

Combat & Special Effects for Stage, Video & Film

NTPA Acting and Film & Video Certifications

Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:50PM at NTPA - Plano

Spring 2020 Semester

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Course Description

This class will teach the different levels of stage combat such as Hand to Hand Combat as well as Swords and Dagger. Emphasis will be on safety, control and choreography of all stage combat skills. Students will participate in proper stage falls, slaps, and punches through proper technique and safety at the center of the goals. Students will be asked to demonstrate an instructor taught fight, as well as develop their own combinations under the supervision of the instructor.

Professional stage combat kicks and sword fighting will be included in the student's physical development goals and objectives. Students will be assessed by their ability to perform the tasks assigned and their ability to remain responsible to abiding by the safety instructions outlined by the instructor at the beginning of the course. Fundamentals of filming such scenes will be incorporated into the course in order to bring realism to the visual art.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to demonstrate a professional stage slap and fall in a choreographed sequence by the instructor, keeping every student's safety as the ultimate priority.
- Students will be able to demonstrate a professional stage punch in a choreographed sequence by the instructor, keeping every student's safety as the ultimate priority.
- Students will be able to demonstrate a professional stage kick in a choreographed sequence by the instructor, keeping every student's safety as the ultimate priority.
- Students will be able to execute an instructor choreographed sword fight, keeping every student's safety as the ultimate priority through proper form and adherence to the instructor's safety procedures.
- Students will be able to construct a fight scene based on the skills learned in groups of two to four students overseen by the instructor to ensure proper form and adherence to the instructor's safety procedures are exhibited.

Required Texts, Materials, or Equipment

- comfortable clothes and sneakers
- water bottle w/water in it, notebook and pencil and towel
- knee pads may be required on a student by student basis

Homework/Projects

- Construct small group choreographed fight sequence under the instructor's supervision
- Demonstrate professional stage slaps, falls, punches, kicks, and sword fights under the instructor's supervision.
- Additional at home assignments will be determined by the instructor.

Major Assignments: Descriptions

Master all of the moves as well as the sword numbers.

Create your own fight scene to be filmed and demonstrated

Class Participation

You are expected to attend every class meeting unless there are extenuating circumstances. You are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to coming to class and to participate in class discussions. In addition, you are expected to participate in the in-class activities as assigned throughout the semester. Multiple absences or lack of participation will lead to a lower participation grade.

Attendance in this course is required. If you are absent any days during the semester, it is YOUR responsibility to obtain the notes from class from a fellow classmate. You will be expected to know the content covered in each lecture, regardless of the nature of your absence. Therefore, it is important to get class notes from a classmate. It is also YOUR responsibility to contact the course instructor or a classmate to inquire about important announcements that may have been given that day. All absences must be reported to an email to [**AcademyAdmin@ntpa.org**](mailto:AcademyAdmin@ntpa.org) and advise the individual instructor prior to the date of absence. The instructor will determine which absences eligible to be excused (*See detailed attendance expectations below*).

A respectful atmosphere should be maintained at all times. In a classroom, this includes showing respect for other class members' contributions to discussions. There may be differing viewpoints, and students may disagree with each other at times, but it is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grade will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in discussions or assignments. Everybody is asked to respect the viewpoints of other students and refrain from hostile comments.

Course Grading

At mid-semester, a student's progress in each fine arts discipline will be evaluated through a "Progress Report Process." In this review process, each student will be evaluated throughout

the semester. The staff of that department will assess the student's work and inform the parents of the student's progress. This is a developmental process, which familiarizes them with the responsibility of presenting their artistic work for review throughout the semester. A student must maintain a rating of at least "Satisfactory" (70% or higher)

Those students who are rated as "Improvement Needed" (below 70%) may be on probation in that area of the academy. The resident directors will outline a strategy for improvement and communicate this outline to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student. The student in this situation must raise this rating to at least "Satisfactory" in a reasonable amount of time established by the student, family and Managing Director.

A conference will be scheduled for parents of students who scored in the "Improvement Needed" on their last Progress Report. Parents should schedule a conference with their child's resident directors to discuss other concerns with their child's arts progress. Any other conferences may be during the day at a time mutually convenient to all parties. Parents should call or email the Academy Managing Director to set a conference time.

Failure to complete NTPA classes could result in dismissal from the program.

Explanation of Grading System

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance— 10%

Participation— 20%

Safety/Focus---20%

FINAL----- 50%

GRADING SCALE

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 65-69

F: Below 65

Course Policies and Information for Students

INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

The best learning environment—whether in the classroom, studio, laboratory, or stage—is one in which all members feel respected while being productively challenged. At the North Texas Performing Arts Academy, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive atmosphere, in which all participants can contribute, explore, and challenge their own ideas as well as those of others. Every participant has an active responsibility to foster a

climate of intellectual stimulation, openness, and respect for diverse perspectives, questions, personal backgrounds, abilities, and experiences, although instructors bear primary responsibility for its maintenance.

