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THTR 315.01: Physical Performance Skills I

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The University Of Montana

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PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE I

(THTR 315 - Physical Performance Skills I. 3 Credits)

Fall 2017

Instructor: Charlie Oates

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:50, McGill Hall 125

Office hours: By appointment

coates@ucsd.edu

Course description. Physical Performance I focuses on the development of physical skills which are necessary for theatre performance whether it be acting in a conventional play, approaching the heightened styles of Shakespeare or Moliere or generating original material. This will course stress physical and spatial awareness, the disciplines of stillness, simplicity and clarity alongside the freedom of physical abandon. Creativity and ensemble collaboration will be integral to the course from the outset.

Course requirements:

Attendance. It is impossible to gain anything from the material in this class unless you are present. Students are allowed one unexcused absence. Each subsequent unexcused absence can result in a penalty of one third of a grade (ie.—lowering a grade from a B+ to a B). It is also important to be on time. Repeated lateness will be treated as missed classes.

Self- evaluation I. Everyone will write a one page self-evaluation describing your strengths, weaknesses and goals as a mover. This will be due at the second class session. Self-evaluations are a requirement of the course, but not graded.

Self-evaluation II. This will be written at the end of the semester and will assess your progress in dealing with the goals and concerns stated in the first self-evaluation.

Group projects. There will be two group performance projects during the quarter. These assignments will be given to groups formed by the instructor. The first project will be performed Oct. 19 and the second project during the final session. Each project is worth 20 % of your grade. The final session will be held, Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 10:10-12:10.

Brief research project. Each student will pursue a brief research project, which will involve reading a single book (or collection of articles—see me about this) in a specific area of movement theatre or training and complete a 1 to 2 page summary/report on this material. The report is due Oct. 26 and is worth 10% of your grade. Students can choose from one of three primary areas:

1. Approaches to physical performance training such as the Suzuki technique, Meyerhold, LeCoq, Alexander Technique, Viewpoints, etc.
2. The work of a movement theatre company, performer or director who is influential in the field.
3. Approaches to physical performance used in the production of theatre around the world such as Balinese mask performance, heightened style at the Comedie Francaise in Paris or the use of Suzuki's technique in Anne Bogart's SITI Company.

Solo project. Each student will compose a brief solo performance in one of the categories listed below. The piece will be performed in the last week of the semester and will be worth 10% of your grade. The instructions on this piece will be given before the mid-point of the semester. The performances will be held in class on Dec. 5 and 7.

Participation. All students must demonstrate a commitment to the exercises, group projects and individual work during the course. This includes a willingness to contribute to discussions and

critique sessions. A sense of discipline and willingness to experiment is essential. 40% of your grade.

Key Dates:

Sept. 5: Self-evaluation I due.

Oct. 19: Group project I performance.

Oct. 26: Brief research project due.

Dec. 5 and 7: Solo performances.

Dec. 12: Self-evaluation II due.

Dec. 19: Group project II performance.

Grade breakdown:

Group project I --	20%
Group project II --	20%
Brief Research--	10%
Solo project --	10%
Participation --	40%

Please no gum, food, coffee or soft drinks in class. Water is fine.

Injuries or disabilities

Students should alert me if they have chronic injuries or disabilities. Accommodation will be made for these in class.

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.

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://www.umt.edu/vpesa/Dean%20of%20Students/default.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/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

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.

Theatre and Dance Productions this quarter:

As You Like It Oct. 11-15, Oct. 18-22

Dance Up Close Nov. 10 and 11

Peter and the Starcatcher Nov. 24-26, Nov. 29 –Dec. 3

Also:

Raised in the Saddle—Montana Rep Educational Outreach Tour, Sept. 8 and 9

Bare Bait Dance—Lovesong, Oct.20-22