

THA M14A: IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY I

Originator

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Co-Contributor(s)
Name(s)

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College

Moorpark College

Discipline (CB01A)

THA - Theatre Arts

Course Number (CB01B)

M14A

Course Title (CB02)

Improvisational Comedy I

Banner/Short Title

Improvisational Comedy I

Credit Type

Credit

Start Term

Fall 2023

Formerly

THA M14 - Improvisational Comedy

Catalog Course Description

Provides introductory level instruction in improvisational and ensemble acting skills, as well as the development of culturally sensitive solo and group comedic material. Culminates with a public performance of the material developed in class.

Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)

1007.00 - Dramatic Arts

Course Credit Status (CB04)

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)

A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

SAM Priority Code (CB09)

E - Non-Occupational

Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

Course Classification Status (CB11)

Y - Credit Course

Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)

Y - Not Applicable

Course Noncredit Category (CB22)

Y - Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

Course Program Status (CB24)

1 - Program Applicable

General Education Status (CB25)

Y - Not Applicable

Support Course Status (CB26)

N - Course is not a support course

Field trips

Will not be required

Grading method

(L) Letter Graded

Alternate grading methods

(O) Student Option- Letter/Pass

(P) Pass/No Pass Grading

Does this course require an instructional materials fee?

No

Repeatable for Credit

No

Is this course part of a family?

No

Units and Hours

Carnegie Unit Override

No

In-Class

Lecture

Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours

8.75

Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours

8.75

Activity

Laboratory

Minimum Contact/In-Class Laboratory Hours

52.5

Maximum Contact/In-Class Laboratory Hours

52.5

Total in-Class**Total in-Class****Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours**

61.25

Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours

61.25

Outside-of-Class**Internship/Cooperative Work Experience**

Paid

Unpaid

Total Outside-of-Class**Total Outside-of-Class****Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours**

17.5

Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours

17.5

Total Student Learning**Total Student Learning****Total Minimum Student Learning Hours**

78.75

Total Maximum Student Learning Hours

78.75

Minimum Units (CB07)

1.5

Maximum Units (CB06)

1.5

Advisories on Recommended Preparation

THA M02A

Requisite Justification**Requisite Type**

Recommended Preparation

Requisite

THA M02A

Requisite Description

Course not in a sequence

Level of Scrutiny/Justification

Content review

Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | utilize introductory scene analysis and improvisation skills to write comedic sketches and monologues for performance. |
|---|--|

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | demonstrate the introductory ability to adjust performance techniques based on oral and written critiques from instructor and peers. |
| 3 | demonstrate the introductory ability to improvise short and long form scenes based on class based techniques and exercises in a live performance. |

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | demonstrate introductory level abilities to improvise given various comic situations in short form. |
| 2 | analyze recorded and live comic performances through introductory level skills to determine the structures of comedic dialogue, physical comedy and sketch structure. |
| 3 | employ introductory level acting and scene analysis skills in developing comic material. |
| 4 | create and write basic level comic sketch material derived from in-class improvisation. |
| 5 | generate introductory level performance material using knowledge of situation, plot, and character development while embracing culturally competent choices. |
| 6 | evaluate the comic material of their peers via introductory level oral critiques. |
| 7 | perform introductory level material before a live audience as part of an ensemble. |

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content

33% - Identify basic components of comic structure through:

- Cultural and racial sensitivity
- Screening/evaluating taped materials
- Creating topic, situation, place
- Setting parameters

34% - Polish introductory level material

- Improvisation based on discussion/critique
- Structure
- Pacing

33% - Explore introductory level outline structures for:

- Stand-up: characters, role-playing, situations, punch lines
- Sketches: characters, situations/plots, conflict/climax/resolution

Laboratory or Activity Content

30% - Perform basic improvisation exercises:

- Exploration of spaces and environment
- Character development
- Cultural and racial sensitivity
- Situation/plot development
- Discussion/evaluation/critique of content base

10% - Perform introductory level written sketches and improvised material before a live audience

30% - Develop introductory level polishing skills:

- Improvisation based on discussion/critique
- Re-screen video
- Re-write material

30% - Generate introductory level video-taped material:

- Discuss material based on screening
- Evaluate/revise material

Methods of Evaluation

Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):

- Written expression
- Skills demonstrations

Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):

- Film/video productions
- Group projects

Individual projects
 Journals
 Monologues
 Oral analysis/critiques
 Oral presentations
 Performances
 Quizzes
 Recitations
 Role playing
 Simulations
 Skills demonstrations
 Skills tests or practical examinations
 Written creation (poem, screenplay, song)
 Classroom Discussion
 Projects
 Participation
 Reports/Papers/Journals

Instructional Methodology

Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course

Audio-visual presentations
 Class discussions
 Collaborative group work
 Distance Education
 Field trips
 Laboratory activities
 Lecture
 Observation
 One-on-one conference
 Oral Drills
 Readings
 Role-playing
 Small group activities
 Web-based presentations

Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:

critique live performances at the college both in written form, class discussions and online discussions
 improvise scenes demonstrating cultural sensitivity depicting diverse individuals from variety of diverse cultures and sub-cultures
 relate one's own personal experiences to other characters from similar and/or different cultural backgrounds and identities in order to better execute authentic scene work through role-playing and improvisation

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments

keep a performance journal documenting the progression of the sketch development.
 write evaluations/examinations of taped and live performances defining comic styles and structure.
 transcribe the improvisational comedy into a conventional scripted form to be performed in front of a live audience.

