UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EL PASO
SPRING SEMESTER 2021
MOVEMENT FOR ACTORS II
Online

INSTRUCTOR: VALERIA Y. GONZALEZ

Meeting Times: M, W
10:30am-11:50am

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Cellphone: (917) 929-8057

Office hours: M, W
12:00pm-2:00pm

*other office hours and meetings available upon request.

Course Content:

This course will provide the students with a variety of movement methodologies that intend to encourage the actor to access their physicality, creative imagination, impulses and expression. Students will be introduced to a variety of movement-based practices through a process-oriented class that incorporates improvisational methods, contemporary dance techniques, and dance-theater. Every week the dancers will be challenged with new questions to research and to be curious about and they will be encouraged to discuss them in the group. This class will use discussion, demonstration, performance, visuals, and writing. Additionally, the students will be creating a performance project through a collaborative process with the instructor. The performance will be either pre-recorded, live site-specific or live via zoom at the end of the semester to enhance their movement-performance abilities.

Course goals:

- To learn the correct alignment of the body.
- To engage in new ways of thinking, moving and relating to the body and the space.
- Being aware of the “listening” of the body.
- Discover the emotional and experiential capabilities of their bodies.
● Learning and applying dance vocabulary.
● To research and learn about performance artists and their work.
● To decentralize the body, and find unlimited possibilities to move the body.
● To learn and retain movement phrase material.
● To create an artistic statement or manifesto.
● To express and articulate opinions.
● To gain confidence in their movement.

Requirements:

● Dress code: clothes where you can dance freely in them. We will stretch, work out, and sweat!
● A new journal for this class. Our Journal presentation will be at the end of the semester. My class is process oriented, so I highly encourage my students to write down their thoughts, ideas and memories from each day so they can revisit this information later in the semester- or later in life.
● Attendance is crucial for the process. I care about you showing up to class more than anything. Communication is key. If you are dealing with a complex situation please communicate with me and we will figure it out.
● My class is a phone-free environment (including i-watch): Please refrain from using cell phones unless I request you to complete an activity on one of these devices during the class period.
● Have your bottle of water next to you. (suggested)
● Assignments are due every Wednesday 11:59pm. (they will be given either the Monday before or the Wednesday before.)
● A whatsapp group will be made specifically for this class. - I highly suggest you are part of it.

Attendance, and Punctuality:

This is an experiential class. This class requires a significant amount of commitment to the process. Therefore, your attendance and punctuality are crucial. You are entitled to 4 absences. The 5th and 6th absences will result in a drop of ½ letter each in the student’s overall grade. At the 7th absence, regardless of the student’s current course standing or grade, the student automatically fails.

Grading:

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
15% Live Discussions– Be fully present and active in the process.
30% Assignments (Discussion Board)
20% Artistic Statement or Manifesto (Draft and Final)
20% Journal and Artistic Statement creative presentation
15% Performance Project

Extra points- Up to 25 points. Each extra credit is 5 points.

Notes:

- All rights regarding this syllabus, items and dates are susceptible to change by the creator/instructor.
- Because of the nature of this class, subjects like race, sexuality, gender, identity and other will come up throughout the semester. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please let me know as soon as possible to discuss accommodations.

**Important Due Dates**

**Artistic Statement/Manifesto:**

*Draft- March 31st*
*Final- April 28th*

**Research Papers:**

*February 10th: Choose (2) your choreographer, performance artist, or actor for your papers.*

- Explain why you chose them, or why you are interested in researching more about them. (post on discussion board.)

*First Paper due: March 10th*
*Second Paper due: April 21st*

**Journal Presentation:** *April 28th*

**Performance Project:** *May 5th*

- Late assignments and papers will not be accepted. Students will accept a zero (0) for incomplete assignments and assignments that are not turned-in on the assigned date.

**Course Content:**

Contemporary Dance techniques vocabulary
Classical Ballet vocabulary
Alignment + Balance
Composition
Space: Pathways, directions and dimension.
Movement phrase material.
Relationships, relating to self, space, props and others.
Decentralizing the body: Break, dismantle, disassemble, disjoint
Conditions of energy: tension, relaxation, and release.
Text and Dance: The effects
The weight of the body/ weight of the bones.
Gravity + floating.
Engines in the body.
Distinguish bones, flesh, and muscles.
Dance on camera.

