

UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD
College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
THAR 3324: Selected Topics in Performance: Puppetry
Syllabus

Catalog Description

This course is a continuation of the study of acting through various acting techniques associated with specific genres and styles (i.e., Restoration, Greek, Commedia.) Prerequisite: THAR 1322 or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit. Fee.

Context

This special topics in performance course is a practical, project-based workshop in puppetry that focuses primarily on the genres used most often in professional and educational theatre today, e.g., hand puppets, shadow puppetry, rod puppets (Muppetry), tabletop (Bunraku), and multi-media. This course includes both solo and team projects, for which students will design, build, and perform with their own puppets.

Course Overview

The course is comprised of five genre-based projects (hand, shadow, rod, tabletop, and multi-media), the last of which leads to a public performance that exists in lieu of a final exam.

Each of the five projects consists of four graded components:

1. Puppet/Material: Research, design, and construction of the puppet(s) and scripts/scenarios
2. Performance: Rehearsal and performance of the project
3. Narrative: Written summary and assessment of the process and product
4. Website: Online showcase of each project (includes photographs, videos, and narratives)

For each of the five projects, the following topics will be explored:

1. Historical context
2. Contemporary use and practice
3. Construction techniques
4. Source material, scripting, improvisation
5. Manipulation techniques (solo and partner)
6. Opportunities for further application in professional and educational settings

Course Outcomes and Assessments

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

*The outcomes will be **assessed by a rubric** (or rubrics) developed by the instructor in conjunction with the students in response to:*

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Demonstrate research skills needed for designing multiple types/genres of puppets | 1. The narrative for each project |
| 2. Demonstrate construction skills in building multiple types/genres of puppets | 2. The puppet(s) for each project |
| 3. Demonstrate manipulation and other performance skills needed in solo and group presentations | 3. The performance of each project |
| 4. Demonstrate writing skills needed to create scripts and scenarios for puppet storytelling | 4. The narrative for each project |
| 5. Demonstrate writing skills needed to document both the process and product/performance of puppet storytelling | 5. The narrative for each project |
| 6. Demonstrate collaborative/team skills needed in partnered puppet performance | 6. The performance of each team-based project |
| 7. Demonstrate computer skills needed to build and maintain a personal website that showcases the student's work and development | 7. The student's website |
| 8. Demonstrate the aesthetic values needed to establish "professional" appearance and public appreciation | 8. The student's website |

Academic Honesty Statement

The highest standards of academic honesty are expected in the course. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, counterfeit work, falsification of academic record, unauthorized reuse of work, theft, collusion. See the student handbook for definitions and procedures for investigation of claims of academic dishonesty.

If the code of academic integrity is violated, all policies and procedures in the *UIW Student Handbook* will be carried out. Students may be subject to other sanctions described in the *Theatre Arts Student Handbook*. All records of violations and suspected violations will be filed in the office of the Provost.

Disability Accommodations:

The University of the Incarnate Word is committed to providing a supportive, challenging, diverse and integrated environment for all students. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – Subpart E, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title III of the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), the University ensures accessibility to its programs, services and activities for qualified students with documented disabilities. To qualify for services, the student must provide Student Disability Services with the appropriate documentation of his or her disability at the time services and/or accommodations are requested.

Pregnancy Accommodations:

Under the Department of Education's (DOE) regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions.

To request reasonable accommodations for disability, temporary disability (e.g., injury, surgery) or pregnancy, please contact:

Student Disability Services
4301 Broadway CPO 286
Administration Building – Suite 105
San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 829-3997
(210) 829-6078
www.uiw.edu/sds

Title IX Information

Unlawful discrimination has no place at the University of the Incarnate Word. It violates the University's core values, including its commitment to equal opportunity and inclusion, and will not be tolerated. The University of the Incarnate Word prohibits sexual misconduct, that can include: (1) sex and gender based discrimination; (2) sexual and sex and gender based harassment (including a hostile environment based on sex or gender); (3) sexual assault; (4) sexual exploitation; (5) stalking; and (6) relationship violence (including dating and domestic violence). For more information, or to report an incident, please visit www.uiw.edu/titleix.

