THE 216 Voice & Movement

Class Location: Black Box Theatre Armstrong Hall

M/W/F 9-12pm T/TR 9-11am\*

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course is an acting-based laboratory that teaches students how to become more aware of their bodies as instruments of artistic expression. We will focus on giving specificity to your use of voice, breath, and the body while exploring theatrical expression. You will be introduced to a series of exercises that will promote awareness of your own vocal and movement habits, but will allow you to break free and work outside your comfort zone. Use of classical, contemporary, and original work will be included in our block work to explore how you work on your own and with an ensemble. Our goal is to get you in your body, releasing of tension, awareness of your voice and breath with the ability to communicate with greater capacity and limitless possibilities on stage and off.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

* How to develop, understand, and critique your own movement
* To be more aware of the full physicality of the body as an expressive means of communication
* To increase flexibility, stamina and strength in voice and body
* To develop a personal warm-up
* Awareness of breath control & capacity
* Diction & Clarity & Specificity in Text Work
* Awareness of tensions and the ability to release them
* Breath/Thought Connection in classical and contemporary work

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of this course, students will…

* speak and write more clearly, listen and read more actively, imagine more intentionally, breathe more deeply, and engage and collaborate more fully with others in creative expression, ensemble activities, and theatrical performance
* connect with diverse ideas and with people, characters, and entities whose experiences may differ from their own and who may be separated from them by time, space, culture, or circumstances

COURSE SUMMARY STATEMENT

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphases on communication, intercultural literacy, citizenship, and well-being. (<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/about-cornell/mission/index.shtml>).

This Course also supports the Mission Statement and Learning Outcomes of the Department of Theatre with emphases on knowledge & application, collaboration, and well-being (<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/theatre/mission-outcomes/index.shtml>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance and Tardiness

* You are required to attend class. There will be no excused absences. If you miss class your final grade will be dropped by 1/3 of a letter grade. In other words, an “A” will become an “A-” and so on.
* Absences may be excused only for *medical emergency, death in the family, or a College-sanctioned activity*. All of these require appropriate documentation, i.e., a letter from the attending physician (a copy of a prescription or a dated & signed receipt from the doctor’s office). This documentation must be provided no later than one week after the date of absence. College-sanctioned activities require notification prior to the date of absence and will not be excused after the fact.
* Lateness is NOT ACCEPTED. If you are late more than once I will count it as an unexcused absence and dock you 1/3rd a letter grade.
* The student is responsible for any work that is missed due to an absence or lateness. Therefore, the student will be expected to get the notes, find out about assignments, and hand in all assignments on the date they are due. No extra credit opportunities (to make up missed work) or extensions will be given.
* Absences also affect the participation grade and include not showing up for a rehearsal with your scene partner(s) both inside and outside of class. Because this class is participation-oriented, attendance and commitment are expected.

Please remember the College policy states that students can be dropped from a course if they are not present at the beginning of the first meeting.  If you do not think you can comply with any of these policies, you should not take the class.

B. Required Materials

* Yoga Mat (You will need this for most classes. Feel free to find the cheapest one at Walmart, but trust me you will need one.)

C. Sonnets, Poetry, and other Assignments

* You will need to choose a Shakespearean sonnet as well as a contemporary piece from “Spoon River Anthology” by Edgar Lee Masters. Both materials can be found online. You will be responsible for understanding the verse, committing the text to memory, and exploring the language, rhythm, and imagery in each as outlined by the course. Should you have questions on these pieces, I encourage you to use the facilities at the Cole Library. Your Consulting Librarian for this course is Jen Rouse in 305 Cole Library.
* Other voice and movement assignments will be given throughout the course. For such activities students will rehearse (both inside and outside of class) sometimes with a partner and sometimes with a group. Such assignments require that all students respect and adhere to rehearsal commitments.

Other assignments will include movement projects, vocal presentations, and work exploring aspects of certain voice and movement techniques. There will be one vocal health exam.

*E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. And no make-up exams will be offered.*

D. Final Presentation

* The final project is a voice and movement piece to be created and performed by assigned groups. Utilizing the techniques explored in the course, students will memorize, prepare, and present a theatrical interpretation and expression of their sonnets and Spoon River pieces.

