THR 330 Acting Topics
Stanislavsky Sketch Method

Tanya Weinstein

Classroom: Theatre 7
Class meeting times: Every Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00-4:45 PM

Expected average student time investment
Class meetings 90 hours
Assigned outside work 45 hours
Weekly average (using 15 weeks) 9 hours per week

Instructor: Tanya Weinstein, Fulbright Scholar
   Email: tanyapriyatkina@gmail.com
   Information on the web: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanya_Weinstein or
   http://www.skorohod.me/en/about

Faculty advisor: Dr. Robin Mello
   Email: rmello@uwm.edu
   Office: 220
   Office hours: Mondays 12-1 & Wed. 12-1 or by appointment
   Robin is the oversight faculty for this course. She would love to hear how things are going and all about the wonderful things you are/will be doing in class. Both Tanya’s and Robin’s “doors are always open.” Chatting with students is one of the things they both love to do.
   Also, if you have any questions or problems pertaining to this course please discuss them with Tanya. Then, if the question or problem has not been resolved to your satisfaction please meet and discuss this with Robin.

Content: The contemporary Russian approach to psychological theatre based on the latest innovations in the Stanislavsky school.

Guidelines:
   • Be curious.
   • Use your common sense and be compassionate to yourself and others.
   • Empathize with others.
   • Show up prepared and ready to work. We can’t do this without you.
   • Leave your problems at the door.
   • Dividing your attention is rude and stops you from getting the most out of this course. Turn off your cell phones and other devices unless specifically needed for course activities.
   • Organize your work ahead of deadlines.
   • Communicate frequently and use “I” statements.
   • Ask questions. Questions are encouraged.
   • ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IS REQUISITE.

University Policies: Please make yourself familiar with the following UWM policies:
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/1895.pdf
**Attendance Expectations:** Come to every class prepared. Actively participate in all class activities.

**What if I am late?** If you encounter a transportation-related or other similar problem get to class as soon as you can. Being late is better than not showing up at all.

**Can I be absent?** Attending all the classes should be your goal. But, occasionally there are emergencies. **To pass you must attend at least 27 out of 30 classes.**

**Grades:** *All work is required.* If you have a real emergency and can’t be in class and/or do the required work, let Tanya know as soon as is practicable so that you are not penalized for a problem outside of your control.

**Grading Rubric:**
- **A** = all learning tasks completed in an exemplary fashion and with full participation. 
- **B** = all learning tasks completed well with high quality work and participation. 
- **C** = all learning tasks completed satisfactorily, some of your participation is either weak or not fully engaged. 
- **D** = all or some learning tasks were only partially completed or unsatisfactory. Your participation is lacking in energy, commitment, and does not support your work or that of others. 
- **F** = all or some learning tasks were not completed, missing, or completed in a way that did not meet the requirements. Your participation was not committed or energized. You did not support others in the group, you were obstructionist and/or lazy.
# CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Key exercises, tasks, &amp; references</th>
<th>Homework (details discussed in class)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Getting to know each other. Presentation of the working method.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The first day of class: students are asked to present a 3-minute sketch &quot;It's me.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teamwork and working with a partner are at the core of the main principle of the performing arts: &quot;theater is a collective creation&quot;.</td>
<td>Work based on methodology found in; <em>Training Forever</em> by J. Alschitz for the GITIS Academy</td>
<td>Second week students will be asked to start every class with a welcoming sketch of 1 to 3 minutes, these are prepared in advance by all students together, without the teacher's participation.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Introduction to the Stanislavsky system. History, contemporary trajectory, and main highlights.</td>
<td>Presentation of main names, schools and timeline of the method.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Working with the classical Stanislavsky system. Memory of physical actions and reactions, proposed contexts (time, place, action).</td>
<td>Exercises “Transition”, “Living environment”, Simple “magic if” sketches.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Working with the classical Stanislavsky system, proposed contexts (time, place, action).</td>
<td>The first introduction into actor's creative process: simple “magic if” sketches.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Working with the classical Stanislavsky system, event and turning point.</td>
<td>Exercise “three words”.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Notion of a sketch, improvisation in given settings (proposed context).</td>
<td>Exercise &quot;Chains&quot;—representing the physical life (only physical action, no impersonations or characters) of classical dramatic characters.</td>
<td>In every class, students are asked to present a new sketch based on a literary source.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Individual sketches, explanation of the concept of composition of a scene study.</td>
<td>Working using the methods of Fishtinsky and Demidov.</td>
<td>In every class, students are asked to present a new sketch, based on a literary source.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Activity Description</td>
<td>Study Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sketches in pairs, organic silence.</td>
<td>Revising and preparing to present sketches developed in the classroom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sketches in pairs, organic silence, arrival of the word.</td>
<td>The Demidov sketches, improvisation in a given paradigm based on <em>The Life on Stage</em> by N. Demidov. Revising and preparing to present sketches developed in this course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sketches in pairs, arrival of the word.</td>
<td>Revising and preparing to present sketches developed in this course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Demidov sketches based on literature and drama.</td>
<td>Revising and preparing to present sketches developed in this course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The Demidov sketches based on literature and drama.</td>
<td>Revising and preparing to present sketches developed in the classroom. Research for the texts suitable for this assignment.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Open class as a sum-up of the semester.</td>
<td>Presentation of the sketches prepared in advance, as well as impromptu exercises. Open to public. 3-minute sketch “it’s me” developed through the skills you have learned in the course.</td>
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