

## DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

### COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2024

#### **DR 1490 (A3): Introduction to the Dramatic Process – 3 (0-0-6) 90 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Misha Albert

**OFFICE:** L222

**OFFICE HOURS:** M-F 9:00- 10:00 AM or  
by appointment

**PHONE:** (780) 539-2836

**E-MAIL:** [malbert@nwpolytehc.ca](mailto:malbert@nwpolytehc.ca)

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** Speech and movement improvisation with an emphasis on imaginative development will be included. It will be an introduction to the process of acting and to dramatic form.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** NONE

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** NONE

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Laboratory

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**By the end of this course students will be able to:**

1. Explore creativity, imagination, and expression through both personal awareness and group collaboration.
2. Experience the creative process through acting and improvisation.
3. Use the creative process through the following tools: imagination, concentration, physical control, cooperation, observation, self-confidence, and oral communication.
4. Create and participate in drama through both individual and group projects.

This class is a practical introduction to dramatic form and process through physical and verbal improvisation. There will be an emphasis on creative impulse, imagination, and group collaboration. The

class will involve both individual and group work through movement, character, and storytelling tools, using both realistic and non-realistic styles of presentation. The emphasis will be on process, not on performance; however, you will be required to present both group and solo work. Therefore, during this class, you will participate individually, with partners, and in small groups. There is no required text for this course. **PLEASE WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHES TO CLASS!** (i.e., stretchy workout clothing or loose attire that allows freedom of movement. **Please feel free to ask questions!** Theatre is about exploration and awareness. During your creative process, please feel free to question and address any concerns that you may have.

### TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

### EVALUATIONS:

- 20% attendance and participation in class activities, individual, and group assignments.
- 15% Mid-term solo project
- 25% Journals (10 entries will be required over the term)
- 20% Theatre reflection reviews
- 20% Final group project (50% group/50% individual mark)

### GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

**Missed Work:** If you miss an assignment due to legitimate circumstances, it will be possible to discuss an adjustment to the weighting of assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted without penalty unless an arrangement is made **in advance** of the due date. There will be a deduction of 5% each day for late submissions.

**Final Group Project:** If you miss rehearsals for your final group project, you may be removed from the group. If you have more than **3 unexcused absences**, you may not be eligible to participate in the final group project. In that case, you may present an individual project and forfeit the 50% group mark.

**Course Schedule and Overview:** (Activities will be subject to change)

**Please be aware that class content may fluctuate based on breakthroughs or explorations achieved during the collaborative process.**

### *Week 1 and 2*

- Introductions and expectations
- Improvisational work – Self-discovery, focused energy, sensory awareness, gestures, tableaux, and non-verbal/verbal expression
- Develop awareness of self and others through dramatic exploration
- Explore the Where, Who, and What through dramatic action: action, objectives, and conflict

### *Week 3 and 4*

- Focus on the arc of a story (beginning, middle, and end)
- Explore non-linear and linear storytelling
- Explore dramatic metaphor
- Objects of significance
- Sharing your story – What is your story?
- Explore character relationships through improvisation

### *Week 5 and 6*

- Group dynamics and collaboration
- Explore Silent Tension through improvisation in solo, pair, and group collaborations
- Give and take during dramatic exploration

### *Week 7 and 8*

- Introduction of Final Group Project Assignments
- Image-based explorations
- Expression through text
- Connecting and responding to outside stimuli (i.e., Newspaper theatre, social context, music, etc.)
- The art of devising-discovering a theme through group exploration.

### *Week 9 and 10*

- The evolution of a collaborative process
- Explorations through language and sounds – vocal dynamics & nuances
- Creative explorations through writing – creating dramatic text

### **Week 11 and 12**

- Physical and textual connections
- Transitions – How to effectively move through the arc of a story
- In-class work/rehearsals (Final Group Projects)

### **Week 13 and 14**

- Review of dramatic elements  
In-class work/rehearsals

### **Week 15**

#### ***Presentations***

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- As an instructor, I strive to build a supportive and creative environment where students can explore the art of creating theatre using a variety of resources including imagination, personal experience, and research. Therefore, students must support and respect each other, the work of their peers, as well as their own work.
- This is a practical class with an emphasis on group work and participation. Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Missing classes will seriously impact student ability to succeed in the course.
- Cell phones must be turned off and stored away during class.
- Late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

### **Additional Information:**

**Note:** The Introduction to Dramatic Process class will be attending two live theatrical performances during the semester. Please make every possible effort to attend these events since they are the basis from which the theatrical reviews will be created. (February 29-March 16, and first week of April 2024)  
Each class participant will be expected to lead an in-class warm-up during the semester.