

MOVEMENT FOR THE STAGE II

THRE 4103

Fall Semester 2014

David Chrzanowski

Office: AD 405

Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:30

Thursday 2:30-3:30

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description:

An extensive study of how to better use the actor's physical self effectively and safely throughout the artistic process. Using a variety of movement systems, focus will be placed on the development and conditioning of the actors physical instrument through the practice of full body awareness techniques, exploration of physical energy, ensemble development, and textual application. Emphasis will be placed on bridging the gap between thought and action leading to a more fully realized character, and a better awareness of the student's own movements.

The foundation of the course is founded upon the principals of Michael Chekhov's Technique, and the exploration of physical energies and centering. The work is specifically designed to complete the overall movement sequence as part of the BFA acting track.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to enhance the actor's awareness and understanding of the physical self and the body's role in performance. It will aid in the students overall awareness of their own physical habits and help them learn/develop sustainable movement techniques to allow necessary corrections.

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an intellectual and physical understanding of the physical self.
- Demonstrate a variety of comprehensive warm up techniques.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the role of ensemble in physical theatre.
- Demonstrate a common vocabulary of movement terminology and exercises.

Required Materials:

Yoga mat

Water Bottle

Journal

Company uniform

*Optional- The Library is an invaluable resource for you as actors. The library has on file the DVD from the Michael Chekhov Association. This is essentially a training tool for you and it features classes with many of the world's leading practitioners and teachers so that you may see it in action. Please consider checking it out, and viewing it at some point during the course.

Participation and Discussion:

Students are expected to participate in class through various activities, exercises and discussions with the instructor and their classmates about the experiences explored in class, reading assignments, etc. The instructor will lead the discussions and insure that they remain pertinent to the topics of this class. The aim is to develop a means of discussing the work we've been doing using a common vocabulary. This will facilitate personal physical development through collective awareness and understanding.

Journals:

It is an invaluable personal resource to young artists to use journaling as a means of self-reflection. Each student is required to make entries immediately following class so as to assure the most vivid and articulate personal account of the information gained. Each entry should contain detailed observations of the physical self, and the lesson for the day. Examples include recognizing individual struggles, breakthroughs, questions about techniques, areas of tension, and how a particular exercise 'lands' with you psychology, and physically.

JOURNALS should include entries after every class, and will be dropped off at my office for review (I will leave a box if I am not there) by 6:00 pm: **Thursday October 9th**, **Thursday November 20th**, and **Thursday December 11th**. Journals make up 20% of your final grade. Late journals will be penalized.

Grading Scale:

- A** - came to class, participated with energy and commitment and proved to be a class leader; showed consistent and marked improvement.
- B** - came to class, participated with energy and commitment, kept a positive attitude about the work, showed adequate improvement throughout the semester.
- C**- came to class, participated in the requirements given, turned in assignments with adequate effort, showed some but uneven improvement. Missed more classes than acceptable.
- D**- came to class, showed lack of energy and commitment, occasionally turned in assignments. Had poor attendance, and gave less than adequate effort with little to no improvement.

F- consistently resisted growth and improvement, emanated negativity, pulled down the energy of others, showed poor attendance, and no improvement.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory! Our sequence of work in this class is dependent on building from the previous classes. It is very important to be present physically. However, a total of two (2) absences will be permitted with no grade consequence. Each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by **ONE FULL LETTER GRADE!** If you miss a class, I strongly recommend arranging to sit in on the other section so as to not miss the material.

If you are going to miss more than two classes due to an emergency situation, please let me know so that we can discuss it.

Late arrival to class:

Three (3) late arrivals equal one absence.

Required attire:

Students must wear the “Company Uniform” of black clothing that allows for freedom of movement.

Personal commitment:

The purpose of this class is to train and prepare serious students of acting. It is expected that you will work in a disciplined and professional manner. If you do not know what professional manner is, ask a faculty member. An attitude of courtesy and respect for the work of others must be maintained at all times.

Academic dishonesty:

Oklahoma City University was founded upon strong values and high standards. Honesty in academics is a priority. Students should be advised that cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. Based on its philosophy of education, Oklahoma City University is strongly committed to academic excellence, truth, honesty, and personal integrity. The university expects all students to maintain a high standard of ethics in their academic activities. Hence, any form of academic dishonesty is considered a SERIOUS matter. In this context, forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to cheating on tests, examinations, or other class/laboratory work; involvement in plagiarism (appropriation of another’s work and unacknowledged incorporation of that work as one’s own); collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person); misrepresentation of actions; and falsifying information.

Sanctions for a student’s academic dishonesty vary according to the nature and seriousness of the offense. Sanctions are at the discretion of the academic department

involved within the constraints of the course in which the offense occurred. Sanctions by teachers or relevant university personnel may include but are not limited to requiring a student to redo a class/laboratory assignment; recording an F (failure) for a particular test, examination or class/laboratory assignment that involved the dishonesty; or recording an F (failure) for a final course grade.

THERE WILL BE NO TOLERANCE FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY IN THIS CLASS! Any type of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” for the entire course! So please, do not “share” homework.

*(From pages 40-41 of the 2003-2005 Undergraduate Catalog;
Page 30 of the 2003-2005 Graduate Catalog)*

Disclaimer:

“If you believe that you need accommodations for a documented physical, psychiatric, or learning disability, please contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator at (405) 208-5090 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. The Student Disabilities Services Coordinator is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students a documented Access Plan, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact the Student Disabilities Services Coordinator as soon as possible. To speak with the coordinator about other concerns, such as medical emergencies or arrangements in case of a building evacuation, please make an appointment as soon as possible. Contact Brenda Johnston (bjohnston@okcu.edu), director for Campus Health and Disability Services, located in the Panhellenic Quadrangle, just north of the Methodist Hall dormitory.”

“Preventing Sexual Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds, including federal loans and grants. Title IX also prohibits student-to-student sexual harassment. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk with your professor or with the Title IX Coordinator at 405-208-5075. Visit <http://www.okcu.edu/hr/titleIX/> for more information.”

