

## Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2020

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Theatre  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Theatre - D0280  
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences  
Level/Career Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 3818  
Course Title Improvisation  
Transcript Abbreviation Improvisation  
Course Description This course introduces students to the technique and various forms of improvisation, from long form to short form to sketch comedy. While the course focus is improvisation as performance, the practical application of improvisation skills in non-performative settings, such as professional presentations or interviews, is also considered.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Laboratory  
Grade Roster Component Laboratory  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites  
Exclusions  
Electronically Enforced No

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 50.0506  
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course  
Intended Rank Junior, Senior

## Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Becoming conversant in the various forms of improvisation
- Demonstrating technique and skills of improvisation
- Increased comfort and ease in improvisational situations
- Increased creativity in improvisational situations
- Application of improvisation skills in non-performative settings

### Content Topic List

- Theatre
- Acting
- Improvisation

### Sought Concurrence

No

## Attachments

- BA Curricular Map.xlsx: BA Theatre Curricular Map

*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Kelly,Logan Paige)*

- THEA 3818 Syllabus.pdf: TH3818 Syllabus

*(Syllabus. Owner: Kelly,Logan Paige)*

## Comments

- Disability statement corrected on syllabus. *(by Kelly,Logan Paige on 01/23/2019 09:31 AM)*
- Please update the Disability statement with correct address: Baker Hall as per operations manual *(by Heysel,Garett Robert on 01/18/2019 07:10 PM)*

## Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Kelly,Logan Paige	01/16/2019 02:29 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Parrott,Janet S	01/16/2019 02:55 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Heysel,Garett Robert	01/18/2019 07:10 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Kelly,Logan Paige	01/23/2019 09:31 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Kelly,Logan Paige	01/23/2019 09:32 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	01/23/2019 09:47 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadete Chantal Oldroyd,Shelby Quinn Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler	01/23/2019 09:47 PM	ASCCAO Approval

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<b>TERM:</b>	Autumn 2019	<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	TBD
<b>CREDITS:</b>	3	<b>OFFICE:</b>	
<b>LEVEL:</b>	U	<b>OFFICE EMAIL:</b>	
<b>CLASS TIME:</b>	TR 2:20-3:40pm	<b>OFFICE PHONE:</b>	
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Drake 2060	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces students to the technique and various forms of improvisation, from long form to short form to sketch comedy. While the course focus is improvisation as performance, the practical application of improvisation skills in non-performative settings, such as professional presentations or interviews, is also considered.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Becoming conversant in the various forms of improvisation
2. Demonstrating technique and skills of improvisation
3. Increased comfort and ease in improvisational situations
4. Increased creativity in improvisational situations
5. Application of improvisation skills in non-performative settings

**TEACHING METHOD:** lecture, discussion, exercises

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*Improvisation for the Theatre.* Viola Spolin  
*Games for Actors and Non-actors.* Augusto Boal  
*Impro: Improvisation and the Theatre.* Keith Johnstone  
*Truth in Comedy: The Manual of Improvisation.* Charna Halpern et al.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Below are the assignments you must complete in this course, and the number of points each assignment is worth. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided on Carmen as the course proceeds:

Improv Shows 1-6	20 points each (120 points total)
Improv Show 6.5	10 points
Final Improv Show	30 points
Personal Assessment for each improv show	10 points each (70 points total)
Viewing Report (in class video #1)	20 points
Viewing Report (in class video #2)	20 points
“How can improv bail me out” project	30 points
Final Exam Attendance and Final reflection	30 points

**TOTAL 330 points**

## GRADING SCALE

Your final grade is determined by adding your total points and dividing against the total possible to obtain your overall percentage:

93 – 100.0%	A	80 – 82.9%	B-	67 – 69.9%	D+
90 – 92.9%	A-	77 – 79.9%	C+	63 – 66.9%	D
87 – 89.9%	B+	73 – 76.9%	C	60 – 62.9%	D-
83 – 86.9%	B	70 – 72.9%	C-	0 – 59.9%	E

