

THEA 1304 Movement I

Instruction introduces physical warm-up strategies and exercises designed to improve tension release and free movement. The process of the individual student is emphasized as students begin to develop flexibility, balance and overall efficient body use for the stage.

MW 9:00-10:20 | Fox Fine Arts Center - Music M404

Rebecca Mayer, MFA - Assistant Professor of Instruction

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Please allow 48 hours excluding weekends for a response to email.

Office: Prospect Hall, Room 307

Office Hours: 11:00-11:50 by appointment; other times by appointment.

Do not attempt to contact instructor on social media.

Required materials:

Students need appropriate attire for this class (see dress code) plus a dedicated notebook and pencil.

Students need access to Blackboard outside of class meeting times in order to utilize instructional materials and submit assignments. While a personal computer is recommended for this use, the computers available on campus will be sufficient as the Blackboard content will not be used during class times.

Course objectives and content:

The content introduced in this course will be organized into three Pillars of Instruction. All studio work, online assignments, and assessments will be characterized by one or more of these pillars.

1. **Conditioning (C):** Understanding basic anatomy and physiology; developing strength, flexibility, awareness, and confidence. Expanding the body's potential and availability for performing effectively in a variety of styles.
2. **Improvisation (I):** Exploration of the body through physically, intellectually, and emotionally challenging exercises. Development of spatial awareness and kinesthetic response as well as skills for building physical relationships within theatrical spaces.
3. **Application (A):** Analysis of physical technique as applied to a variety of acting styles. Creation of personal processes for warming up, rehearsing, and preparing roles for audition, rehearsal, and performance. Introduction to the process of building physicality for various styles of theatre including musicals, children's theatre, and period plays.

Grading:

Attendance: Up to 170 points possible (see Attendance Policy)

Written/online assignments: 150 points possible

Assessment #1: 100 points possible

Assessment #2: 100 points possible

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

All written assignments must be completed by each student individually and independently. Suspicion that students have colluded on written assignments may lead to investigation of plagiarism. Proof that students have colluded on written assignments will result in zero (0) points for the assignment.

Late Work:

Requests for leniency on due dates and late work are subject to instructor discretion. In order for a due date extension to be granted, the student must contact the instructor via email *before* the day and time that the assignment is due. Please remember to allow 48 hours for instructor response excluding weekends.

Tentative Schedule:

Date(s)	In Studio	Online
8/22, 8/24	Introductions Syllabus Expectations Three-part warmup (I) The core (C) Composition #1 (A)	Syllabus acceptance The core (C)
8/29, 8/31	Spine awareness (C) Composition #1 (A)	The spine (C)
9/7	Pelvis awareness (C) Composition #1 (A)	The pelvis (C)
9/12, 9/14	The shoulder girdle (C) Viewpoints (I)	The shoulder girdle (C) Viewpoints (I)
9/19, 9/21	Legs and feet (C) Viewpoints (I)	Legs and feet (C)
9/26, 9/28	Erase the face (I)	TBD
10/3, 10/5	TBD	TBD
10/10, 10/12	Animal work (I)	
10/17, 10/19	Assessment #1: Animal monologue (A)	Animal monologue: Written assignment (A)
10/24, 10/26	Assessment #1: Animal monologue (A)	
10/31, 11/2	Discussion: <i>Borderline</i> (A)	
11/7, 11/9	Review Viewpoints (I)	
11/14, 11/16	Contact improvisation (I)	
11/21, 11/23	Building a personal warmup (A)	
11/28, 11/30	Discussion: <i>Zoot Suit</i> (A) Building a personal warmup (A)	Personal warmup: Written assignment (A)
Final Exam Period	Assessment #2: Personal warmup (A)	Final reflection (A)

Attendance Policy:

At each class meeting, sign into the attendance book *when you are ready to remain in the studio and are prepared to work*. If you sign in and then leave, your name will be crossed out and you will have to sign in again.

