

THEA 4326

Stage Combat

Syllabus - Fall 2017

PAC 188

T/TH 12:30-1:50

Professor: Kevin Crouch
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Office Hours: MWF by appointment

Note: Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of Kevin Crouch.

Course Description: This course will focus on specific stage combat disciplines with compulsory techniques. Students will be exposed to unarmed combat, rapier and dagger, and other forms of violence found on stage and film. Each stage combat technique will be taught for safety, theatrical commitment and believability within a dramatic context. Credit 3 hours.

Course Objective: Effectively use the body in hand to hand combat techniques. Employ a variety of conditioning and centering exercises as they relate to the discipline. Master the skills identified as the basics of unarmed stage combat by the Society of American Fight Directors. Master the skills identified as the basics of rapier and dagger combat by the Society of American Fight Directors(SAFD). Competently tell a story on stage through the use of stage violence.

Classroom Attire: Please wear comfortable, non-restrictive clothing, preferably dance or yoga attire. Form fitting is always better. We will be bending and stretching in all directions. Skirts and jeans are a bad idea. Footwear: MUST BE CLOSED TOE W/TRACTION. Students without proper footwear will not be allowed to participate in class. Please remove all jewelry. Keep hair pulled back off of your face. **A water bottle is always smart.** Please eat before class, but NOT DURING. No food please.

Classroom Demeanor: This is NOT a lecture class. We learn by doing. Come to class focused and ready to move, interact, discuss and perform. You will be asked to work alone as well as with others. **NO CELL PHONES, TABLETS, OR COMPUTERS IN CLASS. If you are caught texting or the like in class, your grade will be reduced. Please don't. No Classroom Visitors.**

If a cellphone rings, dings, etc. during class, EVERYONE does 20 push-ups. SILENCE YOUR PHONES! If my phone goes off, I do 20 push-ups.

The classroom is a space in which many ideas and opinions are expressed and discussed. I ask that all students show respect, sensitivity, and discretion with each other and the topics that may be discussed in the classroom.

Required Reading: No Textbook required.

The following texts may prove helpful or interesting to the student:

Stage Fighting: A Practical Guide by Jonathan Howell

Actors on Guard by Dale Anthony Girard

Fighting Words: A Combat Glossary by David Blixt

Required Supplies: One pair of leather gloves. Gauntlets are best but expensive, batting gloves/work gloves are perfectly acceptable.

Attendance Policy: The only way to learn is to be present and active in class. I do take roll. Everyone gets one free absence. Use it wisely. Three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by an entire letter (i.e., A will become B, etc.) Six or more absences will be an automatic F. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy three times, that equals one absence. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

Grade Breakdown	Points
Class Participation	100
Unarmed Skills	200
Rapier Skills	200
Unarmed Scene	200
Rapier Scene	300
	1000 TOTAL

GRADING SCALE	
900-1000 pts	— A
800-899 pts	— B
700-799 pts	— C
600-699 pts	— D
599 & below	— F

Participation (100 pts): The only way to learn is to be present and active in class. I do take roll and attendance/class participation are parts of your final grade. However showing up won't cut it. You will need to take an active role in the class exercises, discussions, and be a generous classmate. (4 pts per class)

Unarmed Skills (200pts): You will be asked to demonstrate proper technique for Unarmed combat as taught by the SAFD. Proper technique will include terms, footwork, audience perspective, and safety. Details of the assignment will be given.

Rapier Skills (200pts): You will be asked to demonstrate proper technique for Single Sword/Rapier & Dagger combat as taught by the SAFD. Proper technique will include terms, footwork, audience perspective, and safety. Details of the assignment will be given.

Unarmed Scene (200pts Total, 150pts Scene & 50pts Choreography): You will partner up with a classmate of your choice and together you will select a scene from a theatre that

contains unarmed violence. After your scene is approved, you will work with your classmate on the scene both inside and outside of the classroom. You will work with your instructor to apply choreography taught by instructor to scene. You will present the scene memorized, rehearsed, and staged for the class. You will also turn in written choreography. Details of the assignment will be given.

Unarmed Scene (300pts Total, 250pts Scene & 50pts Choreography): You will partner up with a classmate of your choice and together you will select a scene from a theatre that contains violence. After your scene is approved, you will work with your classmate on the scene both inside and outside of the classroom. You will work with your instructor to apply choreography taught by instructor to scene. You will present the scene memorized, rehearsed, and staged for the class. There will be a performance date with outside members of the class (faculty, staff, students) who will observe the final scenes. You will also turn in written choreography. Details of the assignment will be given.

***** A Note about Scene Work*****

Much of your grade will be based on partner work. You must be available to work with a partner in the rehearsal process, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. If you are unavailable to work with your partner, your grade will be lowered. Please make an effort to meet and rehearse your scene. You will be thankful you did. If you do not show up on the day when your scene is due to go up, you will be given an automatic ZERO for your scene. Your partner will not be penalized. Scenes are presented to the class and then reworked. Your grade is based on both the initial and the reworked performance.

If the student is unable to complete course requirements, the student's grade will reflect this.

Semester Calendar Overview:

Reminder: Syllabus and Calendar is subject change at the discretion of Kevin Crouch.

TBD

Finals Period: 4326.01: Dec 5th 1pm-3pm

Important Dates:

**SHSU Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre Productions Schedule
(Reserve Your Tickets at GPAC Box Office or Online)**

Silent Sky

September 27th – September 30, 2017

The Government Inspector

October 11th – October 14th, 2017

Oklahoma!

November 15th – November 18th, 2017

NO CLASS : September 7th

Last day to drop full-semester fall course without a grade of "Q" is Friday, September 8th.

Academic Honesty: The nature of a performance class encourages co-operation and collaboration between acting partners. The sharing of information and ideas is very appropriate. What violates the area of academic honesty is asking someone else to write show response for you or not attending one of the required productions, renting the movie and writing responses off the movie. The area of academic honesty is also violated when one turns in another individuals research, character journals or character analysis and claim it as one's own. Any student found guilty of plagiarism or dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Anyone who engages in this type of behavior runs the risk of receiving a zero on the assignment.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted,

plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/index.html>

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

Religious Holidays Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>