



AUSTIN
COLLEGE

THEA 250 Intercultural Voice and Movement

Austin College
Department of Communication, Media Studies and Theatre
Fall 2015

Meeting Days: T/R
Meeting Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:50 p. m.
Wednesday 7:00p.m.

Location: Ida Green, Arena*

“Embarrassment is a partner in the creative act- a key collaborator. If your work does not sufficiently embarrass you ,
very likely no one will be touched by it.” — Anne Bogart

“Outside stop, inside no stop.” —Izumi Ashizawa

*Please note that the meeting location may change more than once over the semester, due to production conflicts.
You will be informed in advance of any changes.

Instructor: Elizabeth Parks

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Office: Ida Green, A114

Phone: 903-813-2567

Office Hours: M/W 1:00 p.m.-2:00p.m, T/R 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Rehearsal Hours: Friday 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Personal Writing/Research Hours: T/R 2:30 p.m.-4:00p.m.

Contacting the Instructor: You are always welcome to come by during office hours, call my office, or email me. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response to any emails. To centralize emails and enhance my response time please only email me through Moodle. During weekends, I do not respond to emails.

REQUIRED READING:

On Training and Performance:Traces of an Odin Teatret Actress by Roberta Carreri

The Art of Stillness by Paul Allain

The Use and Training of the Human Voice by Arthur Lessac

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will serve as an introduction to Eastern and Western theatrical voice and movement practices, modes of training, and performance traditions. Students will explore the dialectic between Eastern and Western performance traditions, intercultural notions of movement and vocal usage, ways of developing oneself as a blank canvas, and ways of developing “presence” onstage. Specific traditions and/or practices to be explored include, but are not limited to the work of Tadashi Suzuki, Eugenio Barba, The Odin Teatret, Anne Bogart, Arthur Lessac, and Noh Theatre.

Questions explored in this class include:

1. What does intercultural mean?
2. How do Eastern and Western theatrical traditions and practices complement, supplement, or contradict one another?
3. Is it possible to create new forms by intersecting and interweaving Eastern and Western theatrical practices and traditions?
4. What are the “best practices” or “bits of good advice” that can be gleaned from exploring Eastern and Western theatre practices?
5. How does the search for “bits of good advice” help one learn to learn?

Expected Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an increasing awareness of the feeling process of the body-mind.
- Define principles governing the body-mind of the performer.
- Identify how the body, voice, emotion and perception are inter-connected in acting and in life.
- Strengthen and center the body and voice through exploration.
- Demonstrate principles of posture, breathing, relaxation, energizing, resonance and the musicality of voice and speech.

POLICIES

Withdrawal: Austin College has instituted a new policy this year, which requires that students withdraw from a class before the 10th week of the semester.

Professionalism and Courtesy: Courtesy is crucial to a positive learning experience, but the greatest tool any theatre artist has is their professionalism! That is what keeps them employed, so let us begin practicing it today!

How do we practice professionalism?

Be on time- This means being early, setting down your things, readying yourself to work, and circling-up to begin class.

Be prepared- This means that you have read the material assigned, done the work assigned, and are dressed appropriately. (See below for attire requirements)

Be present- This means being an *active* participant in the room; being mindful and respectful of everyone in the room. This does not mean that you always have to be talking, sometimes it means allowing time for your colleagues to speak.

Respect the space- Water is acceptable but you may not eat or chew gum in any room we work in. Pick up after yourselves. Leave the room in better condition than you found it.

Academic Integrity:

In keeping with its educational mission, Austin College places a high value on academic integrity and does not tolerate cheating and other forms of abuse of the academic process. The faculty and officers of the college assume that entering students, in accepting admission to Austin College, are aware that they will submit themselves to a high standard of academic honesty, and agree to follow the norms and procedures by which the college observes and enforces this standard.

