

**CAPILANO UNIVERSITY
COURSE OUTLINE**

TERM: FALL 2013	COURSE NO: ACTR 304
INSTRUCTOR: VARIOUS	COURSE NAME: SPECIAL SKILLS FOR THE PERFORMER I
OFFICE: LOCAL:	SECTION: COURSE CREDITS: 3

COURSE FORMAT: The equivalent of 4 hours lecture, 2 hours tutorial per week for 15 weeks

COURSE PREREQUISITES: ACTR 201, ENGL 100

**THEATRE DEPARTMENT
MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Theatre department and its production company are committed to inspire bold, passionate and dedicated exploration of the art of performance and entertainment technology. We embrace the values of collaboration, discovery and the pursuit of excellence through practical skills taught in a variety of professional environments. Our highest aim is to graduate dedicated and ethical artists who will contribute positively to the Canadian and global entertainment industries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

General:

This course will broaden the areas of expertise for Theatre department students by offering instruction in several performance skills specialties. The skills will vary from year to year depending on the needs of the cohort and may be selected from the following topics: Stage Combat, Acting is a Business, Professionalism and Self-promotion, Period Dance, Monologues, Accents and Dialects, Mime and Clowning, Voice-over and Animation, Advanced scene work for TV and Film, Period Text, Audition Skills, Advanced Lifts and Partnering, Specialized Dance skills, Text and Music in Auditioning, Mastery work for Actors, Rhythm and Dance and Self-created work.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course is divided into five modules of three weeks each. Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- understand the practical application of the skill;
- maintain a professional outlook during learning;
- comprehend and exhibit the ethical and global application of the skill.

REQUIRED TEXTS: No specific text is required for this course.

COURSE CONTENT:

Week 1 - 3	Module 1
Week 4- 6	Module 2
Week 7 - 9	Module 3
Week 10 - 12	Module 4
Week 13 – 15	Module 5

EVALUATION PROFILE: Students will be assessed at the end of each module as follows:

- 1. Demonstration and class work in the area of specialty.....5%
- 2. Individual skill improvement in the area of specialty.....5%
- 3. Project work in the area of specialty.....5%
- 4. Professional behaviour.....5%
- Total for module.....20%

Module 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5..... 20% each
TOTAL.....100%

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1. Demonstration during class work is mentored by the instructor and accounts for the major portion of the student - instructor contact time. This consists of students working on individual or group assignments in the studio.
- 2. Demonstration of skill level improvement and the quality of the work of the student in the area of speciality will be assessed.
- 3. Each student will complete and present a project or projects in each specialty area.
- 4. Professional behaviour: The attached *Standards for Professional Behaviour* outlines the Theatre departments’ expectations for each student. Students will be evaluated twice per term to allow for improvement in this area. Students will receive verbal and written feedback on individual progress.

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 77-79%	C+ = 67-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 85-89%	B = 73-76%	C = 63-66%	F = 0-49%
A- = 80-84%	B- = 70-72%	C- = 60-62%	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

- University Policies:*** Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.
- Attendance:*** Students are expected to be on time for classes, and to attend all classes and rehearsals. Attendance is essential for successful completion of the course. Students who miss more than 10% of classes will not receive credit for the course. Students are responsible for all material covered in class, even if absent, including announcements and day-to-day assignments.
- Class Participation:*** Students must come prepared to contribute to all activities in a positive focused manner.
- Outside Productions:*** Involvement in outside productions during the term affects a student's level of commitment and the quality of program work. The quality, and pedagogy of outside productions cannot be guaranteed and may be detrimental to the progress of the student. For these reasons, the Theatre Department will not permit students to be involved with productions, which are not officially part of the program. Students who engage in outside productions will receive 0 for Professional Behaviour and may be asked to leave the program.
- Missed Assignments and Projects:*** Missed assignments and project presentations cannot be made up except in the case of serious illness or accident. An official letter from a doctor must accompany any request.
- Late Assignments:*** Late assignments will be reduced half a letter grade (e.g., B+ to B, B- to C+) per day and will not be accepted after 10 days. Revisions are allowed at the instructor's discretion. Normally, late performance and class presentations will not be accepted.
- Cheating/Plagiarism:*** Please see University calendar for policy, and Writing Centre for information on what plagiarism is and how to incorporate source materials into written assignments.
- Incomplete Grades:*** An "I" grade will be given at the discretion of the instructor only if the student has a reasonable chance of completing the required assignments by the date agreed upon as an extension. Normally, performance and class presentations will not be considered for the "I" grade.
- English Usage:*** Students are expected to write clear sentences, organized and developed paragraphs and essays (where assigned), which conform to the MLA (Modern Language Association) style.

