

Education 405.4 - Special Topics / Developmental Drama.

Instructors: Peter Norman / Greg Batt. (Inter session).

MPK 8620 / 8627

Mon+Wed 12:30-4:30.

Where to begin...

a distinction needs to be made between the terms THEATRE and developmental DRAMA. THEATRE implies presentation to an audience and includes the myriad of skills associated with acting and stage craft. Developmental DRAMA, on the other hand, encompasses the larger domains of personal growth, sensory awareness, concentration, imagination, interpersonal skills, etc., and has no necessary connection with performance. Hence, developmental drama is applicable to all age groups and subject areas. The focus is concerned primarily with the affective realm and the design of structured experiences which complement - and are integral to - cognitive skills.

Developmental drama, properly understood and applied, is a rather subtle process, not a "bag of tricks". It is therefore necessary that a teacher have first hand experience with the "growth process" involved in participating in a carefully sequenced series of activities. The notion of "task analyses" is important here. Many teachers, say Language Arts or Social Studies, attempt to use relatively sophisticated forms of dramatic exploration and/or presentation - role playing, improvisation, dramatic adaptation, etc. - without noting and providing practice in the interrelated component skills involved. As a result, drama in the classroom seldom gets beyond "fun" or "novelty" into a viable and virtually unlimited teaching/learning strategy.

OVERALL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- i) ...read representative books and articles in the area of developmental drama and demonstrate an understanding of its application to learning (through discussion, projects and papers)
- ii) ...participate in a series of structured activities intended to promote skill in sustained concentration, movement and mime, speech, imagination and improvisation and demonstrate competency through projects and presentations to peers
- iii) ...select appropriate activities from the readings and workshops and build an annotated resource file
- iv) ...demonstrate an ability to incorporate appropriate developmental drama techniques into curriculum areas other than Drama (through projects, unit plans and workshop leadership)
- v) ...be involved in group tasks such as adapting non-dramatic source material into a dramatic format, using the techniques of Reader's Theatre to "get beyond the words", improvising around topics of historical and current concern

vi) ...acquire the conceptual and practical skills to design and implement a workshop in a chosen curriculum area using developmental drama techniques with appropriate and specific learning outcomes

vii) ...contract with the instructor(s) for an individual or group project which demonstrates application of drama activities to valid educational goals

REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED READINGS to be drawn from:

Student-Centered Language Arts & Reading. James Moffett & Betty Wagner. Houghton Mifflin. 1976.

Development Through Drama. Brian Way. Longmans. 1967.

Teaching Drama: A Resource Book to Transitions I: Short Plays. Greg Batt, Paul Clements, Jane Heyman, Peter Norman. Concept. 1978.

Improvisation for the Theatre. Viola Spolin. Northwestern University Press. 1963.

Teaching Mime. Rose Bruford. Methuen. 1958.

Creative Communication: Projects in Acting, Speaking, Oral Reading, and Basic Drama Projects. Fran Tanner. Clarke. 1973.

Drama in Education. John Hodgson and Martin Banham. Pitman. 1972-75.

"British Columbia Curriculum Guides"

To Be Announced.

Education 489-4 Experimental Course: Developmental Drama
Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:30
Instructor: Judith-Blythe Barnard

Course Objectives:

- to develop or continue to develop a philosophy of developmental drama
- to sharpen sense awareness
- to expand improvisational skills
- to develop a drama curriculum applicable to your own teaching situation
- to acquaint oneself more fully with the literature on developmental drama

Workshops and seminars will investigate the following areas of work:

Improvisation

- improvisational techniques and theatre games for different age levels and special groups/situations (e.g. handicapped, juvenile offenders)
- children's play and the development to playmaking (theatre)

Towards a philosophy of Developmental Drama

- the British/Canadian approach
- the American approach

Drama and Personal Development

- concentration, imagination, sensitivity, trust, personal confidence
- value of role-playing

Drama and Movement

- mime
- movement games

Play-making

- the importance of the play in the children's development--why, when and how?
- source material

Drama as a Teaching Tool

- how to incorporate teaching drama in school subjects
- role-playing effectively in school situations

Plus time for discussing specific areas of concern and interest to you

Grades will be awarded on the basis of continuous assessment, the submission of a drama curriculum pertaining to **your** own situation, a sense awareness notebook and a clear, well-written paper expressing the student's philosophy of drama.

Text: Way, Brian: Development Through Drama: Longmans

Please feel free to ask questions!

Recommended books for Education 489-4

- Barker, Clive. Theatre Games Drama Book Specialists
Barnfield, Gabriel. Creative Drama in Schools. London, Macmillan
Barton, Robert, David Booth, Agnes Buckles and William Moore.
Nobody in the Cast. Longman
Burton, E.J. Teaching English Through Self-Expression. Evans, London
Coggin, Philip A. Drama and Education. London: Thames and Hudson.
Courtney, Richard. Play, Drama and Thought. Drama Book Specialists
Hodgson, John, and Ernest Richards. Improvisation. Methuen
Jennings, Sue. Remedial Drama. Pitman
Johnstone, Keith. Impro. Theatre Arts Books
Kemp, David. A Different Drummer: An Ideas Book for Drama. McClelland
and Stewart
McCaslin, Nellie. Creative Dramatics in the Classroom. Longmans
Siks, Geraldine. Drama with Children. Harper and Row.
Slade, Peter. Child Drama. University of London Press
Wagner, Betty Jane. Dorothy Heathcote: Drama as a Learning Medium.
Washington, D.C.: National Education Association,
Ward, Winnifred. Creative Dramatics. New York: Appleton
British Columbia. Drama 8 Guidelines. Victoria, B.C.: Ministry of
Education
McCaslin, Nellie (ed.) Children and Drama. David McKay Company
Moreno, J.L. Psychodrama. Beacon House
Martin, William and Vallins, G. Exploration Drama: Teacher's
Book and (4 source books) Carnival, Legend, Horizon and Routes.
London: Cox and Wyman Ltd
Morgan, Elizabeth. A Practical Guide to Drama in the Primary School.
Scarborough, Yorkshire
Pemberton-Billing, RN, J.D. Clegg. Teaching Drama. University of
London Press
Wiles, John, A. Garrard. A Leap to Life! London: Chatto & Windus
Adland, D.E. Group Drama. Longmans
Spolin. Improvisation for the Theatre. Northwestern Press
Alington, A.F. Drama and Education. Oxford: Basil Blackwell
Cheifetz, Dan. Theatre in my Head.
Wise, Arthur. Speech Education. Longmans