E. Voice and Movement Response: Start working on this from the first day of class. Please use examples and observations from class. This is about quality of insight and a reflection of your personal journey.

GRADING

Grading will be out of a total of 1000 points:

Movement & Voice Response 100

Final Project 150

Music/Movement Presentation 100

Sonnet Presentation 50

Spoon River Presentation 50

Animal Presentation 100

Warm Up Presentations 100

Vocal Health and Anatomy Exam 50

Attendance & Participation 300

How I Grade: (This may be subjective at times. If I feel you have tried hard and have really improved throughout the year we can discuss your score, especially if it’s on the cusp on another letter grade.)

1000-930 A

930-900 A-

900-870 B+

870-830 B

830-800 B-

800-770 C+

770-730 C

730-700 C-

700-670 D+

670-630 D

630-600 D-

599-000 F

Performance/Presentation grades will be determined by the following criteria:

* Commitment to the text – Memorization & Exploration
* Commitment to the partner(s) – Rehearsal and Connection
* Commitment to the concepts discussed in class – Participation and being Present
* Commitment to the process – Growth and Improvement

CLOTHING

Actors must wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing that is durable and allows for the complete freedom of movement. Jeans, skirts, and belts are not appropriate as they are too restrictive. All classes will start with a physical and vocal warm-up. Hats, earrings, studs, watches, and other jewelry and accessories can be restrictive and dangerous and should be removed upon arrival. Shoes must be taken off before stepping on the theatre floor, and students should be aware that much of the class will be conducted barefoot. Phones must be turned off. Also, the classroom temperature is often a bit cool, so consider bringing an extra sweatshirt for warmth.

Any student arriving to class in clothing deemed inappropriate will be asked to leave and change before returning to class. You will be marked down as late or potentially absent.

PHYSICAL CONTACT

This is a movement and voice class. There will be touching and contact between students and teacher. If you ever feel uncomfortable or have any concerns, please speak with the instructor. Also, because of the physical aspect of the class work, it is courteous to practice a certain degree of personal hygiene in order to maintain cleanliness and comfort in the classroom. Please arrive to class clean. Deodorants and fresh breath allow greater freedom for interaction; however, perfumes and colognes should be avoided due to allergies and such. If this is a problem, speak to the instructor

CELL PHONE POLICY

Put them away.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY  
Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgment of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in [The Compass](http://www.cornellcollege.edu/student-affairs/compass/index.shtml), our student handbook, under the heading "Academic Policies – Honesty in Academic Work."

POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS

This class looks to bring together, in common pursuit of its educational goals, persons of many nations, races, and creeds. In no aspect of this course shall there be differences in the treatment of persons because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual, and that equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

Cornell College is committed to providing equal opportunities to all students. Students who need accommodations for learning disabilities must provide documentation from a professional qualified to diagnose learning disabilities. For more information see [cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml](http://www.cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml) . Students requesting services may schedule a meeting with the [disabilities services coordinator](http://www.cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/contact/index.shtml) as early as possible to discuss their needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan. Ideally, this meeting would take place well before the start of classes. At the beginning of each course, the student must notify the instructor within the first three days of the term of any accommodations needed for the duration of the course.

DROP POLICY

http://www.cornellcollege.edu/registrar/registration-information/adding-and-dropping-classes.shtml

THINGS TO BRING TO EVERY CLASS

* Yoga Mat & notebook
* All Assignments on the Date they are Due (this includes both paper and presentation assignments)
* A readiness to participate, a willingness to share, and a support for the work of others

SOME IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT DATES and GUEST ARTIST VISITS \*\*\*\*

Aug. 29th Sonnet and SRA due

Aug. 30th CAMERON BYRD GUEST ARTIST: VOGUE

Sept. 5th Animal Project due

Sept. 7th SCOTT BRADLEY GUEST ARTIST: GROTOWSKI WORK

Sept. 12th Vocal Health Exam 10-12PM &

KATY SLAVEN GUEST ARTIST: DIALECTS 1-3pm

Sept. 14th Movement & Music Project due

Sept. 17th and 18th Partner Warm-ups due

Sept. 19th Final presentation and Responses due 10am

Please Note:

Thursday August 30th class will be held from 9-11am and 1-3pm

There is no class on Monday September 3rd.

Friday September 12th class will be held from 10am-Noon AND 1-3pm