Physical Theatre  
THR 491.008  

Spring 2019

Instructor: Slade Billew  
Phone: (936) 468-1112  
E-mail: billewbs@sfasu.edu  
Office: GFNA 311A  
Office Hours: MW 10:30 – 11:30; R 12:30 – 2:30; F 12:30 – 1:30 or by appointment

Class Time and Place:  
T 1:00 – 4:00  
The Downstage (GFNA 100)

Objectives: In this class, we will explore the methods of Physical Theatre with both devised and script based practices. We will explore a range of methods and create performance pieces based on some of those methods. Further, we will examine approaches for learning new physical skills and apply those approaches to a skill.

Required Text: None

Grading components:
1) Engagement 10%  
2) Reading Questions & Thoughts 10%  
3) Physical Skill Plan and Development 10%  
4) Company Research Presentation and Workshop 20%  
3) Performance Projects 50%

Final Grading: (0-59) F  (59.5-69) D  (69.5-79) C  (79.5-89) B  (89.5-100) A

Engagement: The expectation in this class is that you are present as an engaged artist for each class session. You must be present and ready to work at the beginning of each class session. You are expected to be mentally, emotionally, and physically ready for each class. You will be asked to engage as a student, artist, and collaborator every day. You should meet or exceed the expectations of the course, the School of Theatre, and the university. Your engagement will be noted and evaluated on a weekly basis. You will also be asked to evaluate your own engagement on a weekly basis when you submit your Class Reflection. Below is a general rubric for engagement.

A – Student shows a heightened level of attention, commitment, and effort.  
B – Student shows an acceptable level of attention, commitment, and effort.  
C – Student is present and not disruptive or obviously disengaged,  
D – Student is present and mildly disruptive or disengaged.  
F – Student is present and significantly disruptive or disengaged.  
0 – Student is not present or asked to leave class.

Reading Questions and Thoughts (10%): Each Monday when a reading is due you must write three (3) well thought out questions or comments on the reading. These will help form the basis
of in-class conversation and will be collected. They may be hand written or typed, but must be legible.

**Physical Skill Plan and Development (10%)**: We will learn a method for developing new physical skills. You will create a plan, based on this method, to develop a new skill of your choosing. You will follow the plan over the course of the semester and will turn in your plan, as well as, perform the skill at the end of the semester.

**Company Research Presentation and Workshop (20%)**: You will research a contemporary physical theatre company, including their work and methods. You will give a 10-15 minute presentation on their work including visual examples of their work. Then you will lead a 30 minute workshop in your understanding of their methods.

**Performance Projects (50%)**:
1. *Devised Piece (25%)*: Using methods of Eastern European Physical Theatre we will develop a performance piece. You will be graded on your work on this piece.

2. *Scripted Piece (25%)*: Using methods of UK Physical Theatre and Contact Improvisation, we will develop a performance piece. You will be graded on your work on this piece.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

- This course applies to the following School of Theatre Program Learning Outcomes.
- PLO #2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of theatre history and a variety of theatrical styles
- PLO #3: The student will demonstrate collaborative and/or leadership competencies appropriate to participate or take a leadership role in an effective theatrical production.
- PLO #4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships.
- PLO #5: The student will be able to form and articulate a critical analysis and evaluation of a work of theatre.
- PLO #6: The student will demonstrate intermediate and advanced competence in one or more theatre specializations.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of THR 491/Physical Theatre, the student will
- Have an awareness of how the body moves (supports PLO #4).
- Have an understanding of the process of relaxation of the body and connection to the body as they relate to readiness for performance. (supports PLOs #4 and #6).
- Have an understanding of various schools of movement and movement theory (supports PLOs #2 and #5).
- Demonstrate an understanding of movement techniques and skills independently and in groups (supports PLOs #2, #3 and #6).
- Communicate understanding of the kinesthetic experiences of the course as they relate to the theories covered and the experiential work with the body (supports PLOs #4 and #5).
POLICIES and EXPECTATIONS

Course Specific General Expectations:

- All Acting, Movement, and Theatre Speech classes at SFA require the wearing of black movement clothing. This is a common practice in many Theatre training programs. It is intended to create a sense of neutrality across the performers, make it easier to step in and out of character, and help the performance classroom feel like a space where art is made. Your clothing should be solid black and not include designs, images or words. Small brand logos are acceptable. Your clothes should effectively cover your body through a range of movement possibilities. Further, no hats may be worn. If you must cover your hair, skullcaps are acceptable. If you are not wearing class appropriate clothing, you will be asked to leave, and receive an absence for the day, as well as, loss of engagement points.
- This class requires significant physical interaction between students. Please come to class clean, and with nails trimmed.
- Jewelry should be removed before class. This includes necklaces, long, dangling earrings, watches, body piercings and large rings. This prevents potentially dangerous snags on your own body or other’s bodies.
- Soft soled movement or athletic type shoes shall be worn for class. On occasion, we will work with bare feet. I would encourage black shoes, but as quality movement shoes are expensive any color is acceptable.
- Bring a no-spill water bottle to class. Only water is allowed. Fill it before class; you can’t leave class to fill it. No food in class (this includes gum and candy).
- Hair should be pulled out of the face.
- Assist in keeping the space clean, organized and ready for the next class.
- As a student in a pre-professional theatre program you should approach class in the same way that you would a rehearsal. You should be on time. You should be prepared. You should leave any outside concerns at the door.

