**Viewpoints Syllabus TA121**

Portland Actors Conservatory

Day(s) and Time: Mondays 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Semester Fall 2017

Credits: 3

Instructor: Chris Harder

Email: ChrisH@pac.edu Telephone: 503-956-6089

Office Hours and Location: 4:30pm - 5pm or by appointment at Artists Rep

**Textbooks/Materials:**

* Bogart, Anne and Tina Landau: *The Viewpoints Book: A Practical Guide to Viewpoints and Composition*.

**Course Description and Overview:**

Through practice, exploration and feedback students will become versed in a common language regarding Time and Space, born in the 1960’s cultural and artistic revolution in New York City with the Judson Church Theater and choreographer Mary Overlie, and further developed by specifically for the theatre and devised work by Anne Bogart and Tina Landau.

Students will explore the Viewpoints vocabulary both individually and with ensemble to create dynamic, original theatre. Practice of the Viewpoints Technique can help students improve listening skills, body awareness, ensemble collaboration, and improvised story telling ability.

Viewpoints offers tools for an artist to play, to work stylistically in extremes and take risks. It is an excellent foundation for devising original theatre and offers the actor a greater awareness of how time and space are utilized in live performance.

**Course Objectives:**

* To become acquainted with the evolution and practice of Viewpoints training
* To have a full understanding of the Nine Viewpoints and how they can be used into the story telling process
* To build stronger ensemble relations through practice of the Viewpoints
* To explore creating original work using techniques of Viewpoints training
* To expand beyond the walls of traditional theatre architecture through site specific work
* To apply aspects of Viewpoints techniques into the design process, rehearsals, and performance

**Special needs:** Please let the instructor know if you have any physical disabilities that may interfere with your ability to participate fully in the class activities. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment. All communication will be considered confidential.

**Class Policies, Expectations and Grading:**

**1. Attendance and Participation**

* Students are expected to attend all classes.
* There is one excused absence allotted.
* Each absence after that allotment will lower your grade by one whole grade.
* Two late arrivals will be counted as one absence.
* Students are expected to be fully engaged in the learning process. Student are expected to be respectful and open to feedback. Students will be required to give their full attention to others that are working and give feed back when asked. This is a movement based technique, so please dress like you would for a yoga class ( full shirt, but can be a sleeveless or tank top) and no short shorts. No jeans. Students will be working barefoot most of the time. Socks with grips on the bottom are acceptable.

**2. Composition /Devised Pieces**

* Students will be required to devise and present original work to the class in small groups. The assignment will be given and students are expected to practice and develop the work outside of class for presentation at the following class.
* A Final Devised Piece will be created by the entire ensemble for final lab presentation on December 15th.
* Viewpoints work and Devised performance will be evaluated based on: Knowledge and Comprehension, Presence, Focus, Spontaneity and Dynamics, Ensemble Collaboration, Characterization, Imaginative Story Telling, Risk Taking and Commitment.

**3. Reflection Paper**

* Students will be required to write a 2 page reflection paper (double spaced) reflecting on their experience with Viewpoints. Due October 30th
* Students should articulate in their own words how the Viewpoints function.
* Students should asses their own personal strengths and weaknesses in the technique as well as expressing personal goals, ideas, and / or themes they are compelled to explore in the Viewpoints.

**Grades:**

At the completion of the course students will receive a written evaluation and grade (A-F). Final grades will be based on the following:

* Attendance and Participation 30%
* 1st Devised Piece 20%
* 2nd Devised Piece 20%
* Final Devised Piece 20%
* Reflections Paper 10%

**PAC Grading Scale**

A 4.0 (96 – 100)

A- 3.7 (92-95)

B+ 3.3 (88-91)

B 3.0 (84 – 87) (Minimum required cumulative grade to audition is 3.0.)

B- 2.7 (80-83)

C+ 2.3 (76-79)

C 2.0 (72-75)

C- 1.7 (68-71

D+ 1.3 (64-67

D 1.0 (60-63

F 0 (Below 60)

I Incomplete

**Daily Content/Activities ( subject to change):**

Week 1 - 9/25

Introductions and syllabus review

Physical Warm Up

Introduction of Soft Focus

Begin the Flow

Week 2 - 10/2

Warm up

Begin introductions to individual viewpoints

Tempo and Kinesthetic Response

No Class - 10/9

Week 3 - 10/16

Warm up

Review of Tempo and Kinesthetic Response

Introduce Duration and Repetition.

Review all the Viewpoints of Time

Week 4 - 10/23

Warm up

Introduce Topography and Spatial Relationship

Introducing Architecture, Gesture (Expressive and Behavioral), and Shape

Week 5 - 10/30

Warm up  **\*\*\*Reflection Paper Due\*\*\*\*\*\***

Review all the Viewpoints

Introduction of Composition

**\*\*\*Assign composition- Homework \*\*\***

* 1st - 5 minute devised piece

Week 6 - 11/6

Warm up

Present 5 minute devised pieces

**\*\*\*Assign composition- Homework \*\*\***

* 2nd - 5 minute devised piece

Week 7 - 11/13

Warm up

Present 5 minute devised pieces

**\*\*\*Assign Final Composition\*\*\***

(worked on outside of class to be presented on final day)

Week 8 - 11/20

Warm up

Devised work - Final Composition

No Class - 11/27

Week 9 - Friday 12/1

Warm up

Devised work

Final Composition

Week 10 - 12/4

Warm up

Devised work

Final Composition

Week 11 - 12/11

Warm up

Devised work

Final Composition