Weekly ZOOM classes:

1. 10:35am-10:45am Check ins.
2. 10:45am-11:50am class
   - Even though we have a specific calendar, class might slightly change each time. MINUS the assignments. The assignments stay the same throughout the semester.
   - Some days we will NOT have check-ins, or discussions and we will go directly into class.
   - I will be taking some pauses during the virtual class to observe you and give you corrections, either in the moment, or I will write them down and then send them individually to you.
   - I will 95% of the time record the class. FYI if you have any concern with this please let me know. This video WON'T be published via social media or in any other media outlet. They will be specifically there for us to possibly observe, and for myself to be able to give you corrections.
   - There will be some classes where we will observe the same video (I will share my screen.) and then we will have a moment at the end of the class to discuss what we observed and how it relates to our class.
   - Please make sure you don't have any distractions during my class, and please mute your mic- unless I indicate the contrary.
Critical Thinking Assignments- Discussion board:

Papers will be written in 12 point Times New Roman font using double spacing with a 2-3 page. These critical thinking assignments are designed for me to understand what you have learned from our classes. These will be assigned every once in a while.

Short reflection assignments- Discussion board:

Some assignments will include for you to view a video, and I will ask a minimum of 250 word reflection of whatever you witnessed.

Presentation of artistic statement or manifesto.

The presentation is 10 minutes – You will be stopped at 10 minutes and points will be deducted for lack of preparation.

Performance Project:

Collaboration process applying all the material, information, and discoveries we learned throughout the semester. More info will be unfolded throughout the semester.

Artist Research Papers:

I will give you a list of choreographers and performance artists for you to view, and you will choose 2 to do a 3-5 page essay on them. (Times new roman, double spaced, 12) The list of choreographers/artists will be sent out within the 3rd week of class.

- Choose in what you will focus on the specific performance artists: their story, their movement language, their technique, a review of 3 of their works.
- Be specific in the intro of your paper what will this paper be about and what will you talk about.

The Artistic Statement:

The question “How do you relate to the world as an artist?” “What is your dance like?”, “Who are you?” Is the thrust of your work dramatic? Abstract? Does it find ancestry in a particular
dance style? Do you feel a cultural or ethnic connection in the work? Which social or ethical issues are meaningful to you, and could they pertain to your statement?

The Manifesto:

“A personal manifesto is a declaration of your core values and beliefs, what you stand for, and how you intend to live your life. It functions both as a statement of principles and as a call to action. A personal manifesto can serve as all of the following.”

https://daringtolivefully.com/personal-manifesto

UTEP COVID-19 Policies + Student responsibilities (for face to face meetings.)

- Complete self-screening (screening.utep.edu) prior to every campus visit.
- Complete COVID-19 student training at this site.
- Contact instructor if temporary accommodations due to COVID-19 are needed (i.e., due to positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or exposure).
- If unable to wear a face covering (e.g., medical reasons), the best course of action is to enroll in courses that are entirely online or to work with academic advisors, if necessary, to identify alternative courses. If this is not possible, request an accommodation from Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) prior to coming to campus for in-person activities. Students who receive an accommodation to not wear a face covering must share this with the professor and work to minimize contact with others in the class.

When in the studio:

- Class will be dismissed by rows or sections to avoid bottlenecks at the exits.
- There will be specific procedures for leaving and re-entering the classroom during the class so all attendees know what to expect regarding student movement in the classroom (e.g., not lingering close to another individual while moving through the classroom).
- Wear a face covering at all times.
- Maintain 6 feet of separation at all times, including when talking
with other students.
- Follow signage indicating specific entry and exit doors and pathways.
- Do not cluster in groups and keep hallways open.
- Wash hands and/or apply hand sanitizer prior to entering the classroom and after leaving a classroom. Do not touch face until after hands are washed/sanitized.
- Use an alcohol wipe, provided outside of classrooms, to sanitize the desk, chair, or table.
- Follow faculty protocols for leaving and re-entering the classroom.

Lab/Studio Guidelines
- Leave doors open to promote airflow if feasible, unless advised not to do so by Environmental Health and Safety.
- Clear the room of non-essential tools and equipment.
- Ensure no more than one person at a time is working in a limited space such as a hood, glove box, sink area, safety cabinet, or small room.
- Clean/sanitize shared tools, equipment, and materials with CDC-approved solutions.
- Contact department chair or appropriate classroom/lab/space/studio manager if additional cleaning supplies are required.

COVID-19 Precautions:
You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

(All classes) Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety and Section

Resources: Students are encouraged to speak with professionals from UTEP’s Counseling and
Psychological Services on a walk-in basis from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Union Building West, Room 202. In addition, the Miners Talk Crisis Line at 915-747-5302 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The University Counseling Center is located at 202 Union West, (915) 747-5302, for walk-in appointments, workshops, career and study skills. For more information, visit https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/.

The Center for Accommodation and Support Services: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/

Writing Center: The University Writing Center is located in the UTEP library room 227 for drop-in tutoring and assistance with your writing assignments and final papers. For more information, visit https://www.utep.edu/uwc/.

Academic Dishonesty: Any form of academic dishonesty: cheating, plagiarizing or taking a test for another student is considered a very serious matter at UTEP. Our library webpage provides good information on what UTEP considers Academic Dishonesty.