

**NEOSHO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMM 106-11: IMPROVISATION
SPRING 2017, 3 CREDIT HRS.**

Meeting Time & Location: Sanders Hall, Rm. 103, Tues. & Thurs.: 1-2:15pm	Final Exam: N/A
Instructor: Mr. Dustin Shaffer, M.F.A.	Email: [REDACTED]
Office: Sanders 104	Dates: 1/17-5/12
Office Phone: [REDACTED]	Office Hours: Refer to the COMM 106-11 Homepage on InsideNC

PLEASE REVIEW TO THE NCCC MASTER COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course is designed to provide student training in body movement, voice techniques, stage presence, spontaneity, and acting techniques. Practical application of presented theatre principles is required.

Course Outcomes/Competencies

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. At the end of this course, a student should be able to do the following:

1. Recognize the basics of good improvisation.
 - a. List the eleven characteristics of the basics of improvisation. (Knowledge)
 - b. State the four hurdles in improvisational training. (Knowledge)
 - c. Identify the seven areas of improvisational training. (Analysis)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the preparation involved with improvisation acting and theatre vocabulary.
 - a. Identify basic preparations with improvisational acting. (Knowledge)
 - b. Describe and define the thirteen different types of preparations with improvisation. (Knowledge)
 - c. Describe the several terms that relate objective, obstacle and tactic. (Knowledge)
3. Identify the introductory exercises of improvisation for effective interpretation.
 - a. Identify and explain the four introductory exercises for which the actor must find specific answers. (Knowledge and Synthesis)
 - b. Use improvisation to develop group ensemble. (Application)
4. Discuss the concepts of trust with improvisation and acting.
 - a. Define "trust" as it relates to an actor's physical and mental being. (Knowledge)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of trust exercises with improvisation. (Application)
 - c. Explain how trust in improvisation is specifically designed to encourage individual and ensemble trust. (Comprehension)
5. Develop useful principles of working together in an ensemble for production.
 - a. Define "ensemble" as it relates to working with other actors. (Knowledge)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of ensemble exercises with improvisation. (Application)
 - c. Explain why ensemble is important in improvisation. (Comprehension)
6. Recognize the purpose and function of rehearsal warm-up exercises.
 - a. Explain why warming up is essential for an actor. (Comprehension)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of warm-up exercises with improvisation. (Application)

- c. Define warm-ups as it relates to an actor's physical and mental being. (Knowledge)
- d. Explain the meaning of quick thinking, mental agility, spontaneity, and three-dimensional thinking. (Comprehension)
- 7. Discuss the technique of playwriting with improvisation.
 - a. Identify and explain the four "w's" for which an actor must find specific answers. (Knowledge and Synthesis)
 - b. Define "playwriting" as it relates to improvisation. (Knowledge)
 - c. List the five characteristics of playwriting. (Knowledge)
- 8. Develop useful principles of playwriting exercises in improvisation.
 - a. Explain the meaning of a "neutral scene" in improvisation. (Comprehensive)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of playwriting exercises with improvisation. (Application)
- 9. Identify the use of beginning acting exercises as the foundation of inner improvisation technique.
 - a. Demonstrate the beginning acting exercises of improvisation. (Application)
 - b. Explain the actor's duties during production. (Comprehensive)
 - c. Explain why an actor must learn to handle criticism. (Evaluation)
- 10. Demonstrate an understanding of the physical life of a character through advanced exercises in improvisation.
 - a. Use improvisation to develop a character. (Application)
 - b. Demonstrate advanced exercises with improvisation using different characters. (Application)

Required Texts

- Various readings and/or videos assigned by the instructor. Materials can be accessed on InsideNC.

Modification of Syllabus

It is the instructor's prerogative to change or modify the syllabus at any point in the semester. If changes are made, the instructor will provide the students with the revised syllabus supplement and course schedule.