Class Absences for Religious Observances

The University of the Incarnate Word welcomes persons of diverse backgrounds and is therefore committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students wanting to attend religious observances and who will miss class. Students must inform instructors at least two weeks prior to attending a religious observance. Students use the form found in the UIW Student Handbook & Student Code of Conduct to request accommodations from the instructor.

THAR 3324: Selected Topics in Performance: Puppetry COURSE OUTLINE

Term: Fall 2019
Days/Time: Tues, Thurs 9:00-10:15*
Classroom: HIT 202
Optional Lab on Fridays 9:00-11:30

Instructor: Dr. David McTier
Office: HIT 200 B
Email: mctier@uiwtx.edu
Phone: (210) 829-3804
Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Format

Although project-based learning is the core pedagogical method of this course, many classes will begin a brief (20-30 minutes) lecture-discussion; the remainder of these classes typically will be dedicated to construction and rehearsal. Some classes will be dedicated to performing and then critiquing those performances. On most Friday mornings, lab time will be offered, but attendance is optional.

Projects

1. Hand Puppetry: Solo (Examples: *Hand to God*, Barnaby Dixon style)
2. Shadow Puppetry: Team (Examples: Karagoz, Wayang, Manual Cinema)
3. Rod Puppetry: Solo or Team (Examples: *Avenue Q*, Sesame Street, Muppets)
4. Tabletop: Team (Example: Bunraku)
5. Multi-Media: Solo and Team (for Public Performance)

Required Materials

You will make your own individual puppets, even with team projects. Doing so will require X amount of tools and materials. Some will be provided by the department; however, you must provide the following, which should cost you no more than \$50. (Items marked with an asterisk may be shared with a partner.) You are to bring your puppet kit with you to every class, unless directed otherwise.

- construction paper (assorted colors)*
- container (to hold supplies)
- eyes (assorted wobbly)*
- felt squares*
- glue (Elmers or craft)
- glue gun
- glue sticks
- Xacto knife with blade
- pipe cleaners (assorted)*
- polyfill*
- sewing needles
- Sharpie marker (black)
- shears (scissors)
- string (cotton, not jute)+
- tape (invisible 1/2")
- tape (double-side sticky)
- tape (masking 3/4")
- thread (black)
- thread (white)
- yarn (assorted)*

Some materials will be provided by the department: craft paper, poster board, reticulated foam, contact cement, polar fleece, polyfill, etc.

Students also will be required to create and maintain a free, personal website showcasing their work.

Grading

Grading for the course is based on a 1000-point scale:

900+ points=A, 800-899 points=B, 700-799 points=C, 600-699 points=D, and 599 or less=F.

There are five total projects. Each project is worth 200 points divided into the following components:

- 50 points for the **puppet** itself (and script/scenario, when indicated)
- 50 points for the **performance** (individual grade; no team grades)
- 50 points for the **narrative** that documents and assesses your process and performance
- 50 points for the **website**, your online showcase of the puppet and performance, which includes your narrative, photo gallery, and performance video

Guidelines and grading rubrics for each of these will be developed and posted on Blackboard under their respective "Projects" heading.

Puppets

You will design and build all of your own puppets from scratch. Your artistic and craft skills will not figure into your grade, unless a required element is missing or so poorly constructed as to impede performance.

Performance

For each project, we, as a class, will develop a rubric appropriate for that project. Even with team projects, all grades will be individually based; there will not be team grades.

Narrative

For each project, you will write a narrative of 300-500 (original) words which summarizes and assesses your puppet-building process (150-250 words) as well as your performance (150-250 words). Your narrative should be grammatically correct and free of spelling and punctuation errors.

Website

Our tentative plan is to use wix.com to create your website. The online program is free, user-friendly, and requires no divulging of personal information other than a compatible email account. You should restrict access to your website (through the general settings), unless you are comfortable with it being made public, and, even then, you should be judicious in what personal information you share. After this semester, you are welcome to delete the website, if you so wish.

Your website will cover all five projects and will include photographs and video recordings as well as your narratives. As a class, we will determine the best means to photograph and video record. You are not responsible for providing any equipment.

