

Instructor: Merideth Taylor
MWF 1:20-2:30, MH 107
Fall 2006

Office: MH 112, X4237
Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00
and by appointment

TFMS 260 MOVEMENT and MASKS

Objectives of the Work:

- **To** facilitate relaxation, spontaneity, and expressiveness in performance situations and/or everyday movement.
- **To** discover the external world (as well as the internal) as rich with potential resources for the imaginative actor/creator
- **To** increase awareness of characteristic/habitual movement patterns and idiosyncrasies, and their ramifications in everyday and/ or performance contexts.
- **To** discover how to use the total bodymind economically and appropriately, and therefore effectively, to communicate.
- **To** experience the mask as an agent for psychophysical release
- **To** improve fitness level, including flexibility, balance, coordination, strength, and tension management.
- **To** foster the ability to work effectively together as an ensemble, using movement awareness as a tool.

Methods Will Include:

A daily warm-up (including a variety of body awareness, relaxation, and conditioning exercises); centering and alignment exercises; neutral and character mask work, performance studies; movement improvisation (exploring non-verbal communication and the relationship of sound, movement, and emotion); reading assignments; journal; quizzes; and class discussions.

Readings and Viewings:

*Rather than a primary text, readings will be drawn from a number of texts on movement for actors and mask work. Due dates will be announced as readings are distributed in class.

*Viewings of videotapes may also be assigned and on reserve in the library.

*You are expected to attend two TFMS main stage productions and to participate in any other relevant extra curricular experiences available on campus. These events can make an important contribution to your learning experience. You may earn extra credit by writing response papers.

* *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, 10/12-14 & 19-21 at 8pm and 10/15 & 22 at 2pm

* *The Wild Duck* – 12/6-9 at 8pm and 12/10 at 2pm

Written Assignments:

1. There will be three 3-5 pg. Papers summarizing your learning experience:

A. with the neutral mask - Due Oct. 11

B. with the character mask - Due Nov. 8

C. with the mask you create for your final project - Due Dec. 8

2. Journal

An ongoing record of your learning experiences, the journal should be kept current so that your papers will be amply supported. It is suggested that you make journal entries following each class.

3. Self Evaluation

A short paper assessing your work in class, how well you met your own goals and

met the responsibilities spelled out in this syllabus, your improvement or gain in skills, knowledge, etc. over the semester. Due no later than Dec 13.

Quizzes

Two quizzes will be given during the semester. Additional “pop” quizzes may be added.

Movement Studies

There will be several short movement performance studies assigned. The final project will include performance studies with each of the types of masks we have worked with. **The final will be a performance final that will take place 12/13 7-9:15 PM**

Student Responsibilities (Summary):

1. Attending classes consistently and promptly, physically and psychologically prepared for work as assigned. This preparation includes willingness to risk and a willingness to play.
2. All performance studies, reading assignments, and papers prepared by due date. Active participation in discussions.
3. Dressing appropriately--Hair out of face; no clothes that restrict movement or obscure body lines; no belts; no hats; no dangling jewelry; no beeping watches; no skirts or jeans!
4. Maintenance of the space--no food, beverages (except water) or gum.
5. Keeping a personal journal as a record of your learning experiences.
6. Attending, and being prepared to discuss, TFMS Department main stage productions and special workshops.
7. Three short papers and a self-evaluation summarizing your work over the semester.
8. Performance studies as assigned.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance and promptness are crucial! Excessive absences **will** have a negative effect on your grade! You may miss no more than 3 classes, whatever the cause, without risking damage to your grade. If you do not feel well enough to participate, you may observe class. Observing class will count as half an attendance credit. No more than four observation credits can be given. **Promptness** - Chronic tardiness **will** result in a lowered grade, and coming into class late will increase the risk of physical injury. Movement study requires discipline. Make a commitment!

Grading will be based on: Attendance, energy investment, focus, demonstrated growth in skill level and awareness, quizzes, papers, participation in group discussion, fulfillment of responsibilities (as noted above), team work, and willingness to play. A= Excellent or outstanding work in **all** categories B= Good, solid work all around C= Average...some problems D= Lots of problems F= Failure to meet the challenge.

You are strongly encouraged to meet with me on an individual basis periodically during the semester to discuss your progress and/or any questions you may have. In addition, I would appreciate your feedback on class experiences whether during class sessions or in one-on-one meetings. Remember that we share responsibility for the success of the class!