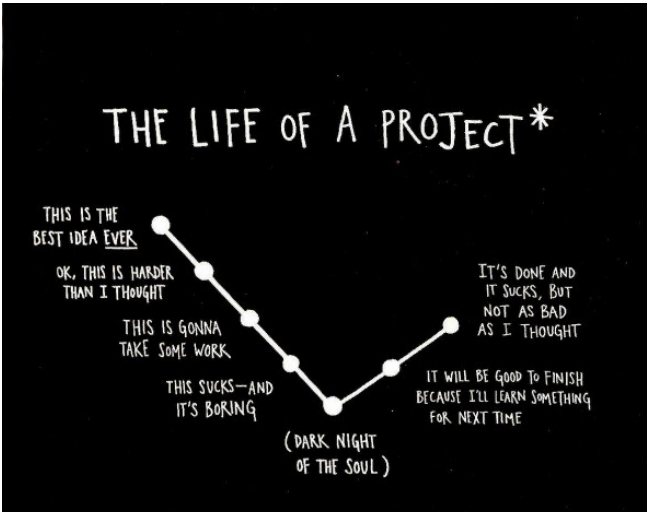
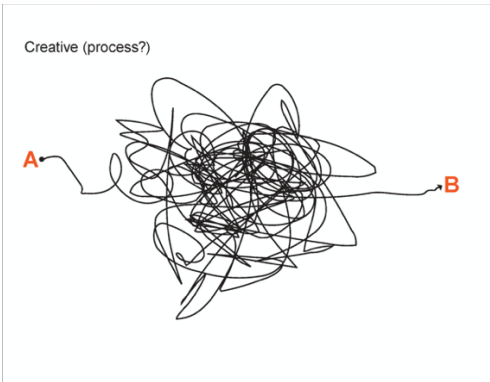
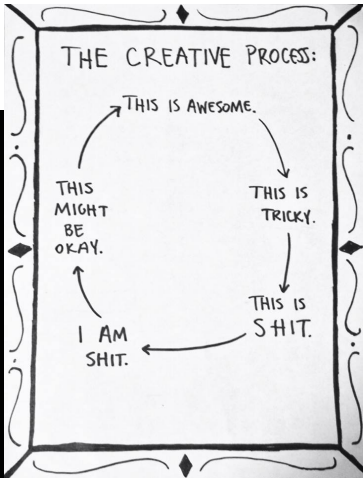


Creative Process for Actors

the creative process:

1. This is awesome!
2. This is tricky.
3. This is terrible.
4. I am terrible.
5. This might be ok.
6. This is awesome!
7. I am awesome!



University of Florida — School of Theatre and Dance
Special Topics – Creative Process

TPP 6930

T/TH, Period 7 - 8 (1:55 PM - 3:50 PM)

Location: CON G15

Academic Term: Fall 2022

Professor: Michelle Bellaver

Email: mbellaver@ufl.edu

Office location: McCarty C 306

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 12:30 – 1:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course in performance process. It will guide actor-artists on how to integrate performance, theatre, film, and art theories into their personal process for creative performance practice and how to work as a “Research-Creative.” This course proposes that the actor-artist can creatively and uniquely respond to, and/or influence, the cultural zeitgeist. This course includes the exploration of art, music, science, data, anthropology, mythology, and popular culture as inspirational touchstones for storytelling; it includes the use of creative lab/modular experiences to refine a dynamic creative response to the artists’ environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an integration of the actor’s training into personal creative practice.
2. To explore and define what is a “research-creative” performer.
3. To provide students with various theoretical frameworks that expand their knowledge base of “performance.”
4. To provide students with exposure to performance, theatre, and film artists who expand and redefine the accepted definition of “performance” and “theatre.”
5. To explore and develop a working knowledge and vocabulary of the research-creative process of theory > research > praxis.
6. To explore and develop a personal creative response to three-step process of “thinking,” “seeing,” and “doing.”
7. To learn to apply non-theatre processes (Systematic Inventive Thinking, IDEO’s brainstorming, ...) in theatrical ways.
8. To learn the “rules” of creative practice theories and subsequently learn when to break the rules with creativity and mastery.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

All required readings will be provided by instructor throughout the semester as assigned.

CONTENT DISCLOSURE

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in a theatre/performance skills course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I will do my best to give you advance notice when specific materials or content covered may contain images, language or perspectives that some may find difficult, and I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

DECORUM

Your work in class is a major part of your grade. This includes your classroom and out of class rehearsal decorum because it strongly impacts the quality of instruction for you and your collaborators. You are expected to show respect for yourself, your partners, and the art and craft of performance. You are also expected to respect the spaces in which we work by preparing the space for work and clearing it after you finish working. Part of learning the acting process is also learning how to act professionally. Unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated.

**** Food is not permitted in class.** Eat before or after class, not in class.

TEACHING METHOD

There will be assigned readings and discussions of text materials, practical exercises, and research. There will be studio “lab” work that is participatory by nature. The unique nature of creative process requires investigating different ways of seeing yourself and the world.

Your responsibility is to be prepared and present, let go of what you think you should “do,” and respond from an authentic place. Be willing to integrate the theory, process the research, try the exercises, take the professor’s notes, suggestions, and directions in a collaborative fashion.

Course Requirements: Full participation in class exercises. Students are expected to be prepared to work in class as a “lab” experiment.

