

DR3530 - Scene Study

Course Syllabus - January to April, 2008

Instructor: Dr. Annie Smith
Office: L112
Phone: 539-2882
Email: anismith@gprc.ab.ca

T/R 2:30 to 5:30 PM, room L104.

Calendar Description: Performance based study of acting including the analysis and enactment of scripted scenes, and character building techniques.

Course Content:

Students upon completion of this course will:

1. have gained experience working in small groups on scene development using scripted scenes from contemporary plays
2. have learned to analyze scenes
 - a) in terms of the structure of the play
 - b) in terms of language, including vocabulary, syntax, diction, punctuation, rhythm
 - c) in terms of stage directions and spatial relationships
3. have gained experience in character creation, exploring the psychological, emotional, and physical dimensions of the character – actor relationship
4. develop confidence and competence in performance
5. demonstrate a critical understanding of theatre through analysis of live theatre performance
6. develop skill in critical self-reflection of the actor's process.

Grading:

Class Participation: 30% (Includes attendance, warm up, and acting exercises)

Scene Work: 40% (includes individual preparation and group work)

Written work: 20% theatre response papers and 20 % actor's journal

Overdue assignments will be penalized 10% for each day late up to a maximum of 5 (working) days (50%).

More than 10% absenteeism may constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's letter may be required. This is a laboratory course and attendance is mandatory.

Expectations and Requirements:

- Students will work with scene partners respectfully and will be available for rehearsals and coaching outside of class time.
- Students will be fully prepared 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.
- Students will keep a daily journal recording their ideas and questions and script and character development work which will be handed in the class after each scene is performed.
- Students will attend at least 2 live theatre performances and will write response papers for these performances. Dates TBA.
- Students will be given 2 individual evaluation sessions (after the second and fourth scenes) to discuss their progress during the course in lieu of exams.

Course Timeline

There will be four scenes worked on in class. Each successive scene will delve more deeply into techniques of character development and into analysis of the script. As each script has different requirements, the students will explore different ways of acting and of making sense of their character in the context of the scene and the play as a whole.

January
3, 8, 10

Foundational Classes – developing warm-up, exploring the actor’s basic character-building blocks, exploring actor challenges in collaborative work, script analysis techniques.

January
15, 17,
22, 24,
26, 28

First scene assignment – reading scenes and marking shifts. Character development and objectives. Work shopping and presentation.

February
5, 7,
12, 14,
26, 28

Second scene assignment – reading scenes in context of the whole play. Delving deeper into the text. Exploring contrasts and developing range. Work shopping and presentation. *(Reading week is Feb. 18 to 22)*

March
4, 6,
11, 13,
18, 20

Third scene assignment – adding in new layers of exploration in terms of acting styles congruent with the demands of the text. Coaching and presentation. *(The first evaluation session will be held during the week of March 3)*

March
25, 27,
April
1, 3,
8, 10

Fourth scene assignment – preparing for public performance. Coaching and public presentation. *(The second evaluation session will be held during the first week of exams.)*