

# TPP 4930 Comedy Practice

Spring 2016

T/Th (4:05pm-6:00pm) – G15

Instructor:	Dr. Charlie Mitchell
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Office Hours:	Tues/Thurs 2-4 or by appointment
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## COURSE OBJECTIVES

To strive for excellence in stand-up comedy and sketch performance.

To invent, work, and rework materials to assemble into a comedy writing packet.

## EXPECTATIONS

Most contemporary performers working in comedy come from improvisation so we will spend large parts of the class improvising to generate ideas to be used in sketches. Therefore, you will be asked to push yourself and take risks in games and exercises. This class is a space where you respect, support, and encourage your fellow performers and writers. You will need to work at the top of your intelligence, favoring smart moves over low-brow humor for its own sake. Each week you will hand in one sketch or other writing assignment such as jokes based on the news of the week, monologues, desk pieces, or video script. You are expected to perform the work of others as well as you own.

This semester, you will perform:

1. In a Stand Up Comedy Show (Feb 6 @ the Hippodrome Theatre). In the first week of February, you are expected to find time to meet privately with a guest artists outside of class.
2. At an open mike night (location TBD)
3. A sketch comedy show at the end of the semester interspersed with video shorts (Date TBD @ the Hippodrome Theatre).

## REQUIRED TEXTS

I will provide handouts.

## ATTENDANCE

The only way I can measure your progress is observing your work in class -- attendance is a given. You are expected to arrive ON TIME and to attend ALL classes. ***There are no excused absences.*** There will be mandatory attendance at dress rehearsals and live performances.

If you feel you cannot make this commitment this semester, please drop the class. There is absolutely no way to make up missed class time and there is no extra credit. The attendance policy is as follows:

0-2 absences	A is possible
3 absences	B is possible
4 absences	C is possible
5 absences	Fail

If you have a logistical problem that is preventing you from arriving on time, you must let me know immediately. Three tardies will result in one absence. You are late when you are not present when I call your name. Do not ask to leave class early for any reason. The answer is always no. Every three weeks I will evaluate your progress and suggest areas of improvement. Missing any performance drops your final grade a letter grade.

## **CLASS CONDUCT**

During class, there is drinking, gum chewing, or cell phone use (especially texting). Any laptop use must be related to classwork.

## **PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE**

For this class, you are **REQUIRED** to see three live theatrical productions during the course of the semester and write a one-page evaluation of a single performer. You can see a School of Theatre and Dance, Theatre Strike Force, or Florida Players show. If you have an alternative, you need to clear it with me first. If you do not turn in all three critiques, you will drop half a letter grade (ex. A to A-).

## **HONOR CODE**

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." The Honor Code states that you cannot take photos or videos in class without my permission and the permission of fellow students.

## **LEARNING DISABILITIES**

If you have a disability that is documented with the Disability Resource Center and wish to discuss accommodations, please see me during my office hours. If you have a learning disability that has not been documented, contact the DRC at 352-392-8565, email [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu), or go to their office at 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall).

## **AVAILABILITY**

If you have something you want to discuss with me, please do not hesitate. Feel free to come to my office hours or there is a conflict with those hours, make an appointment with me.

Your ongoing enrollment is confirmation that you understand and will comply with the requirements of this course. I reserve the right to alter this syllabus if necessary.