TPP 4930 Advanced Improvisation
Spring 2019
Tues/Thurs (3:00pm-4:55pm) – G15

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1-3 or by appointment
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COURSE OBJECTIVES
To strive for excellence in long-form improvisation. You will practice and master a number of forms culminating in a public performance at the end of the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTS
I will provide handouts.

EXPECTATIONS
In order to grow as a performer, you will be asked to take risks in games, exercises, and performances. This class is a space where you respect, support, and encourage your fellow actors. Honesty in scene work will be celebrated as well as playing at the top of your intelligence, a key concept in improv which favors smart moves over low-brow humor for its own sake.

ATTENDANCE
This is a class about participation – attendance is a given. You are expected to arrive ON TIME and to attend ALL classes. If you feel you cannot make this commitment, please drop the class. There is no way to make up missed class time and there is no extra credit. When you are put into teams, missing class hurts your peers.

According to UF policy, 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. If you have three unexcused absences, the highest grade you can get is a B. If you have four, the highest grade you can get is a C. Missing five classes means failing the class.

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 for roll call. 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. If you miss the final performance, your final grade will be dropped half a letter grade (ex. A to A-).
DRESS CODE & CLASS CONDUCT
Come to class prepared to move. Performing is physically demanding. Don't wear clothes you are afraid to get "mussed" or limit your mobility. Casual or gym-like attire is recommended. During class, there is no computer use, eating, drinking, gum chewing, or cell phone use (especially texting). No hats when performing.

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 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, your final grade 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 also prohibits photo and video recording the class: “A student shall not without express authorization from the faculty member and, if required by law, from other participants, make or receive any recording, including but not limited to audio and video recordings, of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting, or meeting with a faculty member.”

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.