UNDERGRADUATE NEW COURSE PETITION

1. Proposed Course Title: Stage Combat

2. Proposed Course Description: see attached.

3. Prerequisites: THTR 102

4. Implementation Date: Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Summer I ☐ Summer II ☐ 2013 Year

5. Attach rationale for the course.

6. Attach course syllabus (topics and units of study).

7. Additional faculty and staff required?
   Yes ☐ No ☒
   If yes, attach specifics.

8. Department faculty signatures (majority required). If an interdisciplinary program, a majority of each department must sign this form. Number of Faculty in Dept(s) _____

9. Sent to Chair of College Curriculum Committee:
   Received by Chair of College Curriculum Committee:
   Approved ☒ Not Approved ☐
   Signature: [Signature]
   Chair of Committee

10. Sent to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
    Approved: ☒ Not Approved: ☐
    Signature: [Signature]
    Dean of College

11. Sent to originator:
    Originator responsible for numbers 12 through 17

Date: 10-16-12
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Date: 10-16-12
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Date: 10-16-12
12. Does the course require additional library resources?  Yes ☐  No ☒

If yes, attach specifics and have this signed by Library Director.

Signature: ________________________________  Date: ____________

Library Director

13. Does the course require additional computer facilities?  Yes ☐  No ☒

If yes, attach specifics and have this signed by the Computer Advisory Committee Chair.

Signature: ________________________________  Date: ____________

Computer Advisory Committee Chair

14. Do you want the course included in the core curriculum requirements?  Yes ☐  No ☒

If yes, have this signed by the University Core Coordinator for notification purposes.

Signature: ________________________________  Date: ____________

University Core Coordinator

15. Is the course a part, or to be a part, of teacher training?  Yes ☐  No ☒

If yes, have this signed by the Dean of Education and Human Services.

Approved: ☐  Not Approved: ☐

Signature: _____________________________  Date: ____________

Dean, Education and Human Services

16. Does this course require special grading?  Yes ☐  No ☒

If yes, what kind:  Pass-No Pass ☐  Satisfactory- Unsatisfactory ☐

17. Sent to Provost Office:
   (Original plus an electronic copy to Michele Duran at mlduran@usi.edu)

   Date: ____________

18. Received in Provost Office:

   Date: ____________

19. Notified Chair of Curriculum Committee:

   Date: ____________

20. Curriculum Committee Meeting date to discuss petition:

   Date: ____________

21. Curriculum Committee Meeting date published in USI Today:

   Date: ____________

22. Received by Chair of Curriculum Committee:

   Approved: ☐  Not Approved: ☐

   Signature: ________________________________  Date: ____________

Chair of Curriculum Committee

23. Sent to Provost:
24. Received by Provost:
   
   Approved: [ ]  Not Approved: [ ]
   
   Signature: ____________________________________________
   Provost

   Date: ____________

25. Notice of approval by Provost published in USI Today:
   
   Date: ____________

26. Notified Registrar of final approval:
   
   Date: ____________
THTR 254: Stage Combat

Course Description:

THTR 254 Stage Combat (3)

Students learn safe techniques for stage combat, including hand-to-hand (fisticuffs) and armed (rapier/dagger) combat. Students will also learn how to apply the techniques in choreographic sequences for dramatic effect. Prereq: THTR 102 or permission of instructor.

Course Rationale:

A good performance program in theatre should include courses in technique. In addition to dance classes, one of the most useful and potentially important areas of training is stage combat. Stage combat cultivates the technical grace and consistency that good stage actors must have. It can also prove especially important to the classically trained actor, whose movement includes the style and weaponry of earlier historical periods. Without proper training in this very fundamental requirement of the well-rounded actor, it is very possible and very likely that actors may expose themselves to unsafe conditions in performance. Now that USI has a classroom facility that can accommodate this training and the teaching personnel for it, it is incumbent upon us to provide this educational opportunity in the program.
Theatre 254: Stage Combat
Spring 2013 Syllabus

Meeting Times:
Eric Altheide, instructor
Office: TC 208
812-464-1750
eaaltheide@usi.edu

Course Overview
Students learn safe techniques for stage combat, including hand-to-hand (fisticuffs) and armed (rapier/dagger) combat. Students will also learn how to apply the techniques in choreographic sequences for dramatic effect. Prereq: THTR 102 or permission of instructor.

Course Goals
A moment of combat on stage is just like any other theatrical scene: two characters of specific backgrounds clash together in the pursuit of conflicting objectives. Truly well structured stage combat arises from the exploration of character and how it influences movement, passion and aggression. Students will gain an understanding of how to use their character work to create multi-layered fight choreography. They will also gain an appreciation for the detailed work required to create realistic stage conflict and the care that must be taken to remain safe during rehearsal and performance.

Required Materials
There is no text for this class; however students will be required to acquire several plays during the course of the semester from which to draw the structure and context for fight scenes. These plays will be chosen by the student in consultation with the professor.

Assignments
Combat choreography (1 self-created scene @ 100 points, 2 chosen scenes @ 100 points = 300 points)
Students will be responsible for working in groups to self-choreograph several combat scenes. The first scene will use basic principles of hand-to-hand combat techniques and will be self-created. The second scene will expand on approaching the same techniques through an existing text and the final scene will use an existing text to choreograph a combat scene involving sword play. All choreography will need to be written down and handed in.

