Fundamentals of Movement and Dance for Theatre
TH 4381-020 | Fall 2017

“Living, the whole body carries its meaning and tells its own story, standing, sitting, walking, awake or asleep. Guilt, craft, vision, meanness, ecstasy, and lure appear in certain arrangements of the arms, hands, shoulders, neck, head, and legs. Thus, the stuff of ages goes into man’s thinking, is interpreted and comes out in movement and posture again.”
-Mabel Ellsworth Todd

Instructor Information
Ashley Meyer, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate (ABD)
Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu
Office: Carr EFA | Room 160 | Direct line: 325.486.6194
Office Hours: | 12:00PM-2:50PM M/W, 11:00-3:00 T/TH, 11:00-1:00 F, or by appointment

Course Meeting Information
Mondays and Wednesdays | 3:00-4:45PM | Carr E/FA 241A

Required Text
Beyond Words | Carol-Lynn Moore and Kaoru Yamamoto | 2nd Edition | Routledge

Required Additional Materials
Yoga mat. We will be doing a lot of work on the floor, and this is for your physical safety and comfort. Appropriate dress. Always dress as you would for the gym or a yoga or dance class (no skirts, sandals, tight jeans - nothing physically restrictive). Failure to dress appropriately for this class will result in dismissal for the class and the student will be counted as absent. You may wear jazz or tennis shoes for the dance portion of the class, but students must be barefoot for the movement portion of every class-no exceptions.

Course Description
Practice and principles of the fundamentals of movement and dance for the actor. Basic actor movement, jazz and ballroom dance will be explored. Provides student with a brief history, basic techniques, and experience relevant to an understanding of movement and dance. Experience dance and movement, discussion, and write about musical theatre performances.

Course Content
This course is a study and application of the various activities and methods of dance and movement as they relate to theatrical practice. It includes discussions and lectures designed to analyze and evaluate all aspects of physical movement as pertaining to acting.

Attendance at representative plays is required.

Required Theatre Performances
Attendance is required for ASU Theatre’s fall musical production.

My Fair Lady music by Frederick Loewe, lyrics and book by Alan Jay Lerner | ASU Modular Theatre
November 29-December 2 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM on December 2 and December 3
December 6-December 9 | 8:00PM Nightly | 2:00PM on December 9

Box Office • Ticketing Information
Modular, ASU Auditorium, and Studio Theatre Productions:
Angelo State University Theatre | Carr Education-Fine Arts Building, 2602 Dena Dr, San Angelo, TX 76904

Box Office:
325-942-2000
All ASU students receive free admission for plays and musicals. Dinner theatre productions are $12.50 for students.
Sneak Peek Performances:
One free sneak peek performance will be available for students for each show, the night before “opening night.”

* A sold-out performance is not an excuse for not seeing a production. Please obtain tickets ahead of time.

Course Specific Expected Learning Outcomes
* Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
  1. Demonstrate an understanding of basic dance terminology.
  2. Discuss important theories and histories relating to dance and movement for the theatre.
  3. Execute basic dance technique
  4. Articulate and execute visual storytelling processes involving the body.
  5. Develop a stronger self-awareness and sensory experience; student will learn to assess movement as it pertains to self and character.
  6. Practice physical script analysis; student will translate the intellectual and emotional into the physical.
  7. Articulate and practice processes of relaxation to improve concentration and imagination.
  8. Demonstrate a mastery of multiple basic physical movement techniques.
  9. Analyze movement and physical storytelling.
  10. Read, analyze and apply written materials to new situations.

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes
* This course will use a “point system” for all work, including test and participation. There are 1000 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Assignments</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musical Theatre Performance Report</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Storytelling Performance</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Rehearsals</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project Handout</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Theatre Choreography</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Scene Performance</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The methods of assessment described below are followed by the correlating outcomes that they access.

1) **Play Report:** Worth fifty (50) points. The play report will be written about the musical theatre productions produced this semester at Angelo State University. All written assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical and spelling errors, double spaced, one-inch margins on all sides and twelve-point font Times New Roman. You will be given a handout on the required content for the critiques. *(Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10)*

2) **Visual Storytelling Performance:** Students will perform a 2-3 minute silent scene depicting an important event in their lives and how it personally affected them (Handouts to follow.) *(Outcomes 4, 5, 6, 8, 9)*

3) **Rehearsals in Class:** Students will perform and observe in-class rehearsals of their final scenes as guided practice in class. *(Outcomes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)*

4) **Midterm Jazz Routine:** Students will perform a short jazz routine with choreography learned in class and demonstrate an understanding of anatomy and terminology relating to dance. (Handouts to follow.) *(Outcomes 1, 3)*

