

TPP 4930 Advanced Improvisation

Spring 2020

Tues/Thurs (3:00pm-4:55pm) – G15

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
Office: McGuire Pavilion, 2nd Fl., Rm. 229
Office Phone: 352-273-0515
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1:30-3:30 or by appointment
Email: cmitchell@ufl.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To strive for excellence in long-form improvisation. You will practice and master a number of inspirations and forms that you will perform in teams. You will also participate 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 and supporting your team is an essential part of this work.

According to UF policy, the following absences are excused: illness (doctor's note *required*), religious holidays, and *documented* participation in official university activities. Weddings, travel, 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 in the class is a C. Four unexcused absences 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. Do not ask to leave class early for any reason - the answer is always no. You cannot be pulled out of class for SOTD production crews. Every three weeks, I will evaluate your progress and suggest areas of improvement. If you miss the final performance, your final grade will drop a letter grade (ex. A to B).

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.

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.

GRADE

Your class grade is based entirely on your participation. During the semester, I will let you know if your work is anything less than an A effort.

SCALE

A	Superior Effort
A-	
B+	
B	Good Effort
B-	
C+	
C	Average Effort
C-	
D+	
D	Minimum Effort
D-	
E	

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.