Students will be expected to explore the class' atmosphere of trust that will begin to take shape each week. The games and theatre exercises will include specific character development along with scene work, which will demand plenty of participation. The more a student can forget about what they think they look like, and instead focus upon their fellow players, without judgments, the better. Co-operation and team work will be stressed... “There is probably no ' I ' in Comedy.”

Columbia College Hollywood

James Berges

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course will focus on developing the following performance skills.
1) Believing the there are no failures, only revelations.
2) Practicing an action mindset: less talking more doing.
3) Facing your fears
4) Showing support for others
5) Increasing patience
6) Demonstrating commitment
7) Being truthful (Truth is more interesting than fiction.)
8) Improving communication for improved relationships
9) Expanding creativity through a great mental workout
10) Building trust in the ensemble (while having fun.)

Susan Palmer and Melissa Lourie, University of Vermont

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:
1) Demonstrate a method for approaching improvisational moments as creative problem solving in a performance setting or real life.
2) Create in the immediate moment scenes and characters without a script.
3) Demonstrate confidence and ability to rely upon your first instinct and not edit from a place of fear, but work with what is given.
4) "Follow The Follower" to allow ensemble scenes to grow and evolve.
5) Use the actor's tool of 'agreement' for a successful connection with an audience and fellow players.

Susan Palmer and Melissa Lourie, University of Vermont

COURSE POLICIES
1) Arrive on time.
2) Wear comfortable clothing in which you can easily move.
3) Have an open mind and be ready to focus and participate in all activities.
4) Improvisation can often make students feel exposed and vulnerable. Anything that comes up in class stay in class.
5) No negative comments. Help to create a safe and supportive environment.
SUMMARY OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The student will:

1. submit 5 online journal (Blackboard) entries. (25 pts. each; 100 pts.)
2. complete improvisation projects (100 pts. each; 200 pts.)
3. write two critiques live performance (100 pts. each; 200 pts.)
4. complete the midterm assessment (100 pts.)
5. participate in the UST DRAMA LIVE! technical rehearsals Nov. 28, 29 & 30 and performances December 1, 2 & 3 (300 pts.)
6. complete the final exam (100 pts.)
7. attend and participate in class. Each absence in excess of three will result in a loss of 10 pts. (3 tardies = 1 absence) Late work will lose points!
8. **GRADUATE STUDENTS** will undertake a research project on a mutually agreed upon improvisation topic and produce a 10 page minimum report the results of which will be presented to the class. The grade will be averaged with the course final exam grade.

**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>A- to A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>B- to B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>C- to C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>D- to D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELOW 600</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excessive tardiness or unexcused absences in excess of three will lower the course grade.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with me as early as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crocker Center.

This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.
Improvisation
Course Calendar Fall 2016

August
22 – Introduction
24 – Read “Improv Changed My Life” hand out
29 – What is Improv? Chap. 1
31
September
5 - LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
7 – But Seriously Folks… Chap. 2; 1st Journal Entry Due
12 – Support and Trust – Chap. 3
14 - Project #1 Due
19 – Agreement - Chap. 4
21
26 – Initiations and Game Moves – Chap. 5
28 – 2nd Journal Entry Due

October
3 – Moment to Moment to Moment – Chap. 6
5 – Midterm Assessment
10- FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
12 – Outside Comedy Critique Due
17 – Building a Scene - Chap. 7
19 – 3rd Journal Entry Due
24- One Mind, Many Bodies – Chap. 8
26
31 – Environmentally Aware – Chap. 9 - Project #2 Due

November
2- 4th Journal Entry Due
7 – Responsibilities of a Harold Player – Chap. 10
9
10-12 UST Drama presents Twelfth Night at 8pm
14 – How to do a Harold – Chap. 11; 5th Journal Entry Due
16
17-19 UST Drama presents Twelfth Night at 8pm
21 – Harold As a Team Sport – Chap 12 - Critique of Twelfth Night Due
23 – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
28 – Tech
29 – Tech (Tuesday)
30 - Tech

December
1-3 - Performance Days (Thursday, Friday, Saturday); UST DRAMA LIVE!
5 – Class Performance Critique
14 – (Wednesday) Final Exam – 11:00-1:30