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THTR 425.01: Acting VII

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Acting VII - THTR 425.01
3 Credits, Fall 2018

Instructor: **DR. BERNADETTE SWEENEY**
Class times: **MWF 11.00-12.50pm**
Space: **Schreiber 124**
Email: **Bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu**
Office: **McGill 216**
Office Hours: **MON TUES WEDS 1.30-2.30, or by appointment.**

Aim

This course will use elements of a variety of theatre and actor training methods to interrogate a number of contemporary texts.

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, Brecht's epic theatre, Bogart and Brook's voice and body work, Bausch and Pan Theatre 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 a contemporary text using chosen strategies from the methodologies studied.

Outcomes

In this setting you will achieve:

- A demonstrated knowledge of the techniques covered by the course
- A demonstrated knowledge of a variety of approaches to a contemporary text
- A fuller understanding of the potentials of these techniques in the theatre and in actor training
- A fuller experience of the group as a performance ensemble
- An extension to your range of performance articulation and documentation
- A broadened exposure to contemporary theatre scripts.

Evaluation

60% **PROCESS**: class attendance, performance practice, participation, effort, attitude, and respect,

40% **PRODUCT**: of this 20% for end of semester performance work and 20% for a 5 page written reflection/documentation due the end of exam week.

Texts

Editions of *the Routledge Performance Practitioners series*, playscripts and articles on moodle

Syllabus: (always subject to change)¹

- Weeks 1-2 Introduction, late Stanislavski [*Love Song*]
- Weeks 3-4 Michael Chekhov [*Love Song*]
- Weeks 5-6 Brecht [*Mother Courage*]
- Weeks 7-8 Grotowski [*Mother Courage*]
- Week 9-10 Brook and Bogart [selected scenes from four plays]
- Week 11-12 Bausch and Pan Theatre [selected scenes from four plays]
- Weeks 13-14 Scenework, practice and research [selected scenes from four plays]
- Week 15+ 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/>

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. For every unexcused absence, the grade will be lowered a third of a letter grade. If absences persist the student must take the responsibility to withdraw from the class or risk a failing grade.**

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.

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

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

<http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/Dean%20of%20Students/default.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. <http://www.umt.edu/dss/>

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. **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.

