

THEA-122: IMPROVISATION AND PHYSICAL THEATER

Effective Term

Fall 2025

CC Approval

12/06/2024

AS Approval

02/13/2025

BOT Approval

02/20/2025

COCI Approval

05/15/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Drama/Theater Arts (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

THEA - Theater Arts

Course Number

122

Department

Theater Arts (THEA)

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Improvisation and Physical Theater

Short Title

Improv and Physical Theater

CB03 TOP Code

1007.00 - Dramatic Arts

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

update textbook and DE Activities

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This interactive course explores improvisation and physical theater through theater games, somatic awareness, individual and ensemble performance and devised work. The course also increases spontaneity, in the moment problem solving and dynamism on stage through physical expression. Topics may include the works of Spolin, Johnstone, Bogart, Meyerhold, Barba and Grotowski.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Analyze dramatic literature.
2.	Demonstrate basic improvisational skills.
3.	Produce a piece of dramatic art for peer, professional or academic review.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Create, prepare and organize spontaneous dialogue, characterization and storytelling.
2.	Apply listening and responding techniques.
3.	Prepare the mind and body for the task of performing as an actor on stage.

4. Analyze and evaluate the use of the kinesthetic expression and spontaneity in performance.
5. Develop a piece of theater for performance.
6. Approach acting kinesthetically.

Course Content

1. Warming up
 - a. Voice
 - b. Body
 - c. Imagination
2. Improvisation
 - a. Spontaneity
 - b. Physical and verbal flexibility
 - c. Concentration and relaxation
 - d. Listening
 - e. Accepting
 - f. Responding
 - g. Playing with status
3. Physical Theater
 - a. Devised work
 - b. Interdisciplinary approaches
 - c. Relationship of artist and audience

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Students work together to create scenes to learn material kinesthetically.
Critique	Students do evaluations of each others work and performances.
Discussion	Facilitated discussions occur after each unit of study during each class meeting.
Lecture	Students listen to lectures about the course topic.
Observation and Demonstration	Students observe and model different acting approaches through improvisation technique.
Visiting Lecturers	Experts in improvisation visit to describe working as an improve artist.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Performances	Perform improvisational and scene/monologue exercises.
Class Participation	Participate in group critiques. Read an opening scene. 1. Write a character analysis based on the scene. 2. Rehearse and present the scene for class critique.
Essays/Papers	Submit written character analyses.
Projects	Complete midterm and final performance projects

Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read Chapter Six of Improvisation for Actors and Writers and present a scene about the do's and don'ts of Improv.
2. Read Chapter Eight of the textbook and write a summary about the requirements of group improvisations.

Writing Assignments

1. Memorize an open scene and present it in class.
2. Write a biography for a character developed during an "in-class" improvisation scene.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Bill Lynn and Kip King

Title

Improvisation for Actors and Writers

Publisher

Meriwether Publishing

Year

2004

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Viola Spolin

Title

Improvisation for the Theater

Publisher

New Albany

Year

2013

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Dymphna Callery

Title

The Active Text: Unlocking Plays Through Physical Theatre

Publisher

Nick Horn Books

Year

2015

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Andrew M Spragge and Karen L Eichler

Title

The Big Book of Improv Games: A compendium of performance-based short-form games

Edition/Version

Paperback

Publisher

Independent

Year

2021

ISBN #

979-8605858331

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Sam Marsden and Abigail Hing Wen

Title

Acting Exercises for Creative Writing (A Pocketful of Drama)

Edition/Version

Paperback

Publisher

Morpho Press

Year

2024

ISBN #

1916974066

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update

No

CB00 State ID

CCC000245718

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No