Cheating and plagiarism, which is a form of cheating, are primary violations of academic integrity. Cheating is defined as, but not limited to, purposely using/receiving assistance from another student or source on an assignment where such help is not permitted. Examples include copying (though not necessarily verbatim) another's work and turning it in as your own, use of “crib sheets” on an exam, or providing the material/mechanism for another student to cheat. Plagiarism is defined as, but not limited to, using someone else's work and attempting to pass it off

as your own. This may be the work of another person, or information obtained from a book, journal, or internet source. Actions that create an unfair advantage by impeding the access of other course members to important information or sharing improperly received information also violate academic integrity. Recognizing that specifics of such violations may be differently defined in some course settings, the college gives instructors the authority to determine expectations and provide instructions according to particular circumstances. For more information on plagiarism, please see the website <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml>

If you are caught violating the academic integrity policy, penalties may include anything from a zero on the assignment to expulsion from the course.

Special note regarding academic honesty as it pertains to this class: Students are expected to do their own work. Despite the fact that there will be group projects in this course, I consider copying your partner's work to be an act of academic dishonesty. When collaborative projects are assigned, I expect *each* student to turn in their *own* portion of the work. It is not permissible for partners to turn in one single document for any given assignment.

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- If you are absent for a class, I will only accept homework via Moodle until 5 minutes after the start time of this class.

Attendance: Timelines and participation are crucial to excellence in the performing arts and in life in general. Regular attendance is **mandatory**.

- 1) Each student is allowed **three** absences in total for the semester. Please use these absences judiciously and save them for emergencies.
- 2) For each absence beyond the allotted three absences, the student's overall course grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade with each subsequent absence. After five absences, I reserve the right to dismiss you from the class.
- 3) Two tardies or early exits will equal one absence.
- 4) All sports and college sanctioned absences **MUST** be turned in by the Friday of the first full week of class.

Coming and going during class: Coming and going during class is **not permitted**. Once class begins, we are training together and we are responsible for each other's development and safety in the class. Constant coming and going disrupts the dynamic of the entire class and renders the work we are doing ineffective. The training room is a sacred and safe space and should be respected as such. Leaving class once we have begun counts as an absence. You must use the restroom, eat, text, etc. **before** class starts or **after** class ends. Leaving class once we have begun counts as an absence.

Rehearsal attendance: Once we begin working on projects, students are expected to rehearse outside of class for a minimum of 3 hours per week. I have designated Friday afternoons for rehearsal time with students. Time spent with me during Friday rehearsal time counts toward your rehearsal time for the week. You may sign up for rehearsal time on the sheet outside of my office.

In addition to any time you spend rehearsing with me, you are also expected to rehearse independently or with your partner depending on the project. Theatre is a collaborative art; we are all counting on each other. Your partner is counting on you, *you* are counting on you, and I am counting on you. Your presence and participation or lack thereof at rehearsals **DEEPLY** impacts the entire class. Even if you are rehearsing a monologue, you are still responsible to your colleagues in the class. Thus, even when you are working on an individual project, you are expected to be working no less than three hours a week outside of class on the given project. Rehearsal logs and reports will be collected regularly to facilitate instructor/student communication and development of rehearsal practices.

Late work: No late work will be accepted.

Attire: Much of the work we do in this class is physical work. You are, therefore, expected to dress appropriately in comfortable loose-fitting clothing that allows you to move easily. The following restrictions are for your safety: no jeans, no short-shorts, no skirts, no hats, and no jewelry. You may consider wearing leggings, tights, or bicycle shorts under your shorts.

Touching: Because of the nature of the work we do there may be times I adjust your posture, form, stance etc. I want you to feel comfortable in this class. If this type of physical contact makes you uncomfortable please let me know.