A range of resources is available to those who perceive a learning environment as lacking inclusivity, as defined in the preceding paragraph. If possible, we encourage students to speak directly with their instructor about any suggestions or concerns they have regarding a particular instructional space or situation. Alternatively, students may bring concerns to another trusted advisor or administrator (such as the Managing Director or Head of School.) All classroom participants—including faculty, staff, and students—who observe an incident affecting the learning environment may also file a report (whether personally or anonymously) utilizing the **Academy Hotline 469-471-4743**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend classes and rehearsals with an 80% attendance record (for a typical 16-week course meeting twice weekly, this would mean no more than 6 absences) and the student is responsible for making up work, project or assignment that is missed throughout the semester. Unexcused Absences beyond the 80% policy may result in the student's failing the class, withdrawal from an activity, or reduction in role in a show and will need to be evaluated and approved by the Head of School. (see *Student Handbook* for additional information.)

Tardiness

Our classes will begin at the time scheduled, and a student's late arrival may impact their participation and disrupt the class, and so late arrivals are strongly discouraged. Should a student be late for a class, the parent should send an email to **AcademyAdmin@ntpa.org** and advise the individual instructor. Excessive tardiness may jeopardize a student passing a required certification course.

1. PENALTIES FOR LATE WORK and REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

Late work or extensions on assignments may be requested through the NTPA Academy Incomplete Homework Form. Completion of the NTPA Academy Incomplete Homework Form

does not mean the late work will be excused. The instructor has the right to create an individualized plan for the late work or dismiss the work following the due date.

2. REGRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned based on your performance on each assignment. Assignment grades and feedback (when applicable) will be provided throughout the semester, and it is your responsibility to check your grades and feedback. Questions about grades and feedback should be brought to your course instructor's attention within 2 weeks of the grade posting. If you are disputing the final course grade, NTPA policy requires that it be done in writing within 10 business days of the grade posting.

3. TECHNOLOGY POLICIES:

Academy Classes: Electronic devices will generally not be allowed during any academy classes. An individual instructor may choose to allow electronic device use.

Academy/Conservatory Productions: These devices will not be allowed during any academy/conservatory rehearsals or productions. NTPA is not responsible or liable for any lost, stolen or damaged property of the students.

4. **EXPECTATION OF INTEGRITY:** Ethical behavior is an essential component of learning and scholarship. Copyright expectations, behavior and dress codes as outlined in the Student Handbook must be followed at all times. Students are expected to understand, and adhere to, the NTPA Academy Student Code of Conduct and follow all expectations stated in the Student Handbook. Students are expected to exhibit the Ten Characters at all times.
- Always cite your sources when you present ideas and/or language that you have not developed yourself, including material from class lectures and discussions.
 - Violation of this policy includes collaborating on assignments where collaboration is not allowed and/or utilizing notes, texts, etc. on any assignment where use of such materials is not allowed.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Activities, and Assignments

| Date | Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework | Major Assignments and Deadlines |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 01/14 & 01/16 | Tuesday - Intro to Stage Combat/ The Rules Thursday - Falling down | |
| | Tuesday - Slapping with a backhand slap | |

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| 01/21 & 01/23 | Thursday - Slapping with a Contact slap | |
| 01/28 & 01/30 | Tuesday - Slapping with a Triangle slap Thursday - Punching with a Jab | |
| 02/04 & 02/06 | Tuesday - Punching with a Hook Thursday - Punching with a Straight shot | |
| 02/11 & 02/13 | Tuesday -Punching and Falling Thursday - Kicking to the gut | |
| 02/18 & 02/20 | Tuesday -Kicking in the Groin Thursday - Kicking with a Leaping Kick | |
| 02/25 & 02/27 | Tuesday - Head stumping and body kicking Thursday - Choking and Hair-pulling | |
| 03/03 & 03/05 | Tuesday - Sword Training Thursday - Sword Training (03/09-03/17 SPRING BREAK NO CLASS!!!!) | |
| 03/17 & 03/19 | Tuesday - Sword Training Thursday - Two handed sword Training | |
| 03/23 & 03/26 | Tuesday - Discussing your Final Thursday - Choosing Partners and begin writing scenes | |
| 03/31 & 04/02 | Tuesday -Practice scene Thursday - Practice scene | |
| 04/07 & 04/09 | Tuesday -Show scene Thursday - Show scene | |
| 04/14 & 04/16 | Tuesday - Film/Show Scene Thursday - Film/Show Scene | |

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| 04/21 & 04/23 | Tuesday -Film/Show Scene Thursday - Film/ Show Scene | |
| 04/28 & 04/30 | Tuesday -Edit/ Add Music Thursday - Edit/ Add Music | |
| 05/05 & 05/07 | Tuesday -Show scenes to class Thursday - Show scenes to NTPA Judges | |



Incomplete Homework Form

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

My (name of assignment)_____ was not
turned in _____. I
did not turn it in because _____
_____.

Choose one of the following:

- ☐ Need help on this assignment
☐ Can complete this assignment on my own

I will turn this assignment in on (date)_____.

Student Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____