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Winter 1-1-2016

THTR 391.90: ST: Stage Combat

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Recommended Citation

Sweeney, Bernadette, "THTR 391.90: ST: Stage Combat" (2016). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 7468.

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Instructor: **DR. BERNADETTE SWEENEY, GORDON CARPENTER GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER**
Class times: 9.45am – 3.00 pm **M-F JAN 11-15th**
Space: **Masquer Theatre**
Email: **Bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu**
Office: **McGill 212c**

Aim
This course is to train students in knife and unarmed combat for fight sequences in forthcoming production of *Romeo and Juliet* and in their general performance work.

Outcomes
In this setting you will achieve:

- An embodied knowledge of the techniques covered by the course
- An understanding of the challenges of stage combat for a specific performance
- A fuller understanding of the potentials of these techniques in the theatre and in actor training
- A fuller experience of this group as a performance ensemble

Evaluation
100% participation, readiness, and attendance.

Texts
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

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/vpsa/policies/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/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.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.

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.

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.

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 work in gym shoes.**

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 Performance & Practice Program and the instructor to discuss how we might better facilitate you through the course.