

TPP 4930 Advanced Improvisation

Fall 2021

Tues/Thurs (4:05pm-6:00pm) – G15

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
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Office Phone: 352-273-0515
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 2:00-3:30 or by appointment
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

You will master a variety of techniques for inspiring improv scenes and learn a number of long-form structures 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, I expect you to take risks in games, exercises, and teamwork. 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 stereotypes or low-brow humor for its own sake.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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. Since working live with others is the primary focus of the class, there is no way to make up missed class time. When you work in teams, missing class hurts your peers and supporting your team is an essential part of this work.

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill), *do not* come to class. The culture of hiding illness or the “show must go on” mentality must be avoided.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions

- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

Religious observances do not require documentation. However, you need to let me know by the second week of classes which religious observances will conflict with your attendance.

Students are allowed ONE unexcused absence that does not require documentation and does not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.” Afterwards, each unexcused absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) deducted from your final grade. Weddings, travel, job interviews, non-UF auditions, and other life events do not count as excused absences. If you have a logistical problem that will prevent you from arriving on time, see me immediately.

Any student that acquires THREE absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with me to discuss your continued participation in the course. For Majors: Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

*NOTE: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

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 or sunglasses 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 (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>).

AVAILABILITY

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

GRADE

Your class grade is based entirely on the quality of 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.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

HEALTH & WELLNESS

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.