

# Movement Training for the Actor I

TPP 2282 (Prerequisite: TPP 2110, 2110L)

Fall 2024

Days and Times: M/W/F, 8:30-10:25am CON G015

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Office Hours: TBD

*The recommended method of communication outside of scheduled class time is email*

## **Course Description:**

Emphasis on physical preparation and character development through movement. Focusing on the preparation of the body, this course is designed to aid the actor's approach to performance

## **Learning Objectives:**

- To define and explore the nine Viewpoints
- To utilize Viewpoints as a basis for performance and composition
- To experience the Neutral Mask
- To explore animal work and its use in character development
- To introduce the work of Michael Chekhov and its use in character development

## **Course Overview: (subject to change)**

Weeks 1-4: Group warmup variations, Viewpoints, Neutral Mask

Weeks 5-6: Group structured improvisations, **Composition Presentations**, Neutral Mask

Week 7: Movement analysis presentation, Neutral Mask

Week 8-9: Review Viewpoints, Animal Work, Neutral Mask

Weeks 10-15: Michael Chekhov

Week 16: **Finals**

## **Required Materials:**

- a dedicated journal or notebook
- a pen or pencil
- any physical materials distributed by the instructor
- materials/props/clothing as needed for exercises

## **Attire:**

Students will wear comfortable, casual, non-binding clothes in which you can move (no skirts, tight pants, or fragile clothing). No bare midriffs. Do not wear excessively baggy clothing. Wear shoes that permit active movement (no boots, no sandals, flip-flops, clogs, high heels, backless styles, etc.). Ballet flats are great. Bring rehearsal shoes when necessary. Refrain from wearing jewelry; for your safety and the protection of the jewelry you will be asked to take it off.

- Solid colored shirts and appropriate athletic pants/shorts are preferred.
- Hair should be pulled back out of the face.

- Hats must be removed.

**\*\*A student not dressed in a way that allows full participation in the class activities (see above) will be permitted to watch class and accept an **absence** for the day (See Attendance Policy). This is an experiential class, you learn by participating. You must dress appropriately in order to participate.**

Come to class ready to work, not ready to change clothes.

### **Behavior:**

An important aspect of learning the art and craft of acting is laying the foundation for good professional habits. In our personal work, we must be willing to constantly take bold artistic risks in order to grow. Students will be expected to comport themselves as collaborative professionals in an ensemble. This includes respect for every member of the ensemble, one's own artistic development, and the sacredness of the space, as well as a humility before the art. This art form is inherently collaborative, and relies on a system of human relationships to function, whether in the classroom, in the theatre, or on set. Disrespect, intended or not, has ripples.

The most powerful force in the universe, after compound interest, is muscle memory. Learn to use it for good.

### **Readiness:**

Each student must be prepared to work when class begins. This means actors may need to arrive early in order to mentally and physically prepare. Professionally speaking, five minutes early is on-time.

### **Student Expectations:**

- Students will attend all classes, and will arrive on time, fully prepared.
- Students should expect to work every class, unless or until notified by the instructor.
- Students will be dressed for class before class begins. See above for attire.
- Full, attentive participation is required in this class. This means:
  1. active engagement in any warm-ups, exercises, and performances, whether working or observing.
  2. focused, relevant questions, comments, or feedback as elicited by the instructor.

#### **Both contribute to a major part of a student's final grade.**

- Students must complete all assignments on or before their assigned due date.
- Students will be supportive and respectful of their fellow classmates. This class must always be a safe place to work. If at any point a student's behavior becomes unsafe and/or disrespectful, they will be asked to leave and given an **unexcused absence** for the day.
- Students will restore the space after they work- dispose of any trash, restore any furniture or fixtures to where they were before students began working.
- Students will respect the sanctity of the space, their work, and the work of their colleagues. What's shared stays, what's learned, leaves.

**Food and drinks (except water) are not permitted in class.** –If you have an

access need that requires an accommodation, please let me know.  
**No gum.**

**Cell phones/electronic devices:**

Silence all cell phones and electronic devices. Do NOT leave them on vibrate.

**Rehearsal Expectation:**

Between classes, actors are expected to engage with any material we have covered for at least one hour outside of class, as a Personal Rehearsal.

For any group work assigned, there is a minimum one hour of Group Rehearsal expected, in addition to the standard Personal Rehearsal.

**Attendance:**

Is **Mandatory**.

This work is **cumulative and experiential**. If you miss a single class, you are:

- missing experiential lessons that cannot be fully replicated through notes borrowed from a classmate, and
- that classmate might be your scene partner, who is
- a fellow actor, dependent on your partnership in
- an inherently collaborative art form.

**“Everybody gets one”**. In accordance with the Spiderman rule, students are granted one (1) “unexcused” absence. After that, any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of half a letter grade (5%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence.

**Excused Absence:**

To be considered excused, an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation (except religious holidays/observances, which do not require documentation).

