

THEA 2113-101: Movement I
Fall 2024

Tuesday/Thursday
9:30-10:50 AM
Location: B118

Instructor:

Professor RJ Magee

Email:

richard.magee@msutexas.edu

Office: B107

Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays,

Fridays:

11 AM – 12 PM

Tuesdays, Thursdays: 1-2 PM

Changes in the course syllabus, procedures, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes as they occur. Continued enrollment in the course constitutes a formal agreement to abide by all policies and procedures that are outlined in the syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Emphasis is placed on developing the actor's understanding of his/her body as an instrument of expression. Movement is not just for "theatre majors" or those students who want to develop a career in acting. Movement training is for everyone! The course will incorporate a variety of techniques including, but not limited to, Williamson, Laban, Chekhov, and Alexander.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To provide the student, through participation and exercises, an understanding and appreciation of the body and its movement. Students will:

- Explore techniques to release tension and identify habitual movement patterns
- Understand the connection between breath and movement, and how the creative process of acting is effected
- Increase freedom of movement and the ability to move within scene work
- Develop kinesthetic skills as they apply to performance by the use of time, weight, space, and direction
- Use constructive criticism to further develop an acting role
- Understand these basic movement principles and how to apply them to the student's choice of career or lifestyle

CLASS PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES:

Wear loose, non-restrictive clothing to ensure freedom of movement.

You must be ready to work, physically and mentally, at the start of the class.

Turn off your cell phones. No texting. If caught with your phone out, you will be marked absent and receive no points for the day.

No electronics of any kind may be used for note-taking.

No eating is allowed in class. You may use beverages in sealed containers.

You must respect the space, your fellow classmates, the professor, and yourself at all times in order to ensure a safe environment. Nothing Less will be tolerated.

*If you cannot respect yourself, the space and others, refrain from disruptive behavior, or otherwise follow the guidelines, you will be asked to leave at the discretion of the instructor and will be marked absent for the day.

TEXTS:

No textbooks are required for this class. Appropriate, non-restricted clothing is required for all class sessions.

Other materials:

Handouts provided by instructor

Monologues and scenes from scripts, provided by instructor

GENERAL NOTES:

1. No food or drinks allowed in class except bottled water.
2. Turn all electronic devices OFF.
3. Please do not bring a laptop to class in order to take notes. I promise you that, when it comes to note taking, you will retain more of this course's content via the mind/body connection of manually writing out your notes via the traditional method of a pen (or pencil) and paper.
4. Wear comfortable clothing suitable for movement and floor work. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will not be able to take part in class and it will affect your participation grade.
5. All written assignments must be typed and formatted with the following guidelines:
 - a. Plain white paper / 8.5 x 11
 - b. 1" margins on all four sides
 - c. Double-spaced
 - d. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font
 - e. Papers less than the required length will lose points.
6. Hate speech, of any form, is not allowed in the course at any time.
7. Full costumes and realistic props are not required for monologues and scenes. However, you are to dress appropriately for a role. For example, a lawyer delivering a final summation in court would not deliver it in sweats and a t-shirt. You will find that dressing appropriately and having a prop to represent important objects in a scene or monologue will help you "get into character." Points will be deducted from the scores of monologues and scenes for inappropriate dress or a lack of necessary props.
8. When attending theatre performances and class: **arrive on time**, be attentive, be quiet, and be respectful.

Various hand-outs, reading assignments, monologues, and scripts will also be assigned and provided throughout the semester. However, each performer will primarily select his or her own material for presentation. As an audience member you will respect those selections and the creative choices made by your classmates.

Class participation	25 points
Short story/monologue performance	5 points
Copy of monologue on D2L	5 points
1 st Monologue performance	10 points
Movement Presentation	15 points
Copy of scene on D2L	5 points
Copy of 2 nd monologue on D2L	5 points
Scene performance	10 points
Final 2 nd Monologue performance	10 points
Movement for camera project	10 points
TOTAL	100 points

By the end of every class period, you must be prepared to write down one question or comment about the work that we have done in class that day. These will either be turned into me at the conclusion of class or they will be shared out loud. These count toward your participation grade.

LATE WORK POLICY:

Late work is only accepted until midnight on the date that the assignment is due and points will be deducted per the instructor's discretion.

Grading Scale

1000-934	A
933-900	A-
899-867	B+
866-834	B
833-800	B-
799-767	C+
766-734	C
733-700	C-
699-667	D+
666-634	D
633-600	D-
599-0	F

- **Projects:**
 - **1) Short Story and monologue/poem/songologue.** You will tell a short story (up to 2-3 minutes) on any theme or topic that you would like. The story will (preferably) be a true story from your past. Remember to include a beginning, a middle, and an ending for your story. You will tell the story in the first person. You will also perform a brief (1 minute) monologue, poem, or songologue. You will then perform the short story and the monologue AGAIN as a movement piece (without words/dialogue)
 - **2) 1st Monologue.** You will select, memorize & prepare a 60 second (minimum) monologue from a television show, movie, or play of your choice. The spoken dialogue must be 100% accompanied by movement of some kind. You will perform in front of the class, receive direction/critique, revise and return for a final graded performance. You are required to upload a digital copy of your monologue to D2L on or before the date when the selection is finalized. Additionally, you must choose a piece of visual art to serve as inspiration for your monologue's movement components. This visual reference must be presented to the class on your table work day.
 - **3) Presentation.** In pairs, you formally present on the techniques, history, and pedagogies of a movement practitioner such as Laban, Alexander, or Chekhov.
 - **4) Scene.** You will memorize, block, and rehearse a 2-3 minute scene or group performance piece which will include a visual reference. The spoken dialogue (if there is any) must be 100% accompanied by movement of some kind. You will perform in front of the class, receive direction/critique, revise, and return for a final graded performance. The scene partners will be assigned. The parameters for the assignment are very open and more details are TBA.
 - **5) Final: 2nd Monologue.** You will choose a monologue **from a published play** to perform as your final. The spoken dialogue must be 100% accompanied by movement of some kind. The monologue must be 90 seconds in length (minimum). You are required to upload a copy of your monologue to Canvas on or before the date when the selection is finalized. Additionally, you must choose a piece of visual art to serve as inspiration for your monologue's movement components. This visual reference must be presented to the class on your workshop day.
 - **6) Short Movement Film.** More info soon...