Institutional Disability Statement: Austin College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all individuals with disabilities and will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines. It is the responsibility of the student to register with and provide verification of academic accommodation needs to the Director of the Academic Skills Center as soon as possible. The student also must contact the faculty member in a timely manner (typically by the end of the first week of class) to arrange for academic accommodations. For further information regarding disability services or to register for assistance, please contact the office at 903-813-2454 or visit the Academic Skills Center.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones are not allowed, under any circumstance. While laptops and tablets are not forbidden they are, for the most part, not necessary in class. This class is about connecting, on a visceral level, to the human experience. This type of personal engagement and investiture is completely interrupted by the use of cell phones or the misuse of laptops etc. If there is a need to take notes, laptops and/or iPads are permitted. If I suspect that you are using your computer for anything other than course-relevant material your device will be taken away and returned to you at the end of class. I reserve the right to prohibit the use of personal electronic devices if I feel that they are inhibiting the learning of you and/or your peers.

Moodle – Please see Austin College’s Moodle site for course information, assignment information, reading due dates, digital articles/readings, and email correspondence.

Grading:

A = An “A” student does much more than is required; turns in flawless work, always on time; contributes actively and insightfully to class discussion; amazes and delights the instructor with a thoughtful and imaginative grasp of the subject as evidenced in both oral and written work.

B = A “B” student does more than is required; turns in nearly flawless work, always on time; contributes actively to class discussion; impresses the instructor with an above average engagement with the subject evidenced in both oral and written work.

C = A “C” student does all that is required; turns in work when due and free of significant error; contributes regularly to class discussion, and satisfies the instructor by turning in work of average quality.

D = A “D” student does all, or nearly all, that is required (though errors and sloppiness are sometimes evident), contributes sporadically to class discussion, but falls short of the average in oral and written work.

F = An “F” student fails to turn in all required work and/or turns in late work; seldom or never contributes to class discussion, or is often absent from class; and/or falls a good deal short of the average student in both oral and written work.

GRADING SCALE:

A + 100-97	A 96-93	A- 92-90	F 59 and below
B+ 89-87	B 86-83	B- 82-80	
C+ 79-77	C 76-73	C- 72-70	
D+ 69-67	D 66-63	D- 62-60	

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**Grading Determination:**

Late work will not be accepted

1. Attendance: 40 points

- a. Each student is allowed three absences in total for the semester
- b. For each absence beyond the allotted three absences, the student's overall course grade will be reduced by ½ letter grade with each subsequent absence. Five absences, I reserve the right to dismiss a student from the class.
- c. Two tardies or early exits will equal one absence.
- d. Coming and going during class is **not permitted**. Any time you leave the class counts as an absence. Leaving class once we have begun counts as an absence.

2. Attitude/Participation: 120 points (3 points per class)

Students will earn between 0-3 points per day for their participation. To earn the full three points, students must::

- a) Practice professionalism and courtesy as outlined above
- b) Actively engage with course content, with each other, and with the instructor. This, again, does not mean that you have to always be talking or moving but you ALWAYS have to be WORKING. Working can take many forms: reflecting, writing, talking, struggling, trying, failing, feeling overwhelmed etc. Working does not involve stopping.
- c) Complete all in-class assignments and explorations

3. Journal – 40 points

- a. Students are expected to keep a journal over the course of the semester. A minimum of two journal entries per week must be maintained. Journals will be collected at various times throughout the semester.
- b. This is an opportunity to comment on and wrestle with materials, exercises, and principles explored in class. You may write about discoveries and challenged experienced in class as well as acting moments you may experience outside of the class. It is not an opportunity to write about how poorly you think other students are doing. Most importantly, the journal is meant to be a vehicle to dialogue with the instructor about topics covered in class. If you find that something you write quite personal and would rather I not read it, simply indicate that clearly in the journal before it is turned in.

4. Rehearsal log and reports- 30 points

- a. This assignment is meant to verify that you are meeting the minimum rehearsal requirement of 2 hours of and to ensure that you are engaging sufficiently with the material and the process artistic creation to allow you to more completely answer the question: What is the work of the actor?
- b. Students will note the day, time, and what was done during the rehearsal. This is a great place to note things that really work in rehearsal and identify problems that you will need to solve.

5. Owning Your Education Assignments- 60 points (30 points each)

6. Project #1 - 60 points

7. Final Project- 80 points

- a. Final projects will be performed November 19th and 20th on the Ida Green stage along with student directed 10-minute plays and a performance by the Austin College improv troupe.

