ADVANCED MOVEMENT
THE BODY IN PRAXIS
#515e
Spring 2015

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Class Meetings
T/Th 1 – 2.50PM
Location PED 204

Office Hours
Available by appointment. Call or email as above. Mentorship is an essential element of the
instructional technique in the MFA program; make it a point to make an appointment.

Course Goals/Learning Objectives

"Acting is a very personal process. It has to do with expressing your own personality and
discovering the character you're playing through your own experience.”

Sir Ian McKellen

The goal of the course is to utilize and synthesize all the previous techniques and experiences
of the Advanced Movement progression in support of the final two capstone events of the
MFA in Acting curriculum - the Three Play Repertory and the Professional Showcase.

Course Overview
The course addresses the current projects for the 3rd year actors - the Rep and the Showcase -
and examines them from the point of view of the movement work that has already been
experienced in the MFA in Acting program. This work includes: in the first year of training,
the body and its relation to the self; Laban and the effort actions; the body and its relation to
the imagination; elemental, material, and animal work; and in the second year of training,
character study, including period and contemporary projects, improvisation, mask, and
character archetype.

The actors in 515e are on the verge of graduation. They are about to become professionals who
will practice their craft in the entertainment industry and build a long career based on their
creative process and their creative abilities. The actor’s ability to invent and sustain a physical
life for their characters is, to a great extent, a benchmark by which their professional ability
can be measured. Through scene work and related exercises, this course will test this ability, examine its component parts, and provoke new discoveries, in connection with the specific projects that form the launchpad for their fledgling careers.

**Final Exam**

TBD

**Grading Policy**

A  work of excellent quality  
B  work of good quality  
C  work of average quality  
D  work of below average quality

**Your grade is assessed according to**

Class Work – 50%  
Midterm – 25%  
Final – 25%

**Course Assignments & Class Schedule**

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Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standardshttps://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/

Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Student Conduct

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity
http://equity.usc.edu/
or to the Department of Public Safety
http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us.
This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person.

The Center for Women and Men
http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/
provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems
A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs
http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

**Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis**

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.