Please see the Writing Centre for help with writing questions and problems.

Course Website:

When the instructor uses a course website, students are expected to write in a respectful manner online. Inappropriate online writing will result in being blocked from the website. Only registered students may participate on a course website. Students may not give their password to another person and no other person may represent the student online.

Audit Status:

Audit students must have the same prerequisites as other students and may be registered if there is space available. All of the participation work agreed upon by the student and the instructor must be completed to receive the audit grade.

Studio/Shop Discipline:

The behaviour that is expected by the department is described in the Theatre Department *Standards for Professional Behaviour* and forms part of the grade for this course. See the attached document.

Students must arrive on time prepared to work. This means students must have assigned work prepared, have necessary materials, and must be dressed appropriately for studio/shop work. Students who are dressed incorrectly will be asked to change.

- *acting classes:* clothing that makes the body neutral; dark-coloured or grey stretchy pants, and dark or grey non-logo t-shirts or sweatshirts. Clothing must cover the entire body.
- *movement, voice, and dance classes:* dance wear
- *all studio classes:* footwear is dance or rehearsal shoes
- *not allowed in studio courses:* jeans, skirts, revealing clothing, outdoor footwear, and jewelry (unless part of a required costume)
- *tech classes:* work clothes that can be covered with dirt, dust or paint; sturdy shoes; work gloves.

Food and Beverages: Not allowed on stage, in the rehearsal hall or studio. Water bottles are permitted. Occasionally, with permission of a stage manager, other beverages in closed containers may be allowed in rehearsals. These spaces are not to be used as lunchrooms.

Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class.

Theatre Department

Standards for Professional Behaviour

Professional behaviour is essential in employment situations in professional theatre, film, and television. Professional behaviour, combined with professional craft skills are the essential components that casting directors, directors, and producers consider when deciding to cast an actor. Acknowledging this, the Theatre Department fosters professional behaviour by evaluating each student according to these standards.

In classes where professional behaviour forms part of the mark, students will be given interim reports in order to adjust behaviour that needs improvement. Students should be aware that directors consider the actor's professional behaviour reputation when casting. These standards indicate the behaviour that is expected in class, in rehearsal and performance situations, and in all interactions in the Theatre Department environment.

The desired behaviours are described below as "outcomes" which are followed by a list of criteria against which the student's behaviour will be measured.

1. Outcome: Creative Integrity

Measurement Criteria: The student demonstrates

- exploration by showing a willingness to do exercises or take direction designed to increase the boundaries of known skills.
- commitment by participating in rigorous rehearsal and performance activities without sacrificing class and studio work.
- self-motivation by integrating and applying knowledge from all disciplines studied to the tasks at hand (e.g., skills learned in Acting class are applied to show rehearsal, skills learned in Movement and Voice classes are applied to Acting class)
- inspiration by bringing new ideas personal work and to the ensemble