Absences/Lateness: Theatre is an intrinsically collaborative art, and the practical application side of your training occurs largely in the classroom. Therefore your absence from class impacts not only your learning, but also the learning of the other students. **You should not miss class.** However, I recognize that life happens. Therefore, you have one absence to use at your discretion. After that each additional unexcused absences will cost you a letter grade. Arriving late to class twice will also count as an absence. Only religious holidays, sponsored school events, and documented medical or personal issues may qualify as excused absences upon my discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes from a dependable classmate. It is the responsibility of the student to check in with the instructor after class if s/he is late or arrives after attendance is taken. As stated by School policy: **Seven (7) absences in a T/TH class or ten (10) absences in a MWF class will result in an automatic failure of the course. As this class meets one day a week, the T/TH (7 absences) rule applies.**

Course Work: All course work must be completed and turned in as indicated by the course calendar, as discussed in class or communicated on D2L. This includes quizzes, workshops, journals and other assignments. Students who arrive in class after quizzes have been completed may not take the quiz. Additionally, once the quizzes are passed out students are not allowed to leave the classroom until they have turned in the quiz. All work is due on the assigned date.
**Students with documented disabilities must meet with the instructor in advance of accommodation to arrange accommodations for that disability.**

**General Expectations:**

*Please respect others as well as yourself; this includes other students, the instructor, guest speakers, and performers. The majority of the following guidelines for behavior reflect this principle.*

1. Recording class in any form is not allowed.
2. With rare exception, I should never see your cell phone or electronic device in this studio. Cell phones should be set to silent or turned off and stowed before you enter the room. Absolutely NO use of cell phones is allowed in class unless there is an emergency, or it is approved/requested by the instructor.
3. Use of a cell phone (or other electronic device) or your friend’s brain during a quiz will result in a grade of zero on that quiz.
4. Disorderly conduct or talking inappropriately in class is not permitted.
5. Failure to follow any of these expectations will result in being dismissed from class and counted absent (unexcused).

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of
computing the grade point average.

**Diversity and Inclusion Statement**
This class may engage in material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and ability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated and may constitute disruptive behavior under the student code of conduct.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)
**Tentative Course Calendar**

*PLEASE NOTE:* Dates and topics will be revised if necessary. Additional reading and assignments may be given in class. Dates indicate when assignments and reading are DUE.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>T 1/22</td>
<td>No Class – Auditions</td>
<td>Orientation Meeting?</td>
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<td>Two</td>
<td>T 1/29</td>
<td>What is Physical Theatre/Eastern European Devising</td>
<td>Reading #1 Due</td>
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<td>Three</td>
<td>T 2/5</td>
<td>Developing Skills &amp; Program Design/Eastern European Devising</td>
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<td>Four</td>
<td>T 2/12</td>
<td>Eastern European Devising</td>
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<td>Five</td>
<td>T 2/19</td>
<td>Eastern European Devising</td>
<td>Reading #2 Due</td>
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<td>Six</td>
<td>T 2/26</td>
<td>No Class – KCACTF</td>
<td>Reading #3 Due</td>
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<td>Seven</td>
<td>T 3/5</td>
<td>Eastern European Devising</td>
<td>Public Performance Due</td>
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<td>Eight</td>
<td>T 3/12</td>
<td>No Class – Swords in the Smokies</td>
<td>Reading #4 Due</td>
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<td>Nine</td>
<td>T 3/19</td>
<td>No Class – Spring Break</td>
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<td>Ten</td>
<td>T 3/26</td>
<td>Company Workshops</td>
<td>Company Workshops Due</td>
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<td>Eleven</td>
<td>T 4/2</td>
<td>Email Surveys – No Meeting</td>
<td>Surveys Due</td>
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<td>Twelve</td>
<td>T 4/9</td>
<td>UK Physical Theatre</td>
<td>Reading #5 Due</td>
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<td>Thirteen</td>
<td>T 4/16</td>
<td>UK Physical Theatre</td>
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<td>Fourteen</td>
<td>T 4/23</td>
<td>UK Physical Theatre</td>
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<td>Fifteen</td>
<td>T 4/30</td>
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<td>Sixteen</td>
<td>T 5/7</td>
<td>UK Physical Theatre</td>
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<td>Seventeen</td>
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<td>Final Exam Period</td>
<td>Public Performance Due</td>
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