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THE 497 05E 86378 (Stage Combat) TR 3:00p - 4:15p PAC: 126
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Ashley White
Office Location: 108
Office Hours:
Office Phone: 903-886-5346
Office Fax: 903.468.3250
University Email Address: ashley.white@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Stage Combat 1: Stage combat is an essential tool for actors across genres. The goal of this course is to provide a set of skills to present the **illusion** of physical conflict on stage, in a safe and believable manner. An exploration of threat, action, reaction and pursuit of objective through staged combat, inclusive of 30 hours of training and an option to test for certification in unarmed combat with the Society of American Fight Directors. This is a performance class and will evaluate student's ability to safely perform the course material in front of a live audience.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will leave armed with a foundation of knowledge to enhance their acting skillset:

- A basic knowledge of unarmed staged combat techniques as demonstrated through:
 - Execution of choreographed staged combat performance as applied to given text and/or scenes

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Capability in partnering and sharing action within a staged sequence through demonstration of technique
- Familiarity with unarmed stage combat technique vocabulary
- Awareness of communication techniques for onstage performance displayed through practical demonstration
 - Ability to navigate cue and response within given choreography
- Pursuance of objective and intention within physical storytelling
 - Scenic analysis tools to support storytelling through physical demonstration
- Awareness of vocabulary consistent with the Society of American Fight Directors' Skills Proficiency requirements for unarmed stage combat

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Instructional Methods

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Classroom Policies

Attendance is critical, as new choreography and techniques will be introduced every period. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class, during warmups. Students will be expected to rehearse course material outside of class hours.

- Students will respect any and all boundaries set by teachers, staff, and fellow students.
- Students will do everything within their power to arrive to class in a prepared mental and physical state, ready to work.
- Students are expected to be in attendance and actively engaged during class.
- Students should wear comfortable clothes suited for movement and closed-shoes appropriate for free moving, stretching, running, and jumping. Please refrain from wearing any jewelry that may impede movement or endanger classmates working in close proximity.
 - Please do not wear heavy scents (cologne or perfume).
 - Please DO wear deodorant.
- No eating or chewing gum during class.
- Water is highly recommended. Beverages must be in closed containers.
- Daily warm-ups are mandatory and are considered a requirement for classroom participation.

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- Prioritize safety at all times through focus, honesty, and communication with self, partners, and instructor.
- Respect the space, caring for and returning any props, and disposing of all trash.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Example:

Written Assignments 20%

Choreography Assignments 20%

Midterm Exam & Performance 30%

Final Exam & Performance 30%

TOTAL 100%

Assessments

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

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LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal

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Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 – August 31 & September 2

Introduction to unarmed stage combat

- Syllabi review
- History in performance
 - o Application onstage
 - o Introduction of scenes of violence
- New Techniques: Falls

Week 2 – September 7 & 9

Introduction continued

- Scenes of Violence - Continued
 - o Analyzing scenes of violence
 - o Scale of Action/Reaction
- New Techniques: Strikes, Punches and Slaps

Week 3 – September 14 & 16

Performing objectives

- Scenes of Violence
 - o Pursuit of objective through violent means
 - o Skill, want, and awareness of each
- Choreography assignment 1

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Week 4 – September 21 & 23

Performing objectives – continued

- Choreography assignment presentation
- Scenes of Violence
 - o Scenic Analysis Assignment
 - o New Techniques:
- New Techniques: Kicks, Knees, Trips, and takedowns

Week 5– September 28 & 30

Exploration of stories of conflict

- Groups chosen for Midterm Exam
- Review of vocabulary for Midterm Exam
- New techniques: Weight Sharing Techniques, Grappling, Drags, Chokes

Week 6– October 5 & 7

- Scenic Analysis due
- Scenes chosen and framed for Midterm
- Midterm Prep
- Mock Mid-Term demonstration

Week 7 – October 12 & 14

- Midterm Prep
- Technique Round Robin Reviews
- Vocabulary Reviews

Week 8 – October 19 & 21

MIDTERM WRITTEN TEST, DEMONSTRATION, AND PERFORMANCES

Week 9 – October 26 & 28

- Introduction of compound actions and techniques
- Adjustments for physical storytelling
 - o Comedic
 - o Dramatic
 - o Relationship
- Technique Review
- Choreography Assignment 2

Week 10 – November 2 & 4

- Advanced Partnering sequences
- Compound Drill patterns
- New Techniques: Advanced falls and rolls

Week 11 – November 9 & 11

- Choreography Presentations
 - o Mock Adjudication
- Adjustments for non-traditional settings
- Final Paper Assignment

Week 12 – November 16 & 18

- Final Showcase Assignments
 - o Scene
 - o Partner
 - o Choreography

Week 13 – November 23

- Final Showcase Choreography Continued

Week 14 – November 30 & December 2

- Choreography Work
- Technique Review

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Week 15 – December 7 & 9

- Final Showcase Prep
- Mock Adjudication

Week 16 – December 14 & 16

FINAL PAPER DUE

FINAL DEMONSTRATION

FINAL SHOWCASE (Please note that the final project showcase will be open to the public.)

Written Assignments and Presentations

Choreography Assignment One: A sequence combining moves already demonstrated within class, with addition of intention and stakes

Scenic Analysis Assignment: A written exploration of a provided scene, complete with action/reaction and want/skill/awareness for each character

Midterm:

Paper: Student will choose a scene to analyze violence from the perspective of each character, its place within the narrative, and critical observations to its impact on the overall story (1-2 pages)

Demonstration: Student will demonstrate previously taught techniques in a classroom evaluation

Performance: Performance of Scenes

Choreography Assignment Two: A three-phrase sequence utilizing techniques given in class, with emphasis on character, story, and impact of violence

FINAL:

Paper: A reflection on the entire semester, student will analyze violent storytelling in theater based on a chosen scene. Part One will be a full scenic analysis. Part Two will be a self-evaluation (3-5 pages)

Demonstration: Student will demonstrate previously taught techniques in a classroom evaluation

Performance: Performance of scenes

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