

TPP 3124 Beginning Improvisation

Fall 2025

Tues/Thurs (3:00pm-4:55pm)

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Mitchell
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Office Phone: 352-273-0515
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 11:30-1:30 or by appointment
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To learn the fundamentals of improvisation
- To create intelligent and honest scene work through conceptual agreement, character creation, team building, and active listening

REQUIRED TEXT

Readings will come in the form of handouts.

EXPECTATIONS

This class is a space where you respect, support, and encourage your fellow actors. In order to grow as a performer, you will be asked to take risks in the games, exercises, and performance pieces you do for class. "Playing at the top of your intelligence" is a key concept in improvisation. Come to class prepared to move. Warm-ups and scenework can be physically demanding (rolling on the floor is not uncommon). Don't wear clothes that you are afraid to get "mussed" or limit your mobility. There is no eating, drinking (except water), gum chewing, computer, or cell phone use in class.

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 each other is an essential part of this work.

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

- Illness
- 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 (not Rec Sports) or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

Serious family emergencies and 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, let me know immediately.

Any student that has THREE absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with me to discuss your continued participation in the course. For BFA 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/>

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

For this class, you are REQUIRED to see two SOTD productions during the course of the semester. I suggest you attend Theatre Strike Force performances if you can.

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.”

LEARNING DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Performance Evaluation 85%

- Every 3 weeks, you will receive a performance evaluation that reflects your progress in the course (avg. of 5 grades total)

Team Presentations 10%

End of semester presentation 5%

Performance & Team Presentation Evaluation Rubric: Arrives on time, utilizes techniques taught in class, and supports other classmates in exercises and team performances

Students will receive the highest point value of assigned letter grades.

SCALE

A	100	Superior Effort
A-	93	
B+	87	
B	83	Good Effort
B-	80	
C+	77	
C	73	Average Effort
C-	70	
D+	67	
D	63	Minimum Effort
D-	60	
E	0-59	

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found in the online catalog at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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.

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/>.

AVAILABILITY

If you have something you want to discuss with me, please do not hesitate. Feel free to go to my office hours. I have them for your benefit so you are never "bothering" me. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, let me know and we will come up with another time to meet.

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