

THEA-130: STAGE COMBAT

Effective Term

Fall 2025

CC Approval

11/03/2023

AS Approval

11/14/2023

BOT Approval

11/16/2023

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

Send Workflow to Initiator

No

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Theater Arts (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

THEA - Theater Arts

Course Number

130

Department

Theater Arts (THEA)

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Stage Combat

Short Title

Stage Combat

CB03 TOP Code

1007.00 - Dramatic Arts

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Theater and film industries requires to reenact stage violence in safe and methodical ways.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

Stage combat aims to provide student actors with an in-depth exploration of stage violence techniques, emphasizing safety, realism, and artistic expression. Through a combination of theory, practical exercises, complex choreography, and analysis of fight scenes, students will develop a deep understanding of portraying physical conflicts on stage convincingly and safely.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00000

Lecture Hours

36.00

Lab Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

72

Total Contact Hours

90

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

No

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Create the illusion of reality through staged violence.
2. Analyze a script to score stage violence.
3. Present safe choreographed fights for peer and academic review.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a proficient understanding of stage combat techniques, ensuring both their safety and that of their scene partners.
2. Analyze and incorporate historical and contemporary fighting styles into their choreography.
3. modify choreography to suit various staging conditions and demonstrate the leadership skills needed to guide fight scenes. successfully.

Course Content

Lecture Content

Week 1-2: Foundations of Stage Combat

- Safety protocols and guidelines for stage combat
- Historical overview of stage combat in theatrical productions
- Comprehensive warm-up routines and physical conditioning for stage combat
- In-depth study of terminology and principles

Week 3-4: Unarmed Combat Mastery

- Advanced unarmed strikes, grappling, and joint locks
- Enhancing emotional commitment in fight scenes
- Simulating different levels of aggression and intent
- Complex partner exercises for timing, improvisation, and communication

Week 5-6: Advanced Single Weapon Techniques

- In-depth study of specific weapons (e.g., rapier, dagger)
- Mastering advanced attacks, parries, and counterattacks
- Developing complex choreography for single weapon-based fight sequences
- Exploring historical fighting styles and incorporating them into scenes

Week 7-8: Multiple Combatants and Group Dynamics

- Choreographing intricate group fight scenes
- Strategies for maintaining safety and precision with multiple actors
- Incorporating storytelling and character development into group combat

Week 9-10: Intensive Stunt Work and Special Effects

- Controlled falls, rolls, and advanced stunts
- Understanding the art of creating illusion in stage combat
- Exploring pyrotechnics, fake blood, and other effects for heightened realism

Week 11-12: Analyzing and Adapting Fight Scenes

- Deconstructing fight scenes from famous plays and productions
- Adapting choreography to different staging and audience settings
- Exploring the psychological and emotional aspects of characters during combat

Week 13-14: Developing Original Fight Choreography

- Collaborative projects for creating unique fight scenes
- Incorporating narrative, themes, and symbolism into choreography
- Emphasizing creativity while maintaining safety and storytelling

Week 15: Rehearsals and Final Showcase Preparation

- Polishing and perfecting choreographed fight sequences
- Technical rehearsals and run-throughs for the final showcase
- Feedback and adjustments from peers and instructors

Week 16: Final Showcase and Evaluation

- Presenting a comprehensive showcase of learned techniques
- Peer, instructor, and audience feedback on performances
- Reflecting on personal growth and achievements throughout the course

Lab Content

Rehearse and perform in-class projects

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Critique	Students will write critiques of filmed hand to hand combat scenes.
Observation and Demonstration	Students will observe fight sequences and and practice them for demonstration.
Discussion	Students will discuss safety principles.

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Class Participation	Students practice choreography.
Skills Demonstration	Students demonstrate stage violence skills for rest of class.
Performances	Students perform stage combat scenes.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Students will complete specific reading assignments from the text. For example:

1. Read chapter 3 in the text and write up an application for fight development.
2. Read chapter 4 in your text and apply content to an assigned scene.

Writing Assignments

Students will be given written and performance assignments to complete. For example:

1. Prepare a written analysis of a fight from a scene from Long Day's Journey Into Night.
2. Rehearse and perform the stage violence (five to ten minutes in length) from a contemporary play.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Philip d'Orleans

Title

Unarmed Stage Combat

Edition/Version

Paperback

Publisher

The Crowood Press

Year

2021

ISBN

9781785007859

Proposed General Education/Transfer Agreement

Do you wish to propose this course for a Local General Education Area?

No

Do you wish to propose this course for a CSU General Education Area?

No

Do you wish to propose this course for a UC Transferable Course Agreement (UC-TCA)?

Yes

Do you wish to propose this course for an IGETC General Education Area?

No

Course Codes (Admin Only)**ASSIST Update**

Yes

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No

Reviewer Comments

Stacey Howard (showard) (Fri, 22 Sep 2023 19:44:19 GMT): Emailed faculty with suggested edits: Effect Term to fall '25 for UC-TCA proposal/approval (added proposal), include lab hours and brief statement differentiating lec from lab/activity content. Change lec hours to 36, add 54 lab hours (other hours adjusted automatically). Added on behalf of faculty and sending back to initiator for review and any other edits.