



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**  
**Course Number and Title: Drama 409 Advanced Acting I**  
**Session: Fall 2021**

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Peter Balkwill D06 <a href="mailto:peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca">peter.balkwill@ucalgary.ca</a> By appointment in office – Over Zoom (Tuesday 1 – 2:30)
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	Monday / Wednesday: 9:00 – 11:45 CHD015
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	Reading materials will be provided or recommended by the Instructor and available through the Library or on D2L. A notebook and pencil are required for class. <b>Everyone is required to have a mask for all in-class meetings</b>
Learning Technologies and Requirements	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see <a href="http://d2l.ucalgary.ca">d2l.ucalgary.ca</a> ).  In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;</li> <li>• A current and updated web browser;</li> <li>• Webcam (built-in or external);</li> <li>• Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone;</li> <li>• Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;</li> <li>• Broadband internet connection.</li> </ul> Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.
Prerequisites	<i>Drama 300 or 302 or 310, <a href="#">316</a>, and <a href="#">318</a>, audition and consent of the Division Chair, Drama.</i>
Course description	Investigation and development of the actor’s process with a deepening rigor toward integrating vocal and physical modalities as they connect to dramatic text. A study of best practice in rehearsal, and advanced development of live-public performance.  Participation in the <b>Performance Day Marathon Friday December 10</b> will be mandatory.
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invest in physical and vocal articulation warm ups necessary to accomplish the performance needs of naturalistic and classical theatre.</li> <li>2. Have a clear process to break down and analyze a given script or text to assist actors in the development of a character, it’s needs, objectives and intentions.</li> <li>3. Develop a level of focus and concentration required in formal rehearsal processes.</li> <li>4. Understand best practice within rehearsal etiquette.</li> <li>5. Develop an observant and critical eye with regard to strengths and weaknesses in the execution of acting.</li> </ol>

	<p>6. Develop the personal-work ethic needed to succeed as an actor in live performance and toward the pursuit of entering the professional market.</p> <p>7. Articulate the nature of game and play in performance and acting.</p> <p>8. Explore an introduction toward the process of self-generated work.</p> <p>9. Demonstrate a clear understanding of dramatic tension and utilize this to heighten the quality of acting within performance.</p>
Course schedule	<p>Note: The following is a breakdown of units explored which are further articulated in Assessment components – as this class deals with the creation of original material some units will take longer than others with unpredictable developments, thus due-dates will be determined through the journey of the class, and agreed to with appropriate time allotted for success by practicing students. Dates will be listed to indicate the pace of the class.</p> <p><b>Unit 1:</b> [<i>Ongoing throughout the semester</i>] Development of presence and deconstructing the idea of acting. Some modalities tied to Suzuki training and slow tempo will be introduced to advance the student’s work in 416 with an emphasis on the nature of vital (Ki) energy and its role in performance. This unit will explore and lay the foundations of physical and vocal warm-ups.</p> <p><b>Unit 2:</b> (<i>September – October</i>) Considering the Sonnet: further practice in the preparation and delivery of classical text – see below for assessment and assignments.</p> <p><b>Unit 3:</b> (<i>November – December</i>) Investigation of contemporary drama: students will explore naturalistic acting styles connected to a script chosen by the ensemble – see below for assessment and assignments.</p>
Assessment components	<p><b><u>Assignment 1:</u></b> Warm-up / Physical Presence  Assessment Method: Physical demonstration in class  Value: 20%  Due Date: On going  Description: An introduction to various physical and vocal warm-up exercises. Students will move through various physical exercises developing strength, flexibility, balance and a physical relationship with their Ki energy and its shared relationship with the observing audience. The nature of focus and concentration will also be explored drawing upon a formal nature and best practice in rehearsal and performance. This work is expected to challenge a student’s level of seriousness within the work and will begin to deconstruct the notion of presenting ideas of acting, or attempts to <i>be interesting</i> – resulting in truth in action and honest presence in an immediate moment.</p> <p><b><u>Assignment 2:</u></b> Considering the Sonnet  Assessment Method: Physical Presentation / Written  Value: 20%  Due Date: October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021  Students will select one sonnet from the cannon of William Shakespeare and will adapt the dramatic action held within the text to reflect a more contemporary situation. This assignment carries a strong investigation of research and preparation to be able to deliver classical text with a solid understanding of each word within the text. Students will be required to hand in their scripts with each word clearly defined, as well as an analysis of the beats, and journey of dramatic tension held within the action, intentions and objectives of the character.</p> <p><b><u>Assignment 3:</u></b> Contemporary Scene Work / Naturalistic Performance</p>

Note: Script to be determined  
Assessment Method: Physical Presentation / Written  
Value: 30%  
Due Date: December 8, 2021  
Description: An exploration of contemporary text applying a lens of naturalistic sensibilities within performance. Students will continue script analysis techniques introduced in previous years and Unit 2, with an additional lens of charting the dramatic tension inherent within the scene but also through the journey of an entire play. Emphasis will be placed on individual character journeys. Students will be required to submit written script analysis and character development work in work documents on line.  
Also, participation in the **Performance Day Marathon Friday December 10** will also be mandatory.  
Note: Script to be introduced in class and is subject to discussion and collective approval.

