

USC School of Dramatic Arts

THTR 520b: Advanced Acting

Units: 3

Spring 2024

Thursdays 3-5:50pm

PED 202

Instructor: Sabina Zuniga Varela

Contact Info: zunigava@usc.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Change happens at the edge of our consciousness where the imagination straddles the known and the unknown, ready to flow into physical action - if we're willing to make a leap.

~Andy Robinson

Course Description

In this course we will explore the work of Andy Robinson as documented in his manuscript *The Imaginative Body: The Power of our Personal Story*. Along with moving through the exercises from this book, we will embark on learning the movement progression of "The Cat," and work closely with the poems of Mary Oliver from her book *Dream Work*.

Learning Objectives

Our goals are to actively listen to the stories and images that are inside of us and connect them to physical movement with the use of impulse and imagination.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Dream Work by Mary Oliver, PDF of this text will be provided.

Optional Readings and Supplementary Materials

Acrobat of the Heart by Stephen Wang

Attendance Policy:

This is ensemble-based work; therefore, it is a requirement for the entirety of the ensemble to be present for every class. **Absences** will directly affect your grade and standing in the program. A **lateness** will be counted as an **absence**. A **lateness** is anything after a 5 minute grace period at the official start time of class. Anything further will result in an expulsion from the class.*

All latenesses and absences need to be documented by the student at fault via email. The student must email the professor of the class they are missing, [David Warshofsky](#) and [Natsuko Ohama](#). Further, the professor must report these events to [David Warshofsky](#) and [Natsuko Ohama](#). These occurrences must be catalogued and grading must be reflected as follows -

Grading Policy:

THREE (3) absences will result in a demotion of your grade. The totality of 3 absences results in a **full letter grade** demotion. If you miss a total of FIVE (5) classes, you fail the class. Any failed class will result in academic probation.

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Course Schedule

SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

*** Course schedule subject to change due to the needs of the ensemble

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week One: 1/11	Warm-Up (Meditation/9 Sun Salutations/3 Jumps/12-6-4) Imaginative Body Part One: <i>Live the Question's Now</i> / Mary Oliver Work	Mary Oliver poems will be handed out. Copy poems into journals and write a 1-2 page reflection due the following week.	
Week Two: 1/18	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Two: <i>Everything is in Play</i> / Intro to The Cat with Guest artists.	Choose a Mary Oliver Poem to learn by heart that will be used in class. We will begin an additional spinal warm-up to prepare for The Cat work.	
Week Three: 1/25	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Three: <i>Leap of Faith</i> / The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Four: 2/1	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Four: <i>The Dynamic of Power</i> / The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		

Week Five: 2/8	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Five: <i>Empathy Builds Character: Our Cultural Dynamic/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Six: 2/15	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Six: <i>Working at the Edge/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work	Choose Second Mary Oliver Poem to learn by Heart that will be used in class.	
Week Seven: 2/22	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Seven: <i>What's Your Story/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Eight: 2/29	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Eight: <i>Dynamic Interplay of Body & Spirit/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Nine: 3/7	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Nine: <i>Being Seen/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Spring Break: 3/10-3/17	ENJOY	YOUR	WEEK
Week Ten: 3/21	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Ten: <i>Image, Action, & Word: Unified Intentionality/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work	Choose Third Mary Oliver Poem to learn by heart that will be used in class.	

Week Eleven: 3/28	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Eleven: <i>The Creative Body</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Twelve: 4/4	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Twelve: <i>Expanding the Dynamic/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Thirteen: 4/11	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Thirteen: <i>The Performing Dynamic/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Fourteen: 4/18	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Fourteen: <i>The Dynamic Story/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		
Week Fifteen: 4/25	Warm-Up/ Imaginative Body Part Fifteen: <i>The Evolving Dynamic/</i> The Cat & Mary Oliver Work		

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit

work written by others or “recycle” work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity’s website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.