Attendance/ Participation/ In-Class Exercises: Regular attendance is mandatory and punctuality is of the utmost importance in the Theatre.

You are allowed 2 unexcused absences without penalty. **After three unexcused absences (10% of the course), your final grade will drop by one letter grade.** Your final grade will continue to drop by one letter grade after each subsequent absence.

Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of every class. If you expect to be more than 10 minutes late do not come to class. It is disruptive to your classmates.

Two tardies will equal one absence. Only true, honest, documented medical, and family emergencies are acceptable excused absences at the discretion of the Instructor.

GENERAL NOTES:

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES:

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may record performances, from time to time, for legitimate class reasons. Students may record their own performances, with instructor approval. If you are uncomfortable having your performances recorded, please let the instructor know.

STUDENT HANDBOOK, ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

COLLEGE POLICIES, CAMPUS CARRY RULES/POLICIES:

Participation in laboratory classes (acting, voice, movement) often requires students to wear yoga, movement, or period style clothes/costumes. These types of garments may be thin of form fitting which may make concealed carry of a firearm difficult if not impossible. In addition, students are often required to make physical contact with other students while learning exercises, choreography and/or physical positioning within special technique work. This required physical contact may also make concealment of a firearm difficult. While concealed carry is not prohibited in laboratory style class, students are reminded that intentional display of a firearm may result in criminal and/or civil penalties and unintentional display of a firearm is a violation of university policies and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the program and university. Students should factor the above in their decision as to whether or not to conceal carry in any theatre laboratory class.

SAFE ZONE STATEMENT:

The professor considers this classroom (or whatever space this class is meeting) to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being –regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom/meeting location a safe environment.

CLASS SCHEDULE
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Fall 2024

Instructor: Professor Richard Magee
Class schedule is SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Date	Assignment Due
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WEEK ONE	
<u>Aug 27th</u>	Syllabus
<u>Aug 29th</u>	Movement Exercises
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WEEK TWO	
<u>Sept 3rd</u>	First Day of Short Stories/Monologues (with movement) Movement Exercises Short Story and Monologue Due (Group 1)
<u>Sept 5th</u>	Second Day of Short Stories/Monologues (with movement) Movement Exercises Short Story and Monologue Due (Group 2) Potential theatre library visit
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WEEK THREE	
<u>Sept 10th</u>	Begin reading Monologues (Table Work) Choice of 1st Monologue Due Upload Selection to D2L by 9:30 AM Artistic inspiration due via D2L
<u>Sept 12th</u>	Continue reading Monologues (Table Work)
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WEEK FOUR	
<u>Sept 17th</u>	Group 1 begins working Monologues 'off book' Monologue Memorization Deadline (Group 1)
<u>Sept 19th</u>	Group 2 begins working Monologues 'off book' Monologue Memorization Deadline (Group 2)
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WEEK FIVE	
<u>Sept 24th</u>	Group 1 continues working Monologues 'off book'
<u>Sept 26th</u>	Group 2 continues working Monologues 'off book'

WEEK SIX

Oct 1st Final monologue performances, discussion

Oct 3rd Movement Presentations (Group 1) **Movement Presentations due (Group 1)**

WEEK SEVEN

Oct 8th Movement Presentations (Group 2) **Movement Presentations due (Group 2)**

Oct 10th Begin table work (Group 1) **Scene Selection Due**
Upload selection to D2L by 9:30 AM
Artistic inspiration due via D2L

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 15th Continue table work (Group 2)

Oct 17th Movement Presentations (Group 3) **Movement Presentations due (Group 3)**

WEEK NINE

Oct 22nd Movement Presentations (Group 4) **Movement Presentations due (Group 4)**

Oct 24th Scene Workshop (Groups 1)
Scene Memorization Deadline (Group 1)

WEEK TEN

Oct 29th Scene Workshop (Group 2) **Scene Memorization Deadline (Group 2)**

Oct 31st Scene Workshop (Group 1)

WEEK ELEVEN

Nov 5th Scene Workshop (Group 2)

Nov 7th Final scene performances

WEEK TWELVE

Nov 12th Group 1 monologue workshop (memorized)
Choice of 2nd Monologue Due
Upload Selection to D2L by 9:30 AM
Monologue Memorization Deadline
(Group 1)
Artistic inspiration due via D2L

Nov 14th Groups 2 monologue workshop (memorized)
Monologue Memorization Deadline
(Group 2)

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 19th Groups 1 and 2 monologue workshops (memorized)

Nov 21st Monologue performances

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 26th TBA/catch up/potential guest

Nov 28th Thanksgiving, no class

WEEK FIFTEEN

Dec 3rd TBA/Movement film work time/potential guest

Dec 5th TBA/Movement film work time/potential guest/final class reflection

WEEK SIXTEEN

Final Exam Date and time: TBA
Short film due
Final screening of films