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: none

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Performance-based study of acting including the analysis and enactment of scripted scenes and character building techniques. Co-taught with DR3310, Scene Study 2.

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

DELIVERY MODE(S): Laboratory

OBJECTIVES (OPTIONAL):

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

- analyze dramatic texts in terms of structure, genre, character, language, and context
- develop and execute a coherent directorial and design vision for a scene or play
- apply different performance theories and styles to actor training and scene work
- create dynamic and defined characters through careful script analysis, improvisation, and exploratory exercises
- demonstrate improved skills in observation, decision-making, team-work, communication, and critical thinking

- critically analyze performance, demonstrating an understanding of how it is shaped by artistic, historical, and cultural contexts and conditions

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	50%
	Actor Notebooks	15%
	Practitioner Case Study	15%
	Performance Analysis	10%
	Participation	10%

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

Scene Work

You will 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 final public performance, 25%. Each grade is weighted between individual process/performance and group performance, and determined by the following criteria:

- proactive contribution to rehearsal process
- professionalism and dependability in rehearsal and performance
- focus, presence, adaptability in rehearsal and performance
- character developed with originality, coherence, and thoughtfulness
- clear directorial vision for scene
- creative use of technical and design elements to enhance scene

Actor Notebooks

For each scene you will be expected to submit your actor notebook the week following your performance. The notebook will consist of your annotated script, character development notes, any design or directorial notes, and a brief final reflection (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 meeting.

Practitioner Case Study

Alone or with a partner, you will select a notable theatre practitioner from a list provided by the instructor. After researching the practitioner, you will present his/her historical and artistic context and approach to performance in a brief 10-minute class presentation, lead the class in exercises related to his/her work, and bring a sample scene for us to experiment with that is connected to the practitioner's work. This project will be graded based on research, originality, and class leadership.

Performance Analysis

A short response written about a local performance of your choice attended this term. This response will focus on description and analysis over evaluation, and will take into account multiple and various elements of production including performance, direction, lighting, set and costume design, and sound, as well as wider material conditions such as marketing, location, socio-historical context, etc. You may choose a GPLT or Showcase production, but you are also encouraged to look

beyond the theatre for examples of performance in Grande Prairie and may choose your topic in consultation with the instructor: cabaret shows, monster truck rallies, stand-up comedy, etc. are all examples of non-theatrical performance.

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 two warm-ups (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.

Students will be fully prepared for coachings and class workshops with lines memorized and character development completed. Students will read the entire script from which their scene is taken and will understand the context in which the play was written and performed. Copies of the scripts will be "On Reserve" in the GPRC Library.

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. 8 Introduction to Course and Ice-Breaker Games
Introduction to Scene 1 and One-Act Festival

WEEK 2

Jan. 13&15 Script Analysis, Scene 1 Rehearsal
Syllabus Quiz (Jan. 15)

WEEK 3

Jan. 20 *Actors Off Book*, Character Analysis and Development, Scene 1 Rehearsal
Jan. 22 *One-Act Stumble-Throughs*

WEEK 4

Jan. 27&29 Character Development and Exploration, Physical Scores
Scene 1 Rehearsal Time

WEEK 5

Feb. 3 Scene 1 Rehearsal
Feb. 4 *Visitor in the Arts: Richie Wilcox* – please join DR1490 for a workshop (2:30-5:20pm)
Feb. 5 Scene 1 Dress Rehearsal in Class
Feb. 8 ****North West Regional One-Act Play Festival****

WEEK 6

Feb. 10 One-Act Debrief and Introduction to Scene 2

Feb. 12 Practitioner Case Study Model (Michelle) / Case Study guidelines distributed
Scene 2 Work Time
Assignment Deadline: Scene 1 Actor Notebook

READING WEEK (FEB. 17-21) 😊😊😊

WEEK 7

Feb. 24&26 Character Development and Exploration, Play Analysis
Directing Workshop

WEEK 8

Mar. 3&5 Dramaturgical Research
In-Class Coaching and Rehearsal Time

WEEK 9

Mar. 10 Scene 2 Presentation in Class
Introduction to Scene 3

Mar. 12 Character Voice, Movement, Language
Assignment Deadline: Performance Analysis

WEEK 10

Mar. 17 Monologue Workshop
Assignment Deadline: Scene 2 Actor Notebook

Mar. 19 In-Class Coaching and Rehearsal Time

WEEK 11

Mar. 24&26 Dramaturgy and Character Development
Assignment Deadline: Practitioner Case Studies (1 per class)

WEEK 12

Mar. 30& Apr. 2 In-Class Coaching and Rehearsal Time
Assignment Deadline: Practitioner Case Studies (1 per class)

WEEK 13

Apr. 7 Tech Rehearsal and Cue-to-Cue in Class

Apr. 9 Dress Rehearsal in Class and Evening Performance (tentative)

Apr. 14 *Assignment Deadline:* Scene 3 Actor Notebook