Course Overview
This course covers the history and practical application of two Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) disciplines: Rapier & Dagger and Knife. This course fulfills all requirements leading to eligibility to take a SAFD Skills Proficiency Test (SPT) in both weapons. At the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to take SPTs in these weapons with SAFD Fight Master Geof Alm.

The focus in this course is threefold: safety is our primary concern, followed by technical proficiency, and finally emotional investment in the actions of stage violence (acting!). Mastery of techniques is not enough; you must (and will) be able to preserve your partner’s comfort and safety, and learn how to incorporate these actions into the acting process. Acting the fight is your final goal; how well a fight is “sold” is most frequently what decides the difference between fights that work, and fights that suck.

In this class you will be taught the principles of stage violence, and will be expected to participate in a variety of exercises which will challenge you physically, mentally and emotionally. Your full and joyful participation is a must; this work is hard, and you must bring all your resources into play if you are to master the techniques. I hope you will find this course to be valuable and fun; I hope even more to encourage you to grow as actors and courageous beings.

Instructor Info
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http://www.revengearts.com/
http://willamette.edu/~jcole/

Course Objectives
This class will enable you to develop and improve a variety of skills essential to acting. You will sharpen and hone your balance, partnering abilities, kinesthetic awareness, flexibility, eye-hand coordination and focus. Course objectives include:

a) knowledge of safe, dramatically effective stage combat principles
b) awareness and understanding of the theory and history of both weapon disciplines
c) understanding of the essential parts of a good fight as well as knowing how to “sell” a fight
d) increased awareness of your body in space
e) understanding energy principles and how they work
f) mastery of the techniques required for SAFD proficiency in both disciplines
g) completion of 30 hours of training in each weapon discipline

Required Materials
Water bottle.
Small, portable notebook & writing utensil of your choice.
Attendance
Theatre is a collaborative art. Since the process of learning stage combat involves your partner, attendance is mandatory. Being at class early, warming up, and being mentally present are marks of respect for your partner and for the class. I will always be early to class and ready to work: I will demand the same from you. **Don’t be late. Not even a little.** If you’re more than 15 minutes late, it counts as an absence.

Tardies will negatively impact your grade: two tardies equal one absence.

**special note:** in order to be eligible to test, you **must** receive at least 30 hours of instruction from me in each discipline. With our regular class time and coaching sessions, you will barely meet the minimum hourly requirement. I have to account for every hour of your training to the visiting Fight Master: therefore **any missed classes may make you ineligible to test.** Don’t miss class!

Health
It is imperative that you keep yourself healthy. In a class as physically demanding as this one, your limits are constantly going to be tested. Please let me know of any physical issues you currently have (old injuries, knee, back, shoulder problems, asthma, heart problems, physical disorders, etc.) that will influence your level of activity in the course. Please inform me immediately about any difficulties that arise during the course of the class. Do not hesitate to inform your partner and me about any injuries or physical limitations you may have: I will adapt techniques where possible to accommodate your physical difficulties.

Injury
If stage combat techniques are not performed carefully and accurately, the potential for injury exists. Please protect your partner! Always work together: don’t do anything without excellent communication between partners.

Clothing
Wear clothing in which you can move. You will be coming in daily contact with the floor, doing stretches, rolls, falls, etc. You will probably get dirty every day of class. If you are participating the way you should, you will certainly get sweaty every day. Dress accordingly.

Jeans, skirts or any clothing items that inhibit movement are not allowed. If you wear something inappropriate to class, you will be asked to change clothes or sit and watch the day’s activities.

Please remove all jewelry that can be removed. Please cover exposed permanent piercings with tape or a band-aid.

Food & Drink
No food or drink is allowed in the classroom. A water bottle [with a lid] is the only exception to this rule.

Grading
This subject requires subjective evaluation. Take the initiative to ensure my awareness of your efforts and progress. Every effort will be made to evaluate your work equally in the following categories: safety, partnering, progress, participation, and performance. Final grades will be based on perceived commitment, discipline, respect for the art, and honest effort to hone your artistic skills.
Grading Standards
A = Safe fight with excellent technique and superb acting.
B = Good fight, but is lacking in one of the above three areas.
C = Good fight, lacking in two of the above three areas.
D = Poor fight, lacks significant progress. Lack of rehearsal apparent.
F = Failure to meet the requirements of the assignment.

Borderline grades will be raised at the discretion of the instructor.

On Flexibility
The content of this course must remain flexible if it is to address the specific needs and abilities of the students; therefore, the syllabus and course schedule are subject to change at any time. These changes are at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Schedule

Week 1
T 1/18 Technique
Th 1/20 Technique

Week 2
T 1/25 Technique
Th 1/27 Technique

Week 3
T 2/1 Technique
Th 2/3 Technique

Week 4
T 2/8 Studio work
Th 2/10 Technique

Week 5
T 2/15 Technique
Th 2/17 Studio work

Week 6
T 2/22 Studio work
Th 2/24 SPTs: in-class performance (check-in)

Week 7
T 3/1 Technique
Th 3/3 Technique
**Stage Combat: RD & KN**

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**Week 9**

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**NOTE:** spring break is 3.21-3.25

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<td>SPTs: in-class performance</td>
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<td>4/26</td>
<td>Run/coach both fights</td>
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<td>Th</td>
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**Week 14 • expect and plan for extra coaching outside class this week!**

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<td>T</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>Dry run: Showcase Presentations</td>
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<td>5pm, Tues 5/3:</td>
<td>Final showcase presentations: Playhouse Mainstage</td>
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**Week 16/FINALS: FM Alm Adjudication** MONDAY, MAY 9, 7 PM

- Coaching/Prep for SPTs
- There will be no class meeting during finals week. We will schedule extra coaching sessions as time permits.

* 2 RD, 2 KN scenes are due every Tuesday until your final scenes are selected, in consultation with the instructor.