A line will be drawn after class starts. If you arrive late, sign in below the line.

Sign in for yourself only.

The attendance policy for this course also requires that you attend both of the Department of Theatre and Dance's productions during the fall semester. During class, we will have structured discussions relevant to this course. If you participate in either production as a performer, designer, or technician, you will be assigned the ten available points and will participate in class discussions from the perspective of your experience on the inside.

Attendance Grading (Class Meetings):

A point value between -2 and 5 will be assigned for each class meeting.

5 points: Arrive on time (before class starts) and ready to work at the start of class, stay in class throughout (subject to instructor discretion), keep phone put away.

5 points: Use one of two personal days by emailing instructor prior to the start of class.

4 points: Arrive late (after line is drawn), stay in class throughout, keep phone put away.

1 point: No attendance after both personal days are utilized; email instructor prior to the start of class.

1 point: Use of phone during class.

1 point: Asked to leave class at instructor discretion.

-2 points: No attendance; no email to instructor prior to start of class.

Additional personal days may be granted at instructor discretion and may include days when students are required by the University or the Department to attend events or work elsewhere.

Attendance Grading (Performances):

Ten points will be assigned for each performance you attend.

Note: Effective Fall 2022, the Department of Theatre and Dance is implementing a new system for tracking attendance at performances. Please be prepared to follow new instructions throughout the semester.

Exceptions to Attendance Policy:

Exceptions to the attendance policy are subject to instructor discretion and are not guaranteed. In some circumstances, you may be able to substitute class attendance by attending an additional performance in the community or at the UTEP Dinner Theatre. In the event that exceptions are granted, they will be based on student's track record and ability to communicate clearly and ahead of or during unusual circumstances. Remember: You have two personal days, and in order to use them you must email the instructor prior to the start of class.

Dress Code:

Wear clean, comfortable clothes that allow for movement and stretching.

Avoid bulky clothing that could cause trip hazards or impede movement.

No hate speech.

Avoid printed text and pictures.

Bare feet will be required for some activities. Prepare to wear athletic or dance shoes at other times. Working in socks alone will rarely be permitted.

Please no large accessories such as hats or jewelry. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to remove accessories.

Instructor reserves the right to ask students to adjust their hair if it impedes movement or causes a safety hazard.

Large nails and piercings may cause safety hazards. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to remove piercings or shorten nails.

Hygiene and Fragrance-Free Policy:

Please shower or bathe and brush your teeth within twelve hours of arriving at class.

Use unscented deodorants, lotions, and hair products.

Do not wear fragrances, perfumes, colognes to class. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to leave class if they are wearing fragrances.

Wear clean clothes to each class.

Personal Boundaries and Consent - Rights and Responsibilities:

Activities and assignments may include physical contact with other class members. You will be given adequate time and space during instruction to discuss your boundaries with partners and grant consent or decline to consent each time before working together. You will not be penalized for asking for alternative instructions, activities, or partners.

Theatre is a physically, intellectually, and emotionally demanding art form. If you need to take a moment to look out for yourself or be alone, you may do so in the studio or briefly step out.

Studio Policies:

Bring a water bottle. Please no other beverages.

Phones are not allowed in the studio during instructional time. Turn smartwatches to airplane mode.

Daily tasks and assignments are subject to change at instructor discretion.

A note on subject matter (Department of Theatre and Dance):

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable discussing. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. I expect all discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

Course Drop Policy:

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for further information on this policy. If, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours’ advance notice via email.

Incomplete Grade Policy:

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Accommodations Policy:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747- 5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Scholastic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials:

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Syllabus Acceptance:

This syllabus resides on Blackboard. In order to continue participation in this course, you must complete the **Syllabus Acceptance** assignment on Blackboard by the due date. This assignment includes a digital signature indicating that you have asked the *instructor* any questions you may have about the course and your acceptance of the terms of this syllabus.

Failure to complete the Syllabus Acceptance assignment by the due date may result in dismissal from the course.