Only the following types of absences can be excused (and only if official documentation is provided):

- Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with doctor name, address, phone number, noting date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying absence from class is warranted and doctor's signature.
- Serious family emergency
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participating in official university activity (e.g., music performance, athletic competition, debate)
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)
- Religious holiday/observance (documentation not required for this type of absence)

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

If a student must miss a class meeting for any reason they **must** notify the instructor and any group partners **PRIOR** to the missed class; this does NOT “excuse” the absence; it is simple professional courtesy.

If absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain information about missed course content, which may include information or directions for upcoming assignments; class buddies, study partners, or small study groups are strongly recommended; reach out to your classmates and build community.

### **Three instances of lateness count as one unexcused absence.**

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class period. Any arrival after the official start time of the class as published on ONE.UF will be considered late.

Be aware that the UF policy on absence states:

*The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.*

All requirements detailed above for class attendance and make-up exams/assignments and other work in this course are fully consistent with university attendance policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**According to department policy, three unexcused absences will result in failure of this class. No Exceptions.**

### **Lateness:**

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class period. Anyone entering after will be marked as late.

Once the door is closed, class has begun. Late entrances are disruptive to the work. Please enter in the least disruptive way possible. Do not walk through scenes or while people are working.

You will be marked as late. **Three lates equal one unexcused absence.**

Much of the work of this class involves building **good, professional habits, whether on or off stage.**

Show up fully.

And when in doubt, let FOMO be your guide.

**Communication:**

Electronic mail or "email" is considered an official method for communication because it delivers information in a convenient, timely, cost effective and environmentally aware manner. Students are expected to check their official UF email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to remain informed of university-related communications. The university recommends checking email daily. Students are responsible for the consequences of not reading, in a timely fashion, university-related communications sent to their official student email account. This policy ensures that all students have access to this important form of communication. It ensures students can be reached through a standardized channel by faculty and other staff of the university as needed.

**CANVAS and ZOOM:**

Much of the administration of this course will be done via Canvas. Course delivery is subject to change as the semester demands. The course Zoom link can be found on Canvas.

**Performance Attendance and Response Papers:**

Students are required to attend all SOTD productions during this course. Each student will submit a 1-2 page Response Paper for each production, and will be expected to contribute to an in-class discussion of each production.

Ticket vouchers will be provided for shows, but the student is responsible for paying handling fees (usually under \$5).

- If the voucher is lost or stolen, it CANNOT be replaced.
- Tickets absolutely must be purchased well in advance of the performance.
- Students have been advised to purchase tickets early and given ample notice and therefore will be accountable for this assignment even if tickets are sold out.
- Tickets will be available through the O'Connell Center Box Office/University Box Office.

Please arrive to the show at least 10 minutes early. DO NOT BE LATE – it is highly disrespectful to the artists and the audience.

There are NO other shows that can be substituted for seeing the required UF productions.

**Production Dates for Fall 2024-TBD**

Students may also attend other productions at the Hippodrome Theatre and submit a corresponding Response Paper as EXTRA CREDIT (percentage TBD).

**Deadlines for Response Papers:**

48 hours from time of attendance, OR from from production's close.

**Proof of Attendance:**

Staple your ticket stub to your playbill, and submit both with the Response Paper.

### **A note for ALL written assignments submitted for this class:**

All papers MUST:

- Be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman or Arial 12 pt font, with 1" margins.
- Be sent electronically, and in hard copy, within 24 hours of the due date. The hard copy will satisfy the timeliness of your paper (in that it will not be penalized for lateness); the digital file is for the instructor's convenience.

### **Academic Honesty:**

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Honor Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor

\*Plagiarism is an act of Academic Misconduct. Any act of plagiarism may result in failing the course.

\*Review the requirement to acknowledge who aided you in completing any group assignment if you are absent. Even in acknowledging who aided you, change the text to reflect that you were not actually in class to third person.

### **Unauthorized Use of Recordings:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The allowable purposes include "for personal educational use." Students may not publish recorded lectures without the **written consent of the instructor**. A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. **Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform.**

**Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful

manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>.

**Grading:**

In-class work and participation/professionalism- 50%

Final Scene- 30%

Response Papers- 20%

**Criteria by which in-class work and participation/professionalism will be evaluated:**

- Attendance.
- Preparation for and participation in all exercises (including outside rehearsal).
- Willingness to explore and take personal artistic risks
- Focused, frequent, and relevant contribution to class discussions.
- Artistic growth over the semester.

**Criteria by which all written work will be evaluated:**

- Content
  - Well-supported arguments, with clear, specific details.
  - Application of course topics and vocabulary.
- Quality of writing
  - Grammar, syntax, punctuation, etc.

**Criteria by which Final Scenes will be evaluated:**

- Application of the technique elements covered over the semester, including (but not limited to): relationship, meaning, moment to moment work, specificity, contact, the Principle of Acting, active doing, following the truthful, spontaneous impulse, etc.
- Commitment and effort
- Evidence of preparation and rehearsal

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	100-94	4.0
A-	93-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-84	3.00
B-	83-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-74	2.00

C- *	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.00
D-	63-60	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59-0	0.00

Please note that a C- is not an acceptable grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major.

**UF Policy link:**

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>