

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS | STOCKHOLMS KONSTNÄRLIGA HÖGSKOLA

Syllabus

Humor in Movement: Physical Comedy Engaging Audiences

Humor i rörelse: Fysisk komedi som engagerar publiken

30.0 Credits

Code: SK166G

Grading scale: UG Two-grade scale

Finalized: 2025-05-15, UGN - Nämnden för utbildning och forskning: Utskottet för kursplaner på grundnivå

Valid from: Spring semester 2026 (2026-01-19)

Level within study regulation: First cycle

Subject group: SM1 Performing Arts and Media

Main field of study with advanced study: SSCMA Performing Arts and Media - G2F First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Disciplinary TA Theatre 100%
domain:

Education

1 Freestanding

Determined by

UGN Committee for course syllabi at the first cycle

Eligibility requirements

General entry requirements: for undergraduate studies with the exception of the basic qualification in Swedish

Specific entry requirements: 90 credits in performative practices

Selection

If there are more qualified applicants than places on a freestanding course, an alternative selection is made based on artistic grounds.

If a selection needs to be made, it is done on the basis of submitted application documents based on Uniarts' criteria at first/second cycle level.

1. the applicant's ability to solve given tasks, problems or issues
2. the applicant's creative ability.

Language of instruction

EN English as main language

Course Content

During the course, students will explore the potentiality of play as an aesthetic form, including practical exercises in clowning and physical comedy.

The student will practically engage with and reflect upon dynamics concerning audience encounter, and the possibilities of generating humour through their specific artistic discipline.

The course explores and problematises concepts such as playfulness, presence, responsiveness, interaction, audience engagement, humour and laughter.

Introduction to Play as Method, 15 credits

The module includes practical and reflective explorations of clowning and physical comedy. Students experiment how to integrate these with their own artistic discipline, alongside discussions of what it means to interact with different audience contexts.

Playing with Audience Encounters, 15 credits

Students continue to combine their explorations of clowning and physical comedy with their own artistic discipline. The student works both independently and in ensemble groups with guidance from teachers to create a draft for an ensemble performance, which meets an audience.

Forms of teaching

Lectures, teacher-led teaching, seminars, tutorials, practical exercises, workshops, independent study, reflective documentation.

Learning objectives

After completing the course, the student is able to:

Introduction to Play as a method, 15 credits

1. practically apply methods of performing in the field of physical comedy with a focus towards meeting audiences,
2. reflect on different approaches of performing in the field of physical comedy.

Playing with Audience Encounters, 15 credits

3. plan, create and perform a short ensemble piece incorporating material from their own art form with a focus on encountering audiences,
4. reflect on their own artistic processes in relation to experiences from the course.

Examination

(1001) Practical demonstration and seminar, 15 credits, regarding learning outcomes 1 and 2, grades: Pass (G) and Fail (U).

(1002) Practical demonstration, 10 credits, regarding learning outcome 3, grades: Pass (G) and Fail (U).

(1003) Oral assignment, 5 credits, regarding learning outcome 4, grades: Pass (G) and Fail (U).

The number of examination sessions is limited to five.

If there are special reasons, the examiner may, after consultation with the course teacher, allow the student a re-examination opportunity where the student is examined through another but pedagogically equivalent form of examination. Each case is assessed individually.

If a student has a decision from Stockholm University of the Arts about special pedagogical support due to functional variance, the examiner can decide on alternative forms of examination in consultation with the student.

Course Evaluation

The course is evaluated in accordance with the Guidelines for Course Evaluations (Riktlinjer för kursvärderingar).

Transitional provisions

The course cannot be included in a degree at the same time as another course whose content wholly or partly corresponds to the content of the course.

In the event that a course has been discontinued or undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed access to at least three examination opportunities (including the regular examination opportunity) over a period of at least one year, based on the course's previous structure. The same applies to internships and work-based education, but with a limitation to only one additional examination opportunity.

Course literature

for Course, First-cycle

Humor in Movement: Physical Comedy Engaging Audiences 30.0 hp, SK166G

Valid from: Spring semester 2026 (2026-01-19)

Not decided

Laanela, P. Nalle & Sacks, Stacey (2015). *The Clown Manifesto*. London: Oberon Books Ltd

Peacock, Louise (2009). *Serious play: modern clown performance*. Bristol: Intellect

Reference literature

Artistic, scientific, and pedagogical articles, as well as visual and auditory reference materials, may supplement the list of teaching materials.