

COURSE SYLLABUS
Southeast Missouri State University

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE and DANCE

Course No. TH 220

COURSE TITLE: Stage Combat I

New 2002

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

The course emphasizes safety, methods of staging, falling and rolling, unarmed stage fighting, and basic stage swordplay. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s):

TH 115; TH 120; or consent of instructor

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. Students will demonstrate mastery of safety principles and their applications.
- B. Students will demonstrate expertise in basic techniques and their applications.
- C. Students will demonstrate expertise in basic staging principles and practices.
- D. Students will demonstrate understanding of basic fight notation.
- E. Students will demonstrate understanding of basic text analysis.
- F. Students will demonstrate enhanced knowledge of the central processes of acting.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- A. Students will model college-level discipline and deportment with regards to assignments, exercises, participation, and attendance.
- B. Students will read-for-mastery all reading assignments.
- C. Students will dress appropriately for full participation in physical exercises.
- D. Students will prepare, rehearse, and perform scheduled fight-exams, 5 short research/analysis papers and a final exam-performance.

V. Course Content or Outline (Indicated number of class hours per unit or section):

Unit 1: (1 week): Introduction to stage combat and orientation to the course of study. Discussion, definitions, and demonstrations.

- A. Theatrical Violence: The Problem

- B. Orientation: The Nature of the Course
- C. Safety Principles: Foundations of Practice
- D. Staging Principles: Structures of Practice
- E. Practical Matters: Equipment and Equipment Maintenance

Unit 2: (8 weeks): Introduction to unarmed stage combat techniques.

- A. Falling and Rolling
- B. Knaps
- C. Slaps
- D. Punches
- E. Hair Pulls
- F. Chokes
- G. Gun Safety

Unit 3: (6 weeks): Medieval Weaponry

- A. Quarterstaff
- B. Broadsword & Shield
- C. Two-hand and Hand-and-a-half Swords

Unit 4: (2 weeks): Rehearsal workshop and final fight preparations.

VI. Textbooks and Other Materials or Equipment:

One pair well-fitting work gloves or fencing gauntlets

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- A. Participation and Attendance. (25%)
- B. 5 Research and Analysis Papers (25%)
- C. Basic Unarmed Fight & Basic Medieval Fight (25%)
- D. Combined Unarmed and Medieval Final Performance Fight (25%)