

IGS 520D

Number of Students: 7

ALL comments represented.

What were the strengths of the course?

- The course was well planned integrating an interdisciplinary approach. The collaborative focus was relevant to my own practices and research. The natural masks exercises were quite interesting and helpful to let one's imagination soar.
- The strengths were the instructor was attentive and totally engaged in what we were doing in class all the time. This focus was great because we only met 1 a week. Also, we were encouraged to constantly bring the course work in the realm of our own practice to integrate it into our thesis/etc. This was very exciting to me because this kind of work was new to me. Also, Denise was very flexible in wrangling the content so it suited the needs of individuals/specific practices.
- Instructor's knowledge and encouraged to push boundaries.
- The opportunity to work with other discipliners.
- Tied into the process for my thesis project.
- This class was a great opportunity to collaborate with other artists. Denise is an excellent instructor, both for students who study performance and for those from other disciplines.
- Interdisciplinary practice based content, student oriented.
- Yes! A studio course!
- Denise is an excellent instructor, challenging and critically engaged but supportive and kind. She gives thoughtful and generous responses to questions good feedback on assignments. The course was really interesting and opened a lot of space for me creatively and personally.

What were the weaknesses?

- I believe this course could be offered twice/week, just once a week was not enough to mature certain exercises/projects.
- Needed more class time.
- Would have liked the opportunity to go deeper into practice if we had the time.
- Only meeting once a week was a disadvantage. Meeting twice a week would allow us to go much deeper into the work. The projects didn't really allow me to explore my own process because of the collaborative nature of my work, but the writing was a good opportunity to make connections.
- Limited time. It would work better if it is more than one class a week. Watching something (a film/theatre) together and discussing about acting would be great. Perhaps students might give seminars, individually or in groups.
- Studio courses should really be offered in both terms of year one of the MFA program. Especially for performance students. The imbalance of theory is

very derailing for praxis. Having the course only once a week doesn't work. It should be 2 or 3 times per week.

- The material and projects didn't seem very related to my practice- more connection to personal thesis/practice would be appreciated.
- There needs to be a moving/sweaty/body course. To balance critical/creative. Engage body knowledge.
- For non-performers there could be more discipline specific exercises/work to help integrate course material better into our practices, for people without body working methodology experience this can be a big cognitive gap (even handouts?)
- Should be more than once a week.

What did you enjoy about it?

- This course was not just an enjoyable one but I learned a lot from it in terms of how to step in and out of the process to examine my own research. Great course for trans-disciplinary practices on my own.
- I enjoyed working collaboratively with people of different disciplines and working with my body- to begin viewing my body as a source of knowledge- and to trust that I don't need to generate creativity- it is all out there and accessible.
- To actually do studio work.
- To work in a group.
- Interaction and feedback.
- I really enjoyed all the class exercises and our group projects were a really positive experience.
- Creative process and working in a group. I enjoyed working on the objects and its relevance to "sign system" in theater was inspiring to reflect on.
- Having a group class to explore/connect body and mind was always refreshing.
- Playing, using the body, learning about mind/body connection/the group experience.
- Has helped me a lot with issues around performance anxiety.
- Safe/nurturing environment.

VISA 371

Number of Students: 16

ALL comments represented.

What were the strengths of the course?

- All the experience.
- Professor's involvement in student work and her diverse experience that could contribute. Involving other people (editing, camera) for seminars.
- Freedom in schedule.
- An effective balance between theory and hands-on practice.
- A well-informed and passionate approach.
- Techniques were taught well and clearly
- Students were given class time to work on films.
- Equipment was available.
- Practical and hands on.
- Presenters and media centre were great resources.
- Lots of information available to us.
- Very good text book.
- Fostered the idea of what making an actual documentary requires.
- The practical, real world knowledge gained. The structure to complete the project.
- Team work, each member having a specific role, working toward a common goal.
- Working in teams to best utilize our strengths and cover our weaknesses.
- A wide selection of tech.
- The professional simulation.
- Acknowledging what works and what doesn't.
- A beneficial relationship with Professor.
- I really liked how hands-on the course was. Even though some of the editing stuff was review, I still learned something each time and found the workshops very beneficial.
- Quick introduction to filmmaking, then thrown into the field. Really absorbing and fun class.

What were the weaknesses?

