

TPP 4930 Comedy Practice

Spring 2018 - T/Th (4:05pm-6:00pm) – G15

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

To find your comic voice by striving for excellence in comedy writing and performance.
To invent, work, and rework material to assemble a stand-up set and writing packet.

EXPECTATIONS

This class is a space where you respect, support, and encourage your fellow performers and writers while understanding that constructive criticism is more valuable than praise. Each week you will hand in writing assignment such as late night jokes, desk pieces, stand-up material, and sketches. You will be expected to perform the work of others as well as your own. You will do one presentation about a prominent stand-up comic.

You will be expected to work at the top of your intelligence, favoring smart moves over low-brow humor for its own sake. In comedy, there is only one absolute and unbreakable rule – you do not steal jokes.

I do not censor work in this class. The only standard is whether or not the work is funny.

In addition to writing assignments and in-class activities, you will perform:

1. in a stand-up comedy show at the Hippodrome Cinema.
2. an open mike night (location TBD)
3. a sketch comedy show at the end of the semester at the Hippodrome Cinema.

You will also need to find time to meet privately with any guest artists outside of class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

I will provide handouts if needed.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is crucial for this class. You are expected to arrive ON TIME and to attend ALL classes. Do not ask to leave class early for any reason. The answer is always no. The following absences are excused: illness (doctor's note required), religious holidays, and documented participation in official university activities. Weddings, job interviews, and other life events do not count as excused absences.

You are allowed two unexcused absences. Three unexcused absences lower your participation grade by a letter grade. If you have four unexcused absences, you will fail the course. 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 an absence.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

GRADE BREAKDOWN

In-Class Participation	40%
Written Assignments/Rewrites	50%
Performances	10%

CLASS CONDUCT

During class, there is no eating, drinking, or cell phone use (especially texting). Any laptop use must be related to classwork.

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, 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.