

# Improvisational Techniques

First Semester, 2018

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## Course Objective

This is an intermediate class which will focus on training the actor in improvisational acting, referred to as IMPROV. Subjects covered will include spontaneity, character development, spatial work, and storytelling. In addition, actors will continue to work on stage presence, vocal projection, body control, as well as demonstrating a commitment to theatre and the performing arts.

**Materials:** Students will need comfortable clothing, a **small spiral journal or notebook**, and writing utensils. They must also have access and permission to use the Internet. An open mind and a willingness to play, create, as well as the bravery to risk, and possible fail, are also necessary.

## Student Outcomes

- create and refine two original improv characters.
- demonstrate a commitment to theatre by being present, arriving to class on time, prepared and ready to participate.
- will participate in the Showcase Final as part of an improv team or as an audience member
- strive to say 'yes' in improv settings, games and rehearsal
  - demonstrate the ability to lead AND support when working with team members.
- will plan, invite, rehearse, perform then critique at least THREE midterm performances before an invited audience

## Assignments

Leading one warm up session	Character work (written and performed)
Various Improv performances	Midterm performances before invited audience
Student critique of peer performances	Prepared showcase performance
Exit Notes and Journal entries	

## Classroom Management Policy

\*Dress appropriately to fully participate in warm up activities. Failure to do so can mean a loss of participation points for the day.

\*Do your best work. Try new techniques, work with every actor in class and be willing to fail as you learn.

\*Respect others and all property.

## Late/Missing Work Policy

It is extremely important that students attend class each day. Participation points make up nearly half of the overall grade. In addition, performance days are set and the adage, "The show must go on" will be followed. A zero score will be recorded for a missed performance which can be redone at a later date, and the score added, if the absence is excused.

## Notification of the Right to Object to the Use of Materials

Any resident of the district may raise objection to instructional materials used in the district's educational program despite the fact that the individuals selecting such materials were duly qualified to make the selection and followed the proper procedure and observed the criteria for selecting such material.

The first step in expressing objection is consultation with the classroom teacher or library staff and providing a brief written complaint. The staff member receiving a complaint regarding instructional materials shall try to resolve the issue informally through the discussion of the original assignment or the opportunity for an alternative assignment.

If not satisfied with the initial explanation or an alternative assignment, the person raising the questions will meet with a building administrator who, if unable to resolve the complaint, will provide a Request for Reconsideration form which will be given to the superintendent for action.

**Classroom Assignments:**

**Leading a warm up sessions:** The student actor will create and teach one ten-minute warm up sessions to lead his/her peers in preparing the voice, body and imagination. Students will sign up to lead a week prior and will turn in a short written plan.

**Exit Notes and Journal Entries:** Students will periodically write from journal topics related to performance and improvisation or complete short exits notes as a way to check for understanding.

**Various improvisation performances:** Students will work in pairs and small groups to practice and hone improv games as well as participate in a Theatresports-like competition in class. Students will also rehearse, produce and .perform on a weekly basis for school performances.

**Student critique of peer performances:** Actors will the same evaluation form as the teacher to evaluate and critique each other's work. Written and oral feedback will be encouraged. Comments will be respectful and are meant to help students give and receive criticism without defensiveness or apologies.

**Midterm performance before an invited audience:** Students will choose small teams of 3-5 actors, create a team name and introduction, and then participate before an invited audience during class or lunch, in a Theatresports competition format. There will be at least THREE in school shows and a performer can be excused from ONE without affecting his/her grade.

**Prepared showcase performance:** Students will participate in the Drama Showcase (January) as performing team members or as audience members. Teams of 4-6 members will compete against each other for points in a Theatresports game format or will attend one or both of the productions and write a critique of the event.

----- (Please sign, detach and return to Mrs. Hoffman by Friday for full points.)-----

I have read and understand the Improvisational Techniques syllabus from Semester 1. I will call or email Mrs. Hoffman with questions or concerns regarding my student \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_