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THTR 527.01: Studio Training II

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Recommended Citation

Sweeney, Bernadette, "THTR 527.01: Studio Training II" (2014). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 2270.

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STUDIO II - THTR 527.01 3 Credits, SPRING 2014

Instructor: **DR. BERNADETTE SWEENEY**
Class times: **MW 2.10-4pm**
Space: **Schreiber 124**
Email: **Bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu**
Office: **McGill 212c**
Office Hours: **Tues Thursday 11.00-12.30 and by appointment**

Aim

This course will use elements of alternative theatre and actor training methods to interrogate a contemporary text.

We will work with the later physical work of Stanislavski as a beginning, and go on to consider Michael Chekhov's Psychological Gesture, Grotowski's Poor Theatre, Lecoq, Barba, Bogart, Roy Hart voice and body work and other techniques to expand the actor's range of training techniques, and approaches to text.

We will then work towards a studio staging of selected scenes of our chosen text using chosen strategies from the methodologies studied.

Outcomes

In this setting you will achieve:

- A demonstrated graduate-level knowledge of the techniques covered by the course
- A demonstrated graduate-level knowledge of alternative approaches to a canonical text
- A fuller graduate-level understanding of the potentials of these techniques in the theatre and in actor training
- A fuller experience of the graduate group as a performance ensemble
- An extension to your range of performance articulation and documentation
- The experience of leading the class on a practitioner of your choice

Evaluation

30% for class attendance, performance practice, participation, effort, attitude, and respect

30% presentation of a class on chosen practitioner

40% for end of semester performance work and **10 page written reflection.**

Texts

Actor Training edited by Alison Hodge

Syllabus: (always subject to change)¹

- Weeks 1 introduction, choosing texts
- Weeks 2-3 late Stanislavski and Meyerhold [text work ongoing]
- Weeks 4-5 Michael Chekhov [text work ongoing]
- Weeks 6-7 Brecht [text work ongoing]
- Weeks 8-9 Jerzy Grotowski [text work ongoing]
- Week 10 Spring Break
- Weeks 11-12 Jacques Lecoq and Eugenio Barba [text work ongoing]
- Weeks 13-14 Anne Bogart and Roy Hart/Pan Theatre [text work ongoing]
- Week 15/Exam week showing of text work and techniques

(Final examination times are posted on the Registrar's website at the following

**link: <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/finalsweek2/default.aspx>.
Final exams MUST be held at this time)**

Procedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following School of Theatre & Dance regulations. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing during the class are not permitted. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances. Students are encouraged to wear appropriate movement attire to class. 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.

Attendance and Promptness

Acting is participatory: there is no way to learn without doing, no adequate substitute for a missing partner, and no way to "make up" a missed experience. School policies will be strictly enforced. Only documented absences will be excused. No student may miss more than one week of class. For every subsequent absence, the grade will be lowered a full letter grade.

Furthermore, besides adversely affecting your own learning, arriving late for class

¹ Please refer to the current schedule for relevant dates with regard to adding, dropping, and withdrawing. Please make contact with a colleague or two to find out what has been assigned if you miss class.

disrupts the learning process of your fellow students. Therefore, tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will be considered a complete absence, and every three instances of tardiness—of whatever duration—will equate to one absence. Every acting teacher reserves the right to declare a “no lateness” policy, should the need arise. Briefly put, this means that if the door to the class is shut and you are not inside by the time class begins, you are absent. No exceptions.

If an illness should cause you to miss excessive class time to the point of failing, it is your responsibility to pursue a medical withdrawal so that the course may be attempted again once you have recovered.

Cell Phones

Please turn off your cell phone in class. My phone will be set to vibrate in case an emergency text message should be sent by the University.

School Handbook

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

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

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.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Movement Clothes

Please wear clothing to class that does not restrict movement: tight-fitting and restrictive clothing and anything too revealing (showing skin) will not be acceptable. No hats will be permitted in class. Hooded sweatshirts, hats, and hair that cover the face are detrimental to proper evaluation by the instructor, so remove them before work commences. Please be sure to clean your shoes appropriately before you enter the building to keep our floors as clean as possible. **For this class please be prepared to work in bare feet.)**

Personal Comfort

The study of acting often requires the instructor or peers to touch each other or be in close proximity. We all have bad days when we do not want such contact. Feel free to bow out of a particular exercise if you are having a “Wounded Warrior” day. If deemed necessary by the instructor, any student with such issues will be asked to meet with the head of the Acting/Directing Division and the instructor to discuss how we might better facilitate you through the course.