2. Outcome: Good Work habits

Measurement Criteria: The student demonstrates

- punctuality
- regular attendance
- proper attire
 - **acting classes:** clothing that makes the body neutral: dark coloured or grey stretchy pants, and dark or grey non-logo t-shirts or sweatshirts. Clothing must cover the entire body.
 - **movement, voice, and dance classes:** dance wear
 - **all studio classes:** footwear is dance or rehearsal shoes
 - **not allowed in studio courses:** jeans, skirts, revealing clothing, outdoor footwear, and jewelry (unless part of a required costume)
 - **tech classes:** work clothes that can be covered with dirt, dust or paint; sturdy shoes; work gloves.
- good personal hygiene
- preparation for the task by arriving with expected equipment/material
- effective listening skills
- effective note taking and rehearsal notation

3. Outcome: The Ability to work in hierarchal situations

Students must work in both hierarchal and collaborative situations and must develop the discretion to know the difference.

Measurement Criteria: The student demonstrates

- respect for authority
- appropriate response to direction
- respect for the work of others in supporting positions
- appropriate contribution to the work
- knowledge and use of the proper chain of authority

4. Outcome: Ability to Work in ensemble groups

Measurement Criteria: The student demonstrates

- reinforcement of others by verbally or nonverbally encouraging and supporting others and giving recognition for contribution
- openness and acceptance of others' ideas
- team work by using constructive means to overcome differences of opinion by searching for common ideas and compromising one's own opinion to complete the task
- active participation by contributing to group work
- peer development by reflecting on the work of others and offering sensitive, constructive observation and challenges when called upon
- leadership by proposing goals and tasks, initiating discussion and keeping the group focussed and also leadership by example
- sensitivity to stigmas, multiculturalism, gender
- positive contribution to the energy of the ensemble

The student does not demonstrate:

- aggression, verbal or nonverbal, to behaviour perceived to be hostile or derogatory
- dominating behaviour, by assuming status speaking loudest and most frequently and interrupting
- distracting behaviour which draws attention from the task
- withdrawing behaviour
- defensiveness by overreacting to another member's challenge

5. Outcome: Successful Time Management

Measurement Criteria: The student

- reads and follows schedules
- meets rehearsal deadlines such as line memorization
- has an organized approach to accomplishing tasks
- accomplishes tasks, assignments and projects on time
- respects the time of others by attending scheduled appointments, meetings, and rehearsals
- responds positively under high pressure demands

6. Outcome: Self-awareness, Self-care, Self-learning

Measurement Criteria: The student demonstrates

- a reflective practice which allows the student to be aware of the student's own competence
- an awareness of internal and external factors in one's personal life and how they can affect professional performance
- responsibility toward physical well being
- self motivation to identify gaps in one's own knowledge, skills and abilities, and to request assistance from the appropriate member of the department
- the ability to accept, evaluate and respond appropriately to professional criticism

7. Outcome: Ethical standards

Measurement Criteria: The student demonstrates

- honesty
- accountability
- integrity
- commitment
- respect for co-workers
- respect for privacy, confidentiality

8. Outcome: Compliance with Safety Regulations and Respect of Work Space, Equipment & Materials

This refers to technical equipment associated with theatre and film production as well as classroom materials, masks, costumes, set pieces and properties. It also refers to the Performing Arts Theatre, shop spaces and Rehearsal Hall, The Arbutus Studio, and their immediate environments.

Measurement Criteria: The student demonstrates

- compliance with all safety regulations in the workplace
- respect for equipment
 - by gaining permission to use restricted equipment
 - by learning the safe operation of equipment
 - by following directions when instructed on the use of equipment & materials
 - by respecting its value
 - by locking up appropriate equipment
 - by returning all borrowed materials
- respect for the work spaces
 - by helping to keep the workspace safe and clean
 - by following department policies on food and beverages
 - "Food and beverages are not allowed in the Performing Arts Theatre, in the rehearsal hall or Arbutus Studio. Water bottles are permitted. Occasionally, with permission of a stage manager, other beverages in closed containers may be allowed in rehearsals. These spaces are not to be used as lunchrooms."