Critical Thinking Assignments

adapt improvisations in class to written sketches.
 adjust improvised performances in real time based on critiques.
 take suggestions from the audience and incorporate them into scene work.

Reading Assignments

read sketches and skits that have been derived from improvisations
 read articles regarding current improvisational styles, theories and practices
 read articles online and at the library as research for performance, characters and diverse settings

Skills Demonstrations

demonstrate an understanding of embodying a character fully, mind, body and voice
 utilize effectively the use of pantomimed props in a scene

stage movement patterns (blocking) through the improvisation of a scene

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments

observation of professional Comedy Club/Improv Shows, stand-up and sketch comedy.

rehearsals with peers of sketch and/or stand-up.

assigned viewing of taped and live comedy performances.

Articulation

Equivalent Courses at 4 year institutions

University	Course ID	Course Title	Units
CSU San Bernardino	TA 240	Improvation	3
CSU San Bernardino	TA 1141	Improvisation	3

Equivalent Courses at other CCCs

College	Course ID	Course Title	Units
Palomar College	TA 113A	Improvisational Theatre I	3
College of the Canyons	THA 126	Improvisation	2
Ohlone College	TD 115A	Theatre Improvisation	3

District General Education

A. Natural Sciences

B. Social and Behavioral Sciences

C. Humanities

D. Language and Rationality

E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology

F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies

Course is CSU transferable

Yes

CSU Baccalaureate List effective term:

F2001

CSU GE-Breadth**Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking****Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning****Area C: Arts and Humanities****Area D: Social Sciences****Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development****Area F: Ethnic Studies****CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:****UC TCA**UC TCA
Approved**IGETC****Area 1: English Communication****Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning****Area 3: Arts and Humanities****Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences****Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences****Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)****Textbooks and Lab Manuals****Resource Type**

Textbook

DescriptionLeonard, Kelly, and Tom Yorton. *Yes, And: How Improvisation Reverses "No But" Thinking and Improves Creativity and Collaboration - Lessons from The Second City*. HarperBusiness, 2015.**Resource Type**

Textbook

DescriptionHines, Will. *How to Be the Greatest Improviser on Earth*. Pretty Great Publishing, 2016.**Resource Type**

Textbook

Classic Textbook

Yes

DescriptionSpolin, Viola. *Improvisation for the Theater: A Handbook of Teaching and Directing Techniques*. 3rd ed., Northwestern Univ Press, 1999.

Resource Type

Textbook

DescriptionSpragge, Andrew M. and Karen L. Eichler. *The 5 Elements of Improv (Masters of Improv #1)*. CreateSpace, 2017.**Library Resources****Assignments requiring library resources**

Students will utilize the Library's print and online resources for research.

Sufficient Library Resources exist

Yes

Example of Assignments Requiring Library Resources

Research various styles, periods and cultures for improvisational performance including the Library's special Theatre Arts collection of scripts, in locating comedic videos and news materials.

Distance Education Addendum**Definitions****Distance Education Modalities**

100% online

Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.

Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.

Yes

Regular Effective/Substantive Contact**100% online Modality:**

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Welcome! Who Are You Discussion Theatre of the People Discussion Discovering Theatre Around You Discussion Play Discussion Theatre History Project Discussion Final Project Discussion
E-mail	Email, class announcements and tools such as "Message Students Who" and "Assignment Comments" in Canvas will be used to regularly communicate with all students to clarify class content, remind of upcoming assignments, and provide immediate feedback to students on coursework to facilitate student learning outcomes. Students will be given multiple ways to email instructor through Canvas inbox and faculty provided email account through their own canvas email and school email.

Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)

Faculty will use a variety of tools and media integrated within the LMS to help students reach SLO such as:

- * Recorded Lectures, Narrated Slides, Screencasts
- * Instructor created content
- * MC Online Library Resources
- * Canvas Student Groups (Assignments, Discussions)
- * Websites and Blogs
- * Multimedia (YouTube, Films on Demand, 3CMedia, Khan Academy, etc.)

Synchronous Dialog (e.g., online chat)

Online office hours & Online group discussions

Video Conferencing

Video tools such as ConferZoom can be used to provide live synchronous sessions with students. ADA compliance will be upheld with Closed Captioning during the session or of the recorded session. Video Conferences will be used to facilitate SLOs and student-to-student group meetings will also be encouraged.

Primary Minimum Qualification

THEATER ARTS

Additional Minimum Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications

Drama/Theater Arts

Review and Approval Dates

Department Chair

11/08/2022

Dean

11/10/2022

Technical Review

11/17/2022

Curriculum Committee

12/06/2022

DTRW-I

01/12/2023

Curriculum Committee

MM/DD/YYYY

Board

02/14/2023

CCCCO

MM/DD/YYYY

DOE/accreditation approval date

MM/DD/YYYY