

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

**Academic School/Department:** Communications, Arts & Social Sciences

**Programme:** Performance and Theatre Arts

**FHEQ Level:** 5

**Course Title:** Stage Combat

**Course Code:** THR 5220

**Course Leader:** Dr . Michael Barclay

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

**Practical Tasks and assignments:** 40

**Screenings:** 3

**Rehearsals:** 2

**Independent/ Guided Learning:** 75

**Semester:** Fall and/or Spring

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits  
6 ECTS credits  
3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the creation of the illusion of violence on the stage. Both classical swordplay and modern unarmed fighting are covered in this class, with a strong emphasis on the actors' safety, correct usage of weapons, and the core techniques involved in stage combat. Particular emphasis is placed on the concepts underpinning the techniques and on the various uses of violence in the theatrical environment.

**Prerequisites:** None

### **Aims and Objectives:**

This course will introduce the fundamental principles necessary to effectuate the illusion of violence on the stage. The two weapon systems studied will be unarmed combat and fighting with Rapier & Dagger, with a strong focus on safety. The students will apply their conceptual and theoretical understanding in the practical performance of two choreographed fights.

### **Programme Outcomes:**

5A (i); 5B(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end this course, successful students should be able to:

- Develop theoretical comprehension of the paramount importance of **SAFETY** in the creation and performance of the illusion of violence on stage. Within a series of exercises of escalating difficulty they will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to apply practical safety solutions to a broad variety of techniques.
- Perform each technique of **UNARMED COMBAT** taught with clarity and accuracy, demonstrating the ability to integrate both theoretical and practical safety concepts with a variety of performance aspects.
- Perform each technique of **RAPIER AND DAGGER** taught with clarity and accuracy, demonstrating the ability to integrate both theoretical and practical safety concepts with a variety of performance aspects.
- Produce a technical **JOURNAL** detailing each technique taught, its conceptual foundations, its sequential structure and its practical application to choreography

### **Indicative Content:**

- Rapier & Dagger – Footwork; Parries; Targets; Distance; Cueing System; Dégagé Bind; Circular parries; Deception of parry; Croisé; Parallel parries; Cuts; Reinforced parries; Beat parries; Cross parries; Grand envelopment; Glissade;
- Phrases of choreography
- Unarmed – Pushes Pulls; Strangle; Slap; Hook punch; Backfist; Profile slap; Parrot punches; Roundhouse punch; Bob'n'weave avoidance; Jab punch; Uppercut punch; Choke from behind; Elbow strike to the stomach; Phrases of choreography
- Debate - Violence in the entertainment industry

### **Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Special Programme Assessment Norms for Theatre approved by Academic Council on 28 June 2012.

### **Teaching Methodology:**

This course is practical. Students will be taught through demonstrations, descriptive input and a series of class exercises and drills. This will include working in a controlled manner with a partner using feedback from the instructor to define and refine the actions. There will also be an ongoing discussion of violence and its effect on society and the media.

### **Bibliography:**

**Indicative Text:**

Howell, Jonathan, *Stage Fighting-A Practical Guide*. The Crowood Press, Ramsbury, 2008.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus.

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Rewrite of Programme Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewording of Learning Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Adding an Indicative Text	LTPC 30/5/14	