5) **Group Project:** Worth two hundred fifty (250) points including the handout. The purpose of this project is that students will work together to actively learn about various dancers and musical theatre choreographers and share that information with the class in a professional presentation. The class will be divided into groups and each group will choose an artist to research from a list provided by the instructor. Students will create informational handouts for their classmates to accompany their presentation. Additional information concerning this project will come later in the semester. *(Outcomes 2, 5, 10)*
6) **Musical Theatre Choreography Project:** Students will perform a short routine (2-3 minutes) they create in small groups using choreography inspired by the artists explored in the group project presentations. (Handouts to follow.) *(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 10)*

7) **Final Scene Performance:** Students will perform a nonverbal interpretation of a scripted scene from traditional theatre in pairs assigned by the instructor. (Handouts to follow.) *(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)*

8) **Participation/Discussion/In-Class Assignments:** Students will be given assignments throughout the semester. Students are expected to participate in class, including asking questions, answering questions and initiating classroom discussion, and participating fully in all classroom activities with a positive attitude. If your final point count is between two grades, participation will be taken into account to raising or lowering the grade. *(Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)*

**Grading**

Grades will be calculated using a 1000-point scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-970</td>
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<tr>
<td>969-920</td>
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<tr>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>889-850</td>
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**Content Disclosure**

Courses within the Department usually deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

**Physical Contact Policy**

In drama, the actor becomes a medium as well as a creator of art. Stage life, which may involve actions such as touching, laughing, crying, kissing, dancing, flirting, threatening, dueling, and/or fighting, is not something the actor merely mimics, but necessarily experiences in and with his or her own body and mind. The ancient maxim of Horace, ‘in order to move the audience, the actor must first be moved himself,’ is as valid today as when Horace stated it two thousand years ago: stage performance involves not only the externals of body and voice, but also the internals of longings and emotions. Effective teaching in the drama disciplines, therefore, may often involve physical and/or emotional interventions that can be demonstrative, suggestive, and/or challenging. This has been true as long as theatre has existed.

**Electronics Policy**

Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom or during any class activity. Phones and other electronic devices are to be turned completely off (not just silenced) the moment you enter the studio and must remain off during the class period. Likewise, text messaging is prohibited in the classroom or during any class activity. Students utilizing the phone or messaging during class will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an absence for the day. Messaging during an exam will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Computers and Ipads can be used in class for the purpose of note
taking and research. Students misusing their computers (i.e. being on-line, or on social media) will lose their computer privileges for the duration of the course. Be physically and mentally present.

Course Work Load
According to the Angelo State University guidelines, students are expected to spend approximately two-three hours in preparation for each hour of lecture. The instructor anticipates that out-of-class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students.

Late Work: Because of the pacing of this course and performance-based nature of the work, performances, peer critiques, and exercises cannot be made up. Play reports will lose a letter grade for every day that one of them is turned in late. Pop reading quizzes must be made up within one week of missing a pop quiz.

Attendance Policy
Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed two (2) absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. General rule: If you arrive to class after attendance has been taken, you are tardy. Pop quizzes and tests must be made up within one week of the original date of the assignment. Performances and in-class rehearsals cannot be made up barring a medical emergency at the discretion of the instructor.

Medical emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Doctor’s appointments subsequent to an illness or injury will NOT count as an excused absence.

Please note: The only university-recognized excused absences are participation in official university business or for bona fide religious holy days. Participation in official university business must be documented by written notice from sponsoring faculty or staff member at least one week prior to the event.

Observance of a Religious Holy Day
Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

ADA Statement
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Office of Student Services at (325) 942-2191, Student Life Office, room 112 if you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising
The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a Faculty Adviser as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication, Mass Media, or Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU’s Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at (325) 942-2710.

Grade Appeal Process (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances)
A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/ommanuel/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-
Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc
<http://www.angelo.edu/ommanuel/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc>
Honor Code Policy
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

Civility In the Classroom
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers, cellular phones or other text messaging devices, beepers, eating or drinking (except for water bottles), making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom.

In instances where a student is proved to be a distraction, the student will lose five points from their grade. Second occurrence will result in ten points removed. On the third occurrence, the student will be removed permanently from the classroom.

Additionally, in the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting.

In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class.

If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Dean of Students office.

Sexual Harassment
This course will observe the university’s guidelines for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because theatre imitates human living, and because sexuality is part of life, some materials in this course may deal with sexual behaviors, situations and language. Those who are easily offended by such subject matter may want to reconsider taking this course.
Promises from your instructor:

You will learn how to utilize dance and movement techniques in your respective acting careers.

You will be able to manage your nerves with greater success.

You will gain stronger control and awareness of your physical body in acting.

You will learn more about your physical and emotional habits and how those manifest physically.

You will be pushed as appropriate to your current skill level.

You will learn tools necessary to becoming a more effective communicator and actor.

I will always be available to you.

I will create a safe environment for you to achieve each of these things.

I will provide you with the tools you need to succeed.

Ashley Meyer
Fall 2017 Syllabus Contract
Return this signed page to the instructor
Due August 30th

I__________________________have read the 4381.020 syllabus and understand its contents. I will fulfill the requirements necessary for the grade I want.

____________________
Student Name

____________________  _______________________
Student Signature       Date