8. Final Reflection Paper- 50 points

- a. Students will turn in a final paper detailing what they learned over the course of the semester, what resonated with them, what didn't and, most importantly, why subjects, concepts or assignments did or did not resonate with students.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given throughout the semester over content from the required reading if it becomes apparent that students are not prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

Grading:

Attendance	40 points
Attitude/Participation:	120 points
Journal	40 points
Rehearsal log and reports	30 points
Owning your education #1 and #2	60 points (30 points each)
Project #1	60 points
Final Project	80 points
Final Reflection Paper	<u>50 points</u>
	480 points total

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given throughout the semester over content from the required reading. Quiz dates are noted on the calendar below. These dates may, however, be subject to change.

Intercultural Voice and Movement
GRADE SHEET

Name: _____

Attendance: 40 pts Total _____/40

Late arrivals: _____
Leaving and returning in class _____

Participation: 120 pts Total _____/120

Journal: 40pts Total _____/40

Rehearsal Log: 30pts Total _____/30

Project #1: 60 pts Total _____/60

Owning your education #1: 30 points Total _____/30

Owning your education #2: 30 points Total _____/30

Final Project: 80 points Total _____/80

Final Reflection Paper 50 pts Total _____/50

Total Points _____/480

FINAL GRADE _____

Class Schedule (subject to change)

*All other readings will be assigned and posted on Moodle.

Week	Date	Lesson	Homework
1	8/27	Introduction Syllabus Terror barter	
	9/1	Running and singing Principles: Inner/Outer Environments Points of departure: Breath, “the snake,” <i>koshi</i> Begin Suzuki work	
	9/2	Screening	
	9/3	Running and singing Principles: Embarrassment, Extra-daily Walks Vocal gesture/structural NRG	Embarrassment reading due
3	9/8	Running and singing Principles: <i>Sats, jo ha kyu</i> Suzuki work Hai Ku Assignment Consonant NRG	
	9/9	Screening	
	9/10	Running and singing Principles: opposition, balance Suzuki work Consonant NRG	Hai Ku due
4	9/15	Adding text to Suzuki work – Tonal NRG	Hai Ku memorized Journals due
	9/16	Screening	
	9/17	Principles: Being Decided, “consistent inconsistency” Tonal NRG	
5	9/22	project #1	
	9/23	Screening	
	9/24	project #1	
6	9/29	In-class demonstration of Project #1	
	9/30	screening	
	10/1	Owning your education	Journals and Rehearsal logs due Owning your education due
7	10/6	Vocal explorations	
	10/7	Screening	
	10/8	Vocal explorations Projection, The Call	

8	10/13	Projection, The Call	
	10/14	Screening	
	10/15	Vocal and physical explorations Assign and discuss final project	
9	10/20	Viewpoints	Journals and Rehearsal logs due
	10/21	Screening	
	10/22	Viewpoints + vocal work	
10	10/27	Viewpoints + vocal work Julia Varley vocal work	
	10/28	Screening	
	10/29	In-class showings of final project	Off book for final project
11	11/3	Bringing it all together In-class showings of final project	
	11/4	Screening	
	11/5	Brining it all together In-class showings of final project	
12	11/10	Work final project	
	11/11	Work final project	
	11/12	Work final project	
13	11/17	Final project “dress rehearsal”	
	11/18	Screening	In class showing of final project
	11/19	Final project “dress rehearsal” 2	Final Project Performance- Ida Green
	11/20	Not a class day	Final Project Performance- Ida Green
		Thanksgiving	
14	11/30	Film	Journals and rehearsal logs due
	12/1	Owning your education	
	12/4	Owning your education	
Final		Final wrap up	Final Reflection Paper due



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I _____ have read and understand the contents of the syllabus for this course. I therefore understand all that is expected of me and I accept the contents therein including all assignments, classroom procedures, grading policies and procedures.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____