

Montgomery County Community College
 THA 251
 Mask for the Actor
 3-2-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an upper level course in acting technique, investigating the use of masks, voiced and unvoiced, through improvised scene work and related exercises. Students will build half-masks and full masks and use these to explore the range of physical expression and characterization the body offers. Students will be required to attend live theatre performances. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

REQUISITES:*Previous Course Requirements*

- THA 105 Introduction to Acting I: Improvisation and Fundamentals with a minimum grade of "C"
- THA 106 Introduction to Acting II: Scene Study with a minimum grade of "C"

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Interpret and create characters and improvisations through application of movement, voice and imagination with freedom and expression.	Building Masks (Full-Mask and Half-Mask) Warm Ups Acting Exercises Lecture/Demonstration In Class Participation	Neutral Mask Presentation Mask Character Presentation Scene Presentation
2. Build and animate half and full masks for the actor.	Building Masks (Full-Mask and Half-Mask) AV/Multimedia Materials Readings Library and Online Research Lecture/Demonstration In Class Acting Exercises In Class Improvisations Clown and Character Development Exercises	Mask Presentation Neutral Mask Presentation Mask Character Presentation Scene Presentation

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Apply skills to the creation of a public performance or presentation of mask character work using proper theatrical etiquette and professionalism.	In Class Rehearsal of Scenes Acting Exercises In Class Acting Exercises In Class Improvisations Clown and Character Development Exercises	Neutral Mask Presentation Mask Character Presentation Scene Presentation
4. Utilize appropriate research techniques to create an original performance of a masked character, and an improvised scene.	Research Project Journal AV/Multimedia Materials	Neutral Mask Presentation Mask Character Presentation Scene Presentation Research and Rehearsal Journal
5. Utilize appropriate research techniques to contextualize mask as a theatrical tradition, the work of modern mask artists and clowns against the cultures and historical period which created it, exploring the history and evolution of the work, and other cultural expression.	Research Project	In Class Research Presentation
6. Apply specific techniques and methods for freeing the imagination to the creation of performances of a masked character and an improvised scene with respect to those techniques and methods.	Reading In Class Discussions Acting Exercises In Class Rehearsals	In Class Demonstrations Personal Exercises
7. Engage with live theatre and theatre artists to experience and understand theatre arts in practice.	Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) and/or Seminars, Talk Backs with Theatre Professionals	In Class Discussion or Response Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

All movement classes will include warm-up exercises for body, voice and imagination. Each class will emphasize a particular concept or skill.

1. Course Introduction
2. Neutral Mask: Exploration of the True Response
3. The Body as a Character Tool: *Buffon* and *Grotesques*
4. Improvisation
5. Building a Full Mask
6. Mask Characters "At Home"
7. "Discovered" Masks
8. Building a Half-Mask
9. Voiced Mask Work
10. Group Research Project
11. In-Class Rehearsals
12. Viewing and Critique of Improvised Scene Work
 - a. Observation
 - b. Aesthetic Value
 - c. Analysis
13. Demonstrations thru Specific Film and Television Examples

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Lecoq, Jacques. (2002). *The Moving Body*. Routledge.

Or

Alternate texts as appropriate to the course

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Michael Whistler Date: 10/24/2008

VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: John C. Flynn, Jr., Ph.D. Date: 2/25/2009

Revised by: Michael Whistler Date: 1/14/2013

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 2/15/2013

Revised by: Timothy Gallagher Date: 12/15/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 1/8/2018



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.