Attendance Policy

Because this is a hands-on-learning experience, attending class is mandatory; however, I will afford you two absent classes, which you may miss without explanation. These two absences should cover personal days, off-campus auditions, professional gigs, weddings, reunions, flat tires, as well as days when you are too ill to attend but don't/can't see a doctor. Beyond these two, you must provide verifiable documentation that justifies your absence, e.g., representing the university, doctor's note, court summons, death notice. If you

cannot provide that documentation, then you will lose 5% of your final course grade (50 points) for each absence. If you miss more than 5 classes for any reason, you will be asked to drop the course.

Given that this is a 9:00 a.m. class—which is quite early for theatre folks—there will be incentives for being on time and penalties for being late: +1 point (a tasty treat!) will be added to your final course grade for each class attended on-time, and you will lose -1 point for being late to any class. (There are appr. 30 classes, so these points will add up!) If you are more than 30 minutes late for any given class, then that class will count as a ½ absence.

Makeup Policy

If I have excused your absence, then I will allow you to make up your work without penalty. If I have not excused your absence, then I may allow you to make up your work but with a penalty, typically one letter grade if submitted within a week of the due date.

Friday Lab

Unless otherwise noted by the calendar or the instructor, each Friday from 9:00-11:30 is an open lab. This is time for you to construct your puppet and/or receive assistance from me. Attendance is optional; no points will be awarded for attending nor subtracted for not attending. For team projects, you and your partners may use this lab time to rehearse; however, it is not required.

Class Conduct

You may bring beverages into the classroom, if they are in non-spill containers. Under no circumstance may you eat anything in the classroom. (If we have special treats, we will consume them in the hall.) Please silence and put away your cellphones. Anytime that you are constructing, you must cover your table with craft paper or poster board to prevent damage (from knives, glue, etc.).

Personal Responsibility

Constructing puppets involves tools that involve some physical risk, e.g., X-acto knives and hot glue, and performing with puppets can be physically demanding, e.g., kneeling and squatting. You are responsible for your own safety and knowing your physical limitations.

ITINERARY (TENTATIVE)

AUG	27	TUE	Syllabus; Intro to Puppetry
	29	THU	Hand Project Begins
	30	FRI	<i>No Lab: Forum/Practicum begins that afternoon</i>
SEPT	3	TUE	Bring your puppet kit to class
	5	THU	
	6	FRI	<i>Optional Lab: finish hand puppet, rehearse, and/or set up website</i>
	10	TUE	Hand Performance Due
	12	THU	
	13	FRI	<i>Optional Lab: finish website</i>
	17	TUE	Hand Narrative & Website Due; Shadow Project Begins
	19	THU	
	20	FRI	<i>Optional Lab: work on shadow puppet</i>
	24	TUE	
	26	THU	Class is Lab (David at TETA)
	27	FRI	<i>No Lab</i>
OCT	1	TUE	Shadow Performance Due
	3	THU	
	4	FRI	<i>Optional Lab: photo & video editing, upload, and website</i>
	8	TUE	Shadow Narrative & Website Due; Rod Project Begins
	10	THU	
	11	FRI	<i>Optional Lab: working with reticulated foam</i>
	15	TUE	
	17	THU	<i>No Class: Fall Break</i>
	18	FRI	<i>No Lab: Fall Break</i>
	22	TUE	Scripts, Scenarios, Improv
	24	THU	
	25	FRI	<i>Optional Lab: finish puppet, rehearse (karaoke)</i>
	29	TUE	Rod Performance Due
	31	THU	
NOV	1	FRI	<i>Optional Lab:</i>
	5	TUE	Rod Narrative & Website Due; Tabletop Project Begins
	7	THU	
	8	FRI	<i>Optional Lab</i>
	12	TUE	
	14	THU	
	15	FRI	<i>Optional Lab</i>

	19	TUE	Tabletop Performance Due
	21	THU	
	22	FRI	<i>Optional Lab</i>
	26	TUE	Tabletop Narrative & Website Due; Multi-Media Project Begins
	28	THU	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving</i>
	29	FRI	<i>No Lab: Thanksgiving</i>
	17	TUE	Continue Multi-Media Project
	19	THU	
	20	FRI	<i>Optional Lab</i>
DEC	3	TUE	
	5	THU	Multi-Media Performance Due (In-Class)
	6	FRI	<i>Optional Lab/Rehearsal</i>
	10	TUE	<i>Ongoing Finals</i>
	12	THU	Multi-Media Website Due; Multi-Media Performance TBA (Public)