

IMPROVISATION

Syllabus / Procedure

Mrs. Nicole Voss

415-7940

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Improvisation is a semester course designed to help the student develop a more creative and flexible approach to solving performance problems. This is an active class which challenges the imagination of the actor and gives the performer a chance to explore a variety of experiences on stage by responding spontaneously and appropriately to given situations and characterizations.

CONTENT COVERAGE

- Unit 1 Ensemble
- Unit 2 Basics of Improv
- Unit 3 Sketch Comedy
- Unit 4 Theatre Sports
- Unit 5 Stand-Up Comedy
- Unit 6 Invisible Theatre
- Unit 7 Commedia

GRADING

Cumulative Grade (85 %)

1. PLAY PRODUCTION HOURS

You need 6 hrs of production work for the semester. This breaks down to 2 hrs every 6 week grading period. Anything over 6 hrs. will be counted as extra credit. (2/6 or one event, must be an improve show)
See the attached sheet for more details.

2. ACTIVITIES / PROJECTS

Activities: Daily Performances (25-50 pts) Projects: Long term rehearsal and performances (100-300pts)
Process Grade: Technical aspects (scene/play/ch analysis) Can be both an individual and/or group grade.
Acting Grade: The performance of the material. Can be both an individual and/or group grade.

3. TESTS / QUIZZES

Expect a quiz or test over major concepts studied.

4. DAILY GRADE

This is based on your ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION IN CLASS!!! You will receive 25 points every WEEK. Remember, if you miss class, you must make up these points. (Unexcused absences only)

Semester Final (15%)

1. WRITTEN FINAL

This will be a written test which will cover all the material taught in the class for the whole semester.

2. PERFORMANCE FINAL

There will be some type of performance final which will test your ability to utilize the acting skills taught in the class throughout the year.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1. Notebook
- 2. Folder for handouts

There is ZERO TOLERANCE for cheating. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero for a grade and parents will be called. No alternate assignments will be given.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURE

EVERY DAY.....

Come in, put book bag on the table and have a seat.... in your chair! (do NOT congregate at the couches!) I will take attendance and make any necessary announcements. Once a week we say the Pledge of Allegiance. I expect everyone to listen to the daily announcements when appropriate. Once the business is out of the way, we will warm up and begin our activities. Remember this is an ELECTIVE class! Either accept this class by giving it your best and trying 100% or take another elective class...there are many!

1. ATTENDANCE

Since this is a participatory class, your attendance is very crucial. If you miss work or a performance in class for whatever reason, you **MUST MAKE IT UP** by doing extra scenes, reports, etc. for the points. If the work is a group activity, you will be replaced after two days of absences. If you are absent the day of a performance, I **WILL CALL HOME** to confirm your absence. If it is excused, you will then perform the **FIRST** day you return to school. Remember, you get daily points for participating. Missing class unexcused, will give you a zero for that day.

2. TARDIES

Time is precious in a theatre class. Therefore, if you are late, you are not prepared and will result in loss of participation points. Excessive tardiness will not only cause you to lose points, but detentions will also be given. I expect everyone to participate in any given activity, critique or performance. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the activity / performance or loss of participation points.

3. SURROUNDING AREAS

Classroom: This is a working area..... **NO FOOD** (includes candy), or **DRINK** (unless it's a screw top lid. Gum and Hats are OK unless you are performing. **NO cell phones!**

***FOOD:** If you must eat a personal snack, do so in the lobby as I prefer that you do **NOT** eat in the theatre classroom. Per district policy, food is not to be shared as a class.

Restroom: It is across the hall from the classroom. There is no pass. Please tell me you need to use it and be quick to return to our activities.

Theatre Storage Area: Do not get into the props/costume/set pieces/hats without my permission.

Computers: Chrome Books are available on a first come basis. Do not download any software or add documents to the desktop. Use your student folder and the Google drive. Be courteous of your time and let other use them as well.

Hallway: If you need to rehearse in the hall or theatre, let the poor teacher know where you are. Make sure you rehearse and not visit the commons or music dept. Trust is a factor here, do not break it. If you cannot be trusted in the hall to rehearse, you will **ONLY** rehearse in the room.

Scene Shop: This room is off limits to everyone, unless the class requires the use of this facility.

4. COMMON COURTESY

Audience Member: Do not disturb the player in anyway. (Walking, entering/exiting the room whispering, planning, or just being non responsive)

Performer: Be prepared (on time) so the audience doesn't have to suffer.

Towards Substitutes: Be kind and courteous in every way. They too can deduct points or give detentions. The Substitute is in charge and any conflicts, which may occur, will go in favor of the sub. **RESPECT, RESPECT, RESPECT!!!!**

DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL I DISMISSES YOU!!!

BE DEPENDABLE, ACCEPTING, TACTFUL, AND KIND TO ALL.

Please check my website for updated course information and events for play production hours!