Written Assignments (3 papers @ 100 points = 300 points)
Students are required to complete three written assignments over the course of the semester. The first assignment will be collaborating with a team to write an effective, multi-layered character conflict for their first choreographed scene. The second and third papers will be character analysis focused on their roles for the final two combat scenes. Each paper will be 3 pages in length.
Safety and Participation (Safety @ 100 points and Participation @ 100 points = 200 points)
The work performed in this class is a performance of illusion. However, the movements performed and
the equipment used can be dangerous and even lethal if not executed and handled with respect, focus
and careful attention. Every student will be graded on their usage of the safety guidelines outlined in
this class. Any occurrences of reckless behavior will result in a deduction of your grade and severe
infractions may result in a forced withdrawal from the class.

Supporting the role of safety is active participation. Attending class and focused, active participation
provides the training needed to maintain a safe atmosphere. Students will be guided through several
training semesters under careful instructor guidance throughout the semester. They will be graded on
their attentiveness and active engagement during these sessions.

Grading
Grading is based on a total-points scale, with a letter grade assigned to the percentage of total points
earned.

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<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
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All assignments are due on the date assigned. Because of the performance nature of most of these
assignments and the group or partnered nature of some, it is requested that every attempt be made to
have the assignments prepared on time. There is a saying in the theatre that “The show must go on” and
that pertains to this class.

PERFORMANCE-BASED assignments missed due to illness can only be made up if a written doctor’s
excuse is provided. There is a saying in the theatre, “The show must go on!” and this is valid in this class.
Please make every attempt to be present when you are scheduled to present your work.

WRITTEN assignments handed in late by one class period (without doctor’s excuse) will be given half
credit at the discretion of the instructor. Assignments overdue by more than one class period will not be
accepted.

A Note on Homework and Class Preparation
It is expected with all collegiate level courses that there will be significant time outside of class spent on
the continued study of the topic. Acting is no different. Although there will be limited writing
assignments and no mathematical problems to work on, students will be expected to spend time
outside of class making preparations for class exercises and working with their scene partners in
independent rehearsals. This time is valuable to the process, as working on your own will help you gain the experience of preparing a role and making steps forward so that class time can be spent not on rehearsing but on moving you forward as an artist.

Special Needs
Students with documented special needs must notify the instructor within the first week of class. The instructor will work with the student and the staff of Disability Support Services to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure fair opportunities for performance and participation.

Things I Can’t Stand
- **Plagiarism** will not be tolerated in any form. Any student presenting plagiarized work will be given an automatic zero with no opportunity for extra credit work. Consult your USI student handbook for more information.
- **Cell phones** should be TURNED OFF. Not on vibrate. Not stored in a well insulated backpack. TURNED OFF. Texting, tweeting, poking, winking and all other forms of social media communication are strictly prohibited in this classroom.
- **Private conversations**, when not part of class activities, are disruptive and will not be tolerated.
- **Sarcasm** towards the exercises in this class and especially towards any individual working in this class, will not be tolerated.
- **Reckless behavior**. One purpose of this instruction is to insure safe execution of theatrically presented combat; reckless behavior compromises that safety and can endanger all participants. Every student is expected to approach stage combat with respect for its techniques as well as for fellow classmates. ANY violation of safety procedures will be subject to corrective action up to and including removal from the class.

The instructor reserves the right the penalize violations with points taken from the participation grade.

Attendance
This class work will depend on a supportive, non-judgmental atmosphere, allowing for students to take risks. This type of atmosphere can only be created when everyone is fully engaged and participates, even if only as an active observer. Attendance is a vital part of enabling this atmosphere, and students are permitted only TWO (2) absences for the semester. After the two permitted absences, students will incur a half grade deduction off their final grade for each absence thereafter. Exceptions are left to the discretion of the instructor.

In addition, tardiness is disruptive to this process. The instructor reserves the right to consider any lateness as an absence.

Attire
Because of the physical nature of the work in this class, students must come dressed comfortably to move. Skirts, dresses and short shorts should be avoided unless needed as a costume for scene work. Loose-fitting clothing should be avoided and jewelry (watches, earrings, rings, etc.) should be removed.

**Class Schedule**

- **Week One**  Introduction, Safety and Fisticuffs techniques
- **Week Two**  Creating realistic stage conflict
- **Week Three**  Fisticuff One Choreography
- **Week Four**  Fisticuff One Choreography
- **Week Five**  **Fisticuff One Presentation**
- **Week Six**  Choosing a scene, Fisticuff 2
- **Week Seven**  Fisticuff Two Choreography
- **Week Eight**  Fisticuff Two Choreography
- **Week Nine**  Fisticuff Two Choreography
- **Week Ten**  **Fisticuff Two Presentation**
- **Week Eleven**  Rapier/Dagger Techniques
- **Week Twelve**  Choosing a scene, Rapier/Dagger
- **Week Thirteen**  Rappier/Dagger Choreography
- **Week Fourteen**  Rapier/Dagger Choreography
- **Week Fifteen**  Rapier/Dagger Choreography
- **Final**  Rapier/Dagger Choreography