*(Note that absences and turning in assignments late result in deductions from your overall points total. Please see policies below.)*

## ATTENDANCE

This class is designed to provide “hands-on” experience. Your attendance and participation are not only expected but necessary to maintain the best possible learning environment. The attendance policy is strict and is as follows:

- You are allowed one unexcused absence in this course.
- Any further unexcused absences will result in a **10 point deduction per absence** from your overall points total .
- Arriving late (more than 10 minutes after the start of class) will result in a **7 point deduction per lateness** from your overall points total.
- Of course, you may be excused from class for illness. Please provide a signed note from your doctor or other relevant authority. Without a signed note, I cannot excuse you.

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to complete your work on time. Should you complete an assignment late, please note the following policies:

- Any assignment handed in late will receive a reduced grade.
- If an assignment is due in class, it must be turned in in class!
- Assignments turned in **up to 7 days late** will automatically receive a **20% point reduction**.
- Assignments will not be accepted more than 7 days after their due date.
- **Assignments requiring in-class presentation must be presented on their due date. They cannot be rescheduled or made up!** A prime example of this: you and a partner are scheduled to present an exercise in class. Your partner is present in class, ready to present, but you are absent for inexcusable reasons. In this scenario, your partner would receive at least some credit for the assignment, while you would receive 0 points.
- **Technical or computing problems (including email and printer problems) are not an acceptable excuse for work being late.** Plan to submit your work early so that you can address any technical difficulties that might arise.

## A WORD ABOUT COLLABORATION

You will constantly work together in this class. Try at all times to be a conscientious colleague by respecting everyone’s contributions to the group. If you encounter hiccups in your collaborations, I encourage you to speak to me, so that I can assist. I am here to help! Remember: “Yes!.....and....”

## CLASS SCHEDULE

8/22	Course Introduction
8/24	Improv Show #1 – Free For All
8/29	Viola Spolin Games Day 1
8/31	Viola Spolin Games Day 2
9/5	Improv Show #2 – based on Spolin
9/7	Spolin Feedback and Assessment / Introduce Boal
9/12	Boal Exercises Day 1
9/14	Boal Exercises Day 2
9/19	Boal Exercises Day 3 / Devise Boal Presentations
9/21	Boal Presentations
9/26	Improv Show #3 – based on Boal
9/28	In-class Video: Professional Improvisers
10/3	Johnstone Exercises Day 1
10/5	Johnstone Exercises Day 2
10/12	NO CLASS – BREAK
10/17	Improv Show #4 – based on Johnstone
10/19	Applications of Johnstone / Developing a Character in Improv (and elsewhere)
10/24	In-class Video: Short and Long Form Improvisation
10/26	Short Form Improvisation Day 1
10/31	Short Form Improvisation Day 2
11/2	Improv Show #5 – based on Short Form Improv
11/7	Long Form Improvisation Day 1
11/9	Long Form Improvisation Day 2
11/14	Rehearse Long Form Improvisation Show
11/16	Improv Show #6 – based on Long Form improv
11/21	Applications of Improv in Non-performative Settings
11/23	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING
11/28	Sketch Comedy Day 1
11/30	Sketch Comedy Day 2 / Improv Show 6.5 – mini show based on Sketch Comedy
2/5	Formulate and Prepare Final Improv Show
12/7	Formulate and Prepare Final Improv Show
TBA	FINAL IMPROV SHOW @ Time TBA (but definitely in the evening so friends can attend!)

Final Exam Period: Final discussion and wrap up

**COURSE POLICIES:** In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency, I will contact you via e-mail and a note at our room. I will follow up as soon as possible with syllabus updates.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resources/>).

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

**FOR YOUR SAFETY:** request a Safe Ride home via public safety 7 p.m. - 3 a.m. by dialing 614-292-3322.