Various modules and exercises will be explored to see what they provide us as creative artists. Reading must be completed on time, in order to have fuller conversations and discussions in class. Sometimes, work will be assigned to be executed outside of class and then presented in class (whether written or performative). This work cannot be done late, unless there are extreme circumstances which we can speak about in private should the occasion arise.

GRADING

Grading will be evaluated and will be based on methods and requirements listed above, as well as quality of work, approach, enthusiasm, development, completion of all assigned work, and the student's ability to express written and oral knowledge concerning the course topics. Final grades will be based on above criteria, evaluation and assessment of each student's attitude toward the work, and the individual development of each student throughout the semester.

EVALUATION OF GRADES

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
“PROCESS ASSIGNMENTS” 7 TOTAL (broken down below)	245 (please see individual break down)	70%
Process Assignment #1	20	
Process Assignment #2	25	
Process Assignment #3	30	
Process Assignment #4	35	
Process Assignment #5	40	
Process Assignment #6	45	
Process Assignment #7	50	
Journal (20) see * in course outline	40	12 %
Attendance (30 dates)	60	17%
TOTAL	345	100%

COURSE OUTLINE: *subject to change

Within the course will be “creative lab” exploratory modules that are experiential in nature and will contain the “assignments” listed above.

WEEK 1 INTRO TO CLASS/ INTRO TO CONCEPTS/INSPIRATION

WEEK 2/3: “RESEARCH CREATIVE”/INNOVATION/ SYSTEMATIC INVENTIVE THINKING

WEEK 4/5 ARCHETYPES/STORY ARC/THE CYCLE/THE GAZE: WHAT DO YOU SEE?

WEEK 6/7 BRAINSTORMING/RITUAL

WEEK 8/9 THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE/BODY WISDOM

WEEK 10/11 NON-LINEAR TIMEKEEPING/EMPATHY DRIVEN CREATION

WEEK 12/13/14 PERSONAL BRAND OF “WEIRDNESS”/BREAKING

GENRE/PERSONAL MIX-TAPE

WEEK 15 SET IT IN MOTION/ “LET’S GO”

WRITTEN WORK

All papers and written assignments must be typed and presented on due dates. Late assignment and papers will be given only partial credit. Partial credit runs as follows: up to two days late: -10% of grade; up to four days late: -25% of grade; up to one week late: -40% of grade. NO assignments accepted after one week late.

MAKE UP WORK

Assignments must be presented on time. You will not be able to receive a “make up” grade except under extenuating circumstances at the judgment of the instructor. Because the course depends on the co-operation of collaboration and processing, it is imperative that work be presented ON TIME. In the event that an absence is known in advance, you must make arrangements to present the work early.

UF GRADING SCALE

Percent	Grade
94.0 - 100.0	A
90.0 – 93.0	A-
87.0 – 89.0	B+
83.0 – 86.0	B
80.0 – 82.0	B-
77.0 - 79.0	C+
73.0 – 76.0	C
70.0 – 72.0	C-
67.0 – 69.0	D+

Percent	Grade
63.0 – 66.0	D
60.0 - 62.0	D-
0 - 59.9	E

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:
<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

University Attendance Policy

Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first-class meeting.

Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

For all planned absences, a student in a situation that allows an excused absence from a class, or any required class activity must inform the instructor as early as possible prior to the class. For all unplanned absences because of accidents or emergency situations, students should contact their instructor as soon as conditions permit.

If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and they have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, the student can be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will be dropped, however. The department will notify students if they have been dropped from a course or laboratory.

The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

Course Attendance Policy:

You are expected to be in class daily and to be on time. Each class meeting is worth 2 points. An “unexcused” absence will result in a loss of 2 points for that day. To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation (religious observances do not require documentation). EACH late arrival (after professor takes roll), counts as a loss of 1 point for that class meeting date. Be sure to keep track of your own attendance. I will take attendance on Canvas **at the top of each class meeting**.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty: illness (doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and that an absence from class is warranted, date of return to class, doctor name and signature), serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate, court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena).

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course’s instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student’s continued participation in the course. Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 2 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student’s final grade.

Participation in Hippodrome theatre productions (MFA acting):

If a student is cast in a Hippodrome production and they are on a typical rehearsal schedule, then students will likely miss 4 classes (2 weeks of Tues/Thurs or Wed/Fri classes), in some cases rehearsals might extend into 3 weeks (potentially resulting in 2 more absences of Tues/Thurs or Wed/Fri classes). In this instance, faculty will not penalize the student for the absences. Absences incurred due to Hipp productions absorb all "unexcused" absence allowances in any course attendance policy.

*MFA Students can be in one production per semester that interferes with courses (whether taught or courses they are teaching).

Students are responsible for notifying their SoTD instructor about casting in a Hippodrome

production. In instances where matinee productions interfere with class meetings, a clear conversation about missing those additional classes should be had with the course instructors. The total number of classes missed due to rehearsals, costume fittings, media promotions, and performances may prohibit students from progressing successfully in the course. An excess of 6 total absences due to a rehearsals and production related activities may result in a grade reduction up to and including a failing grade.

This Hippodrome attendance policy applies to SoTD courses only. Students are responsible for notifying instructors of non-SOTD classes and will need to adhere to the attendance policies of non-SOTD classes.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

These must be turned off before the beginning of each class. It is strongly recommended that they be turned off before entering the classroom.

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide respectful and professional feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Student Code of Conduct is available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

SOFTWARE USE

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

STUDENT PRIVACY

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.