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# THTR 517.01: Problems in Movement - Stage Combat

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College of Visual and Performing Arts School of Theatre and Dance

**THTR 517 Problems in Movement: STAGE COMBAT Fall 2013**

**MASQUER AND MONTANA THEATRES Mondays and Wednesdays 11:10-1:00**

Dr. Jillian Campana

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-1 and Fridays 10-11

## **THE VICTIM IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL**

**AIM:** The purpose of this course is to introduce the actor to stage fighting techniques as well as safety procedures and methods. In this class the actor will learn basic and intermediate unarmed stage combat movements including fight choreography. The actor will also learn the basic weapons techniques of rapier, dagger and stick/staff fighting.

**OUTCOMES:** *At the end of the semester the actor will:*

- Have a clear awareness of his or her movement proprioception;
- Understand the links between stage and film violence and actor safety;
- Know how to hit a target at a distance;
- Demonstrate a variety of knaps;
- Have gained a proficiency in slaps, falls, rolls, punches, jabs and pulls;
- Understand the basic footwork, cuts and blocks for rapier and dagger;
- Know the basic strikes and blocks for sticks; and,
- Have a knowledge

### **CONTENT:**

Week 1: conditioning work and drills  
Week 2: slap and punch techniques and safety  
Week 3: jabs and punches continued  
Week 4: kicks  
Week 5: falls, rolls and throws  
Week 6: chokes, grabs, joints to wound,  
Week 7: unarmed stage combat fight choreography  
Week 8: rapier  
Week 9: rapier  
Week 10: rapier  
Week 11: rapier and dagger  
Week 12: sticks and staffs  
Week 13-14: fight choreography  
Week 15: performance

**EVALUATION:** *Your semester grade will be based on the following:*

- Active participation and Attitude toward the process, your work and the work of your peers 25%
- Demonstration of skills and techniques taught- safety and believability; 25%
- Conditioning and drill work 25%
- Choreography and scenes 25%

**TEXT:** Bring a clean notebook to take notes in. We spend the last 10 minutes of every class writing.

## **POLICY:**

You must wear appropriate movement attire to class. In addition no jewelry will be allowed and finger nails must be kept short.

No food or drink is allowed in the room. Definitely bring a water bottle.

Take off your shoes immediately upon entering the room. You will set up your own classroom at the top of class. Everyone will have a job and it is expected that these tasks are accomplished by 11:15 each day. At 11:15 we will convene on the perimeter of the mats and begin the work.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php).

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.