



## THEA 122 - Improvisation and Physical Theater Course Outline

Approval Date: 05/15/2008

Effective Date: 01/16/2018

### SECTION A

**Unique ID Number** CCC000245718

**Discipline(s)** Drama/Theater Arts

**Division** Arts and Humanities

**Subject Area** Theater Arts

**Subject Code** THEA

**Course Number** 122

**Course Title** Improvisation and Physical Theater

**TOP Code/SAM Code** 1007.00 - Drama and Dramatics/Theatre Arts, General /  
E - Non-Occupational

**Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum** Edits to align with other state theater course requirements and transfer

**Units** 3

**Cross List** N/A

**Typical Course Weeks** 18

**Total Instructional Hours**

#### Contact Hours

**Lecture** 54.00

**Lab** 0.00

**Activity** 0.00

**Work Experience** 0.00

**Outside of Class Hours** 108.00

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**Total Contact Hours** 54

**Total Student Hours** 162

**Open Entry/Open Exit** No

**Maximum Enrollment**

**Grading Option** Letter Grade or P/NP

**Distance Education Mode of Instruction**

### SECTION B

**General Education Information:**

### SECTION C

**Course Description**

**Repeatability** May be repeated 0 times

**Catalog 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.

**Schedule Description**

**SECTION D**

**Condition on Enrollment**

**1a. Prerequisite(s):** *None*

**1b. Corequisite(s):** *None*

**1c. Recommended:** *None*

**1d. Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

**SECTION E**

**Course Outline Information**

**1. Student Learning Outcomes:**

- A. Analyze dramatic literature.
- B. Demonstrate basic improvisational skills.
- C. Produce a piece of dramatic art for peer, professional or academic review.

**2. Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Create, prepare and organize spontaneous dialogue, characterization and storytelling.
- B. Apply listening and responding techniques.
- C. Prepare the mind and body for the task of performing as an actor on stage.
- D. Analyze and evaluate the use of the kinesthetic expression and spontaneity in performance.
- E. Develop a piece of theater for performance.
- F. Approach acting kinesthetically.
- G.

**3. Course Content**

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

**4. Methods of Instruction:**

**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 he 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.

**5. Methods of Evaluation:** Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Additional assessment information:

Students will be required to perform improvisational and scene/monologue exercises, submit written character analyses, complete midterm and final performance projects and participate in group critiques.

For example:

Read an open scene.

1. Write a character analysis based on the scene.
2. Rehearse and present the scene for class critique.

Letter Grade or P/NP

**6. Assignments:** State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. Other Assignments

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**7. Required Materials**

**A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.**

Book #1:

Author: Bill Lynn and Kip King  
Title: *Improvisation for Actors and Writers*  
Publisher: Meriwether Publishing  
Date of Publication: 2004  
Edition:

Book #2:

Author: Viola Spolin  
Title: *Improvisation for the Theater*  
Publisher: New Albany  
Date of Publication: 2013  
Edition:

Book #3:

Author: Dymphna Callery

Title: The Active Text: Unlocking Plays Through Physical Theatre

Publisher: Nick Horn Books

Date of Publication: 2015

Edition:

**B. Other required materials/supplies.**