Methods of Evaluation

Type	Frequency	Points
Activities/Exercises	TBD	400
Journal/Participation	1 @ 200 pts.	200
Improv Show (Final)	1 @ 400 pts.	400

Grading Scale

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 0-59%

Respect

Please be respectful of other's opinions and appreciate the various experiences that others have to share. Avoid judging what you may agree or disagree with. Offer your opinion but do so tactfully. Be open to new ideas.

Attendance Policy

NCCC values interactive learning which promotes student engagement in the learning process. To be actively engaged, the student must be present in the learning environment.

Unless students are participating in a school activity or are excused by the instructor, they are expected to attend class. If a student's absences exceed one-eighth of the total course

duration, (which equates to one hundred (100) minutes per credit hour in a face-to-face class) the instructor has the right, but is not required, to withdraw a student from the course. Once the student has been dropped for excessive absences, the registrar's office will send a letter to the student, stating that he or she has been dropped. A student may petition the chief academic officer for reinstatement by submitting a letter stating valid reasons for the absences within one week of the registrar's notification. If the student is reinstated into the class, the instructor and the registrar will be notified. Please refer to the Student Handbook/Academic Policies for more information

Absences that occur due to students participating in official college activities are excused except in those cases where outside bodies, such as the State Board of Nursing, have requirements for minimum class minutes for each student. Students who are excused will be given reasonable opportunity to make up any missed work or receive substitute assignments from the instructor and should not be penalized for the absence. Proper procedure should be followed in notifying faculty in advance of the student's planned participation in the event. Ultimately it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the planned absence.

Attendance will always be taken before class begins. Two late arrivals (more than ten minutes late) equals one absence. Leaving class early without the permission of the instructor equals one absence.

Due Dates, Make-Up Work, & Extra Credit

Assignments are due on the dates indicated by Mr. Shaffer in the course schedule. Late work will not be accepted. Make-up and extra credit opportunities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Electronic Device Policy

Cell phone use will not be allowed during class. Please turn off cell phones *before* class starts and refrain from text messaging and checking messages while class is in progress. If you have an emergency situation that requires use of your phone during class, please notify Mr. Shaffer in advance. Laptops and tablets are permitted for use. Laptops and tablets may only be used to take notes or look up information pertaining to class. This means no checking email, Facebook, etc. during lectures or class discussions. Laptop and tablet privileges will be revoked if Mr. Shaffer catches students consistently violating this policy.

Academic Integrity

Please refer to the Master Course Syllabus.

Disruptive Student Behavior

Talking to fellow classmates while I am speaking is considered disruptive behavior. I will respectfully ask you to leave class if this behavior becomes a frequent occurrence.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Please refer to the Master Course Syllabus.

Open Door Policy

My door is always open to students. If you have any questions or concerns about an assignment, a grade, your academic progress or anything else pertaining to your academic and/or professional development, please feel free to discuss the matter with me. Ninety-five percent of all questions and problems can be solved through open and direct dialogue.

COMM 106-11: IMPROVISATION COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (1/17 & 1/19): Course Introduction

Week 2 (1/24 & 1/26): Improv History & Improv Rules

Week 3 (1/31 & 2/2): Relaxation, Trust, & Skill Building Exercises

Week 4 (2/7 & 2/9): Relaxation, Trust, & Skill Building Exercises

Week 5 (2/14 & 2/16): Short Form Improv Games

Week 6 (2/21 & 2/23): Short Form Improv Games

Week 7 (2/28 & 3/2): Short Form Improv Games

Week 8 (3/7-3/9): Short Form Improv Games

Week 9 (3/14 & 3/16): Long Form Improv Games

Week 10 (3/28 & 3/30): Long Form Improv Games

Week 11 (4/4 & 4/6): Long Form Improv Games

Week 12 (4/11 & 4/13): Long Form Improv Games

Week 13 (4/18 & 4/20): Rehearsal

Week 14 (4/25 & 4/27): Rehearsal

Week 15 (5/2 & 5/4): Show - TBD