

# Puppetry for Actors

Instructor: Rebekah Lane, MFA

Office Location: TBD

Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

Office Phone:

University Email Address:

## Course Information

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

**Textbook:** The Routledge Companion to Puppetry and Material Performance

\*Additional readings or viewings will be provided in class

**Course Description:** The focus of this class is solo and ensemble devising through puppetry. Students will learn about different styles of puppetry, they will learn how to manipulate puppets within these different styles, and students will learn how to develop character, performance, and story through the puppetry framework.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

To develop:

- ability to synthesize puppetry with acting and physical theatre techniques
- knowledge and awareness of the global world of puppetry.
- an ability to analyze, evaluate, and communicate about various aspects of puppetry as an art form.
- an examination of the interrelationship that exists between puppetry and the society of which it is a part.
- puppet skits, plays, and performances that utilize a variety of puppetry forms and techniques.

## Course Requirements

Newspaper Puppet	100 pts
Found Object Puppet	100 pts
Shadow Puppet	100 pts
Social Commentary Puppet	100 pts
Moving mouth puppet	100 pts
Original Piece	300 pts
Journal	100 pts
Post Mortem	100 pts

**Total :** **1,000 pts.**

**Grading:**

Exceptional work will warrant an	A (90% or higher)
Above average work will warrant a	B (80%)
Average work will warrant a	C (70%)
Below average work will warrant a	D (60%)
Unacceptable work will warrant a	F (50% or lower)

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit is at the discretion of the professor and will be announced in class.

## Technology Requirements:

Students are expected to check their university email accounts on a regular basis for communications about the course. Students will need access to a video recording device (smart phones are fine for this) so they can record and view performances. I will also be passing around a contact sheet for the class, please include and email and/or cell phone number where your group members can easily and quickly reach you.

## Course Specific Procedures:

- Please do not arrive late to my class. If you are late, enter as unobtrusively as possible and find the nearest open seat.
- I do not allow makeup work, except in cases of true emergency. Get your work done.
- Bring your book to class, I frequently reference it during lecture.
- You are expected to participate fully and enthusiastically in all group projects. There are no exceptions.
- Please bring your supplies to class as needed. Pay attention to the syllabus and what projects we will be working on.
- I subscribe to the school of Figure It Out. Very few people get to sit at the knee of a master puppeteer to learn the craft, and everyone has to start somewhere. Just because you haven't done it before doesn't mean that you aren't going to excel at it with grit, practice, and organization. By the end of this course you should have learned to problem solve, time manage, organize and power your way through a live puppet show!

## Course Schedule:

- Week 1: Discovering a puppet / Bringing Objects to life
- Week 2: Devising with puppets - tools for performance development
- Week 3: Bunraku Puppetry
- Week 4: Present Newspaper Puppet Scenes (ensemble manipulation)
- Week 5: Object Puppetry - Discovering objects / Discovering Gods
- Week 6: Present Object Puppetry Scenes (ensemble manipulation)
- Week 7: Shadow Puppetry
- Week 8: Present Shadow Puppetry Scenes (Solo or ensemble)
- Week 9: Social Commentary Puppetry
- Week 10: Present Social Commentary scene
- Week 11: Moving mouth puppet
- Week 12: Present Moving mouth puppet scenes or monologues (Solo or ensemble)
- Week 13: Final Project Planning
- Week 14: Final Project Initial Showings
- Week 15: Final Project Performances and Post Mortem