- Lack of time.
- Could have checked in more on the readings for accountability.
- It is much more challenging for students with very little experience.
- We were often behind schedule. The schedule changes a lot.
- Please provide handouts for overhead projections. This would have saved time.
- More one-on-one time is needed.
- I felt like a lot was crammed into the end of the semester, but that was perhaps my doing as well.
- The load was a bit heavy.

- Not enough time to adequately feel we have completed our projects. Definitely on of those “one more week” moments.
- Not having earlier deadlines for getting us working on the project made for end of term frazzle.
- Editing and sound experts assumed we know too much.
- The textbook. Too little time for novices.
- N/A
- With having a full course load, it is very hard to really get into the documentary. A lot of it seemed rushed which was detrimental to the final project.
- Too short. I think it would be an excellent full year course, giving more time to put out a complete, polished product.
- I would have liked t bit more of getting to see the other projects while they were in progress. See what other people were up to, to other feedback.
- I hate the classroom. The stupid chairs hurt my back.

What did you most enjoy about it?

- Making the film.
- Learning to DO something rather than theory ABOUT something.
- Use of software- in media centre. Access to Media Centre resources and personnel.
- Challenged my creativity.
- That I came out with a film.
- The opportunity to make a documentary.
- Working with new people and learning about the medium from a professional.
- That I want to do this for a career and that many questions of mine were answered.
- Working towards an official finished product.
- An appreciation for those who make documentaries.
- Gaining a broader sense of filmmaking.
- Applying my pre-existing technical knowledge to the documentary form, as opposed to narrative.
- Learning how to manage time more efficiently.
- Production package was very helpful.
- The experience. It’s a real complete “a” to “b”, “start” to “finish” production. Not just theory.

THTR 101

Number of Students: 15

ALL comments represented.

What were the strengths of the course?

- I feel like the course is very well structured and that there feels as if there is some sort of clear path.
- Great environment. Denise was understandable, easy to listen to. Very good at explaining.
- It further opened my mind to the relevance and usefulness of abstract theatre.
- It taught me how to work from within my body and out of my mind- head space.
- Working through the material actively and getting feedback from the professor as well as our peers.
- Learning and trying different exercises and techniques.
- The spacing between projects.
- The amount of time spent on warmups.
- The personal feedback given.
- The seriousness I regards to attendance.
- I felt comfortable in this class. There was a good use of time and I felt that everybody was given lots of time to participate in performances. It was nice to get to work individually with different members to the class. I loved the movement and exploring different ways to work with the body. The instructors were both knowledgeable in the subject areas.
- The course branches off into a very different form of theatre, which allowed me to become more aware of my body and of the other “cultures” of theatre.
- Close and spontaneous feedback for individuals and groups.
- This course strongly developed my core in relation to performance. It broadened my mind to the non-mainstream performance options available to me.
- It was a very warm and welcoming environment. I got to know the people in my class personally. I enjoyed every class.

What were the weaknesses?

- I would like more feedback on the written work.
- None that I can really think of except maybe time limitations.
- I hated wearing the neutral mask.
- It was early and hard to get physical.
- I would have appreciated spending a little more time talking about readings.
- It was early in the morning.
- I loved neutral mask, but it would have been nice if we could clean the masks before/after using them.
- I found this course, and the UBCO theatre program as a whole, focuses too strongly on experimental theatre. While I enjoyed learning about these practices, I felt that traditional theatre was not given its deserved attention

- as an art form. Coming from this background I felt my work was not respected appropriately and my skills not developed.
- Perhaps could use more focus on scene work.

What did you enjoy about it?

- I enjoyed most of the course.
- It was a great outlet for me and a nice contrast to my other classes because of the ability to move and create.
- Exploring the new and unfamiliar techniques and ways to use my body.
- The interaction with other students and being able to express myself through play.
- I loved how we were pushed beyond what is comfortable and allowed to be more free and experimental.
- I enjoyed all the different aspects of theatre we covered in class and being given class time to work on projects.
- How understanding you were about my pregnancy and how you were accommodating in a way that didn't make me feel singled out.
- The different types of movement.
- Instructor's experience.
- Partner work.
- I felt I came away from the class and had learned a lot.
- Allowing myself to discover aesthetic sides of me and what I can do with my body.
- Neutral mask.
- Exploring new techniques.
- Work with fellow students.
- The people and how this class got us to open up.