

# TPP3124: Beginning Improvisation

## Spring 2019

Instructor: Keifer MacDonald

Office Hours: By appointment, located 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of McCarty Hall C

Email: k.macdonald@ufl.edu

Class: Tuesday & Thursday 4:05pm-6:00pm

Room location: CON G015

### Course Objectives:

- To develop, understand, and perform the fundamentals of Improvisation.
- To apply Improvisation in all facets of your life.
- To enhance listening, observation, and ensemble work with your fellow classmates

### Attendance: (30% of Grade)

Attendance will be taken daily. Due to the nature of this course, attendance is MANDATORY.

You are allowed **two (2) unexcused** absences without penalty. Each subsequent absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade from your final grade per absence. ***Five (5) unexcused absences*** (including your two 'freebies') will result in a failing participation grade. There are **NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.**

\* **Excused absences include:** religious holidays; medical; and mandatory school requirements). Failure to provide the appropriate documentation at least one week before an excused absence will result in an unexcused absence.

\***Tardy Policy:** You are allowed to be tardy to **two (2)** class meetings without penalty. Three tardies equal an absence. Please note that it is your responsibility to notify the instructor after the class that you arrived late. If you come in late and the instructor is unaware, you will receive an absence for that day. If you arrive late, **DO NOT** come into the room while another student is performing – please be respectful!

- Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first class meeting.
- In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.
- Students cannot participate in classes unless they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.
- **No late assignments will be accepted without an excused absence.** In the event of an excused absence, late assignments will be accepted no later than one class period after the date in which it was due. Assignments can be emailed if necessary.

### Acting Critiques: (10% of Grade)

For this class, you are REQUIRED to see **3 productions** during the course of the semester.

You will write a critique on the *acting performance* within each production no longer than **2 pages**.

The paper must be in MLA format and must include a thesis statement, supporting paragraphs followed by a conclusion. All papers are due on the class following the final performance of the production

**Current Season:**

*Red Velvet*- Constans Theatre, McGuire Pavilion, ***Feb. 1-10, 2019***

*White Guy on the Bus*- Black Box Theater, McGuire Pavilion, ***March 21-31, 2019***

*Rough Magic*- Constans Theatre, McGuire Pavilion, ***April 12-19, 2019***

**Class Participation & Performance: (40% of grade)**

As this class is an ensemble-based acting class, regular participation is MANDATORY.

All Handouts and Homework should be completed and ready for discussion by assigned due date.

Not everyone is experienced in Improv, and that's fine. My expectations going forward is to dive in and immerse yourself in the challenges and opportunities this course will provide you. Challenging yourself to be better than you were the day before is a good place to start.

**Final Performance: (20% of grade)**

The culmination of your work over the semester will take shape in a final Short-Form Improvised set.

*More information will be provided as the course progresses*

**Canvas** : Grades, additional readings, and paper/project guidelines will be posted on the class website Canvas. Log on to <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (no "www"), click the button that reads "LOG IN TO ELEARNING," and then enter your Gatorlink username and password. This course should appear if you are officially registered. If you require assistance, start with the UF Computing Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>. I cannot add students to Canvas

**Dress Code:** Warm-ups and improv scene work can be physically demanding. Wear comfortable clothes that allow easy movement. No open-toed shoes or flip-flops are allowed. Ladies be sure to avoid dresses or skirts that will hinder your abilities to perform in class.

**Class Conduct:** Classes of this size and nature demand a mutual respect to function positively. There is no eating, drinking (except water), gum chewing, cell phone use (including texting), or disruptive talking in class. (Phones should be put away at all times unless there is an emergency that you have informed me about).

**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." If you plagiarize material, i.e., use someone else's words or ideas without attribution, you will automatically receive a failing grade in this class. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism or the absence of intent to deceive does not constitute an acceptable defense in matters of scholarly dishonesty.

**Disabilities:**

To request disability accommodations, please contact and register with the Dean of Students Office. After initial arrangements are made with this office, contact this course's instructor and provide the appropriate documentation provided by the Dean of Students Office.

### **University Counseling Services:**

Contact information Counseling Center:

Address:

3190 Radio Rd.

P.O. Box 112662

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu) (Links to an external site.)

### **Grading Scale:**

A	93-100	Superior Work (exceeded expectations)
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	Good Effort
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	Average Effort
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	
D	63-66	Minimum Effort
D-	60-63	
E	59-	

### **EVALUATIONS**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>. 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.

