

Student Learning Outcomes for January Term, 2017

This course provides the Creativity and Aesthetics Level 1 requirements for SMU's University Curriculum. The learning outcomes for Creativity and Aesthetics Level 1 are:

1. Students will be able to identify and/or employ methods, techniques, or languages of a particular art form, creative endeavor, innovation, or craft(s) and describe how those inform the creation, performance or analysis of creative work.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of concepts fundamental to creativity through explanation, analysis, performance, or creation.

The topics we will study in this course that will help you to develop the skills and knowledge described in the outcomes are as follows:

Juggling: The object is to get the student to realize BOTH sides of the brain by throwing and catching of three objects: ONE object thrown in an upside down V-pattern will get the student an A.

In addition, the students will learn a two-person juggling trick as old as the Commedia. The ability to do this trick with each other will get the student a B. The ability to "throw into each other's pattern" will get the student an A.

Corporal Mime: The student will learn the "Tendencies" of head, neck, chest, waist, and hips of a "neutral spine" as outlined by Etienne DeCroux of France. The student will then learn how her/his tendency changes with the "emotional, cognitive, intuitive" changes in pressure. First by analyzing her/his own natural tendencies reflect personality in "real life" and how these can be applied to the stage or screen. Simple working in the class will get an A. A short paper describing the student's understanding of personal habituations correctly will get an A. Inability to analyze the habituations will get an F.

Clown Leads: Leaving France and going to Italian interpretations of the spine, the student will learn clown leads. Not only forcing the student to compare a French and Italian use of the spine, the clown leads will then be used for the student to create a GAG (initial lead expressing a need, crossing a prop, take to the prop, using the prop for something incongruous, i.e. as though for the "first time" or for total inanity for humor. Creating a Gag with the change of leads and crossing the prop, taking to the prop, using the prop for something it's not supposed to be used for, and satiating the need will get an A. Inability to do this will get an F.

T'ai Chi Ch'uan: The short Yang form of Cheng Man-Ching will be taught. The student will learn how energy begins at the feet, is transferred by the waist (core or "tan'tien") and is exhibited in the hands. Ability to do the form will get an A. Inability to do the form will get an F.

Illusionistic Pantomime: The student will learn how illusion is created by introducing “conflicts” in the spine...creation of one illusion will get an A. Inability to create an illusion will get an F.

Illusionistic Pantomime and T'ai Chi Ch'uan will serve as comparative use of the spine.

Stage Combat Sword: as outlined by the Society of American Fight Directors of which I am a certified teacher. The listening skills learned from two person juggling and simple T'ai Chi Ch'uan “sung” (to relax and listen) will then be extended for two person play with swords both right and left handed. Ability to perform moulinet and parries safely (fighting measure and correct targeting) will get an A. Inability to perform the sword work both right and left-handed will get an F.

Animal Style Wu Shu will be taught so the student can understand how the “Tendencies” as outlined by Corporal Mime are cross-cultural as well as how personal habituations cause the use of gravity in T'ai Chi Ch'uan is interfered with. Learning the breathing of each Animal (Tiger, Crane, Mantis, Monkey, Dragon) will get a B. Learning the form will get an A. Inability to do the form will get an F.

The Assignments in this class that will ask you to demonstrate the extent to which you have achieved the learning outcomes are as follows:

There will be one presentation of Personal Style leading to the final performance of a personal clown. The personal style presentation if done will get an A.

The change in tendency because of a change in pressure as a final will get an A. Inability to change tendency because of a change of pressure will get an F.

There will be one paper about “tendency” required so the student has some cognitive understanding of her/his own tendency. Correct analysis will get an A. Incorrect analysis will get an F.