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THTR 294.01: Seminar - Professional Skills

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Seminar: Professional Skills - THTR 294-01 – CRN 74247

1 Credit, Fall 2018

Instructor: MICHAEL LEGG
Class times/place: F 3:00 P.M.-4:20 P.M. / MCGILL HALL 125
Email / Office / Office Hrs: Michael.Legg@umontana.edu / PARTV 101 / Tuesdays 9-10 a.m. and 3-4 p.m., Wednesdays 3-4 p.m. or by appointment

Description:

This seminar is designed to give students a foundational knowledge of available careers in Theatre and the tools to form a plan for surviving post-graduation.

Outcomes:

In this setting you will:

- Articulate your definitions of career and success; develop a preliminary plan to achieve both.
- Understand the professional expectations and responsibilities of a practicing theatre artist.
- Learn and practice relationship building and networking skills.
- Explore a variety of potential careers in Theatre.

Required Texts:

There are no required texts for this seminar. Additional materials will be uploaded to Moodle as needed.

Course Requirements and Graded Assignments:

- 1) **Attendance & Promptness:** School of Theatre & Dance policies will be strictly enforced. **Absences can only be excused if formal documentation is provided** (e.g., doctor's note, court notice, obituary with travel itinerary) or if I am notified as to a religious observance conflict. **For every unexcused absence, the grade will be lowered a third of a letter grade. If absences persist, the student must take the responsibility to withdraw from the class or risk a failing grade.** For example, if an illness should cause you to miss excessive class time to the point of failing, it is your responsibility to pursue a medical withdrawal so that the course may be attempted again once you have recovered.

Furthermore, arriving late to class disrupts the learning process of your fellow students. Therefore, **tardiness in excess of 10 minutes will be considered a complete absence, and every three instances of tardiness—of whatever duration—will equate to one absence.** "On time is five minutes early!"

- 2) **Class Participation (20 pts):** Following is the 20-point grading rubric for overall class participation, progress and attitude/effort/collaboration. This component will also reflect **class punctuality/attendance:**

0-12 Failed in regards to participation, contribution, attitude, effort and collaboration

- 3) **Personal Statement First Draft (20 points)** – This is your first attempt at a personal statement. The questions you'll need to answer will be available on Moodle after the assignment is given.

- 4) **Personal Aesthetic Research Report (20 Points).** A loose exploration of theatres, companies, and groups that practice the kind of theatre you want to practice, as well as locations where that practice might take place. More details and format will be posted on Moodle when the assignment is given.
- 5) **Rehearsal Observation and Report (20 points).** You will be required to observe three hours of any rehearsal process over the course of the semester. First read-throughs and run-throughs do not count. – you're observing process, not product. If you are cast in a play, only rehearsals to which you are not called count. All Montana Rep rehearsals are open to all students at most times. The guidelines for observation and the format for the report will be posted on Moodle after the assignment is given.
- 6) **Personal Statement Final Draft (40 pts):** A re-working of your initial statement, incorporating all the information and research you've gathered over the course of the semester.

Overall Course Assignments / Grading Criteria Breakdown:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Participation/Attitude/Effort/Collaboration | 20 pts |
| Personal Statement First Draft | 20 pts |
| Personal Aesthetic Research Report | 20 pts |
| Rehearsal Observation Report | 20 pts |
| Personal Statement Final Draft | 40 pts |
| Total Course Points Possible = 120 pts | |

Course Outline (subject to change):

August 31st – Intros; Personal Statement Assignment Given

September 7th – First Draft of Personal Statement Shared

September 14th – Professional Expectations; Rehearsal Observation Assignment Discussed

September 21st – Developing Your Aesthetic; Industry Resources; Research Report Assigned

September 28th – Networking; Marketing and Self-Promotion

October 5th – Intro to Unions; U/RTA contract and The Rep

October 12th – Commercial Career Overview/Major and Secondary Markets

October 19th – Regional Theatres/Devised Work/Theatre for Social Justice

October 26th – New Play Development

November 2nd – How to Get Work/The Agent-Casting Director Relationship

November 9th – MFA Programs/Alternative Post-Undergraduate Training

November 16th – Personal Aesthetic Research Report Sharing

November 23rd – No Class

November 30th – Finances/How to Live as an Artist

December 7th – Rehearsal Observations Shared and Discussed

Monday, December 10th – FINAL 1:10-3:10 p.m.
FINAL CLASS DISCUSSION / REFLECTION – Personal Statement Final Draft DUE

Procedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following School of Theatre & Dance regulations. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing during the class are not permitted. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. **Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances.** There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. **Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others.** Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Cell Phones & Digital Devices

Please turn off your cell phone in class. Stow away all digital devices. My phone will be set to vibrate in case an emergency text message should be sent by the University.

School Handbook

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the *School of Theatre & Dance Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation. <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.