**Assignment 4:** Class journals  
Assessment method: Written  
Value: 10%  
Due Date: December 8, 2021  
Description: As important as prep work like the character and script analysis it is vital that actors and artists catalogue their process through post reflection, also this journal becomes a future reference as students move down the path of artistic and educational work. Students will draft a 1000-word reflective essay connected to the work of the class, generated from material that they keep within their journals. Students must submit a grade for each assignment they feel reflects their effort and success in said assignment – they must justify this projection. Note: this presumed grade does not reflect the assessment of the instructor but serves as self-reflection.

**Assignment 5:** Participation – Growth – Preparation  
Assessment Method: Connected to in-class activities – observatory in nature.  
Value: 20%  
Due Date: On going  
Description: An evaluation of an individual student’s focus, concentration and effort in class – demonstrating concern and accountability toward the objectives and exercises presented to the group. This grade stems from an individual’s demonstrated ability and is gauged on the arc of improvement throughout the entire class, but also the singular investment in the progress of the ensemble.

Preparation is connected to work outside of class in regard to learning lines and scene work preparation – meeting off-book deadlines – this is your homework.

Participation includes but is not limited to the power of observation when others are working and the ability and willingness to offer feedback and critical response. In addition to these assessed components the student’s attendance in class will also fall under this criterion. See Assessment Expectations for more information.

**Appropriate Clothing**  
Much of the work in this class is physical in nature therefore proper *neutral* movement cloths are required, no dresses or skirts. Please wear clothes that allow for flexibility in movement, being on the floor, dress in layers as the work will

	<p>make you heat up and cool off intermittently. Make sure to have a pair of socks at every class, as well as indoor shoes.</p> <p><u>Digital Technology</u> Please note – cell phones, iPad and computers are not permitted in class in any form, or manner, even during breaks, unless otherwise stated. If a cell phone is needed during a break the student must leave the class to engage with it. Any cell phones seen in class will be confiscated and returned at the end of class – this event will negatively impact the Growth – Participation – Preparation grade. Please come with a writing instrument and a journal in which to take notes.</p>
Assessment expectations	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> See expectations for writing. <b>All written assignments must be handed in on the due date emailed to the instructor in Microsoft word document form attached directly to the email (not in the form of a link to external sites) – no PDFs will be accepted and will be regarded as not handed in.</b></p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> As per Drama policy any late work will be downgraded one letter grade for every day late. That is, work that would be graded at an A will receive an F after six days late. The above policy sits within the discretion of the instructor and is open to discussion with the students but sits as a general policy and will be employed if there is no advance notice of need for an extension.</p> <p><u>Attendance and Participation Expectations:</u> The growth of students both individual and collective is directly connected to attendance – attendance is mandatory. Without prior notice to the instructor, lateness or absence will negatively impact the participation and growth grade. Prior notice should be in the form of a message to the office of the instructor or through email – it cannot come after the missed class. The class starts on time and is indicated when the door is closed, any student arriving after this point will be counted “late” and shall be noted and reflected negatively in “Growth and Participation”. Acceptance of all excuses is at the discretion of the instructor; prior notice does not always guarantee lenient impact – doctor’s notes will be helpful for any illness that extends into two classes.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p>
Grading scale	<p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in section F.1.Grading System and Transcripts of the Calendar: <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html</a>.</p> <p>A+ 100 – 96 A 95 – 92 A- 91 – 90</p>

B+ 89 – 86 B 85 – 83 B- 82 – 80  
 C+ 79 – 76 C 75 – 73 C- 72 – 70  
 D+ 69 – 65 D 64 - 60  
 F < - 60

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
*D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
*D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.
**I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.
CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable

- A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.
- The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.

**Guidelines for Zoom Sessions**

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others.

	<p>Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g <a href="#">Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy</a>). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <a href="https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/">https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/</a>.</p> <p>If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).</p> <p>The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.</p>
Academic Accommodation	<p>It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations</a>.</p> <p>Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf</a>).</p> <p>Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <p>SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/">www.ucalgary.ca/access/</a> .</p>
Academic integrity, plagiarism	<p>Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> <p>For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf</a>. Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity</a>.</p>
Internet and electronic communication device	<p>The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University’s Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf</a>.</p>

Intellectual Property	Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.
Copyright	All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ( <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf">https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf</a> ) and requirements of the copyright act ( <a href="https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html">https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html</a> ) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</a> .
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.
Student Support	Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines">https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</a>