

LSC Use Only Proposal No:
LSC Action-Date:

UWUCC Use Only Proposal No: 14-1296
UWUCC Action-Date: AP-2/24/15 Senate Action Date: App 3/31/15

Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

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Proposing Department/Unit Theater and Dance	Phone 357-2169

Check all appropriate lines and complete all information. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and/or program proposal.

1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Prefix Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion
<input type="checkbox"/> Course Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Number and/or Title Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change

Current course prefix, number and full title: _____

Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing: **THTR 231: Improvisation and Creativity**

2. Liberal Studies Course Designations, as appropriate
This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course (please mark the appropriate categories below)

<input type="checkbox"/> Learning Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Global and Multicultural Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Across the Curriculum (W Course)
<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal Studies Elective (please mark the designation(s) that applies – must meet at least one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Global Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral Communication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Quantitative Reasoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Technological Literacy	

3. Other Designations, as appropriate

<input type="checkbox"/> Honors College Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (e.g. Women's Studies, Pan African)
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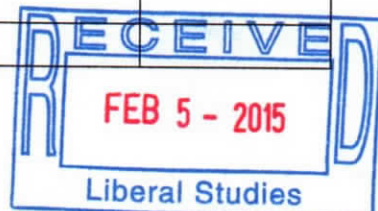
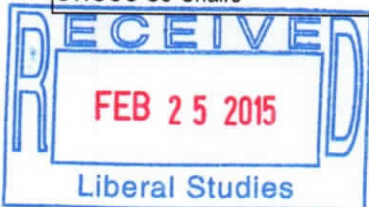
4. Program Proposals

<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Title Change	<input type="checkbox"/> New Track
<input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Program	<input type="checkbox"/> New Minor Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal Studies Requirement Changes	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Current program name: _____

Proposed program name, if changing: _____

5. Approvals	Signature	Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>12/4/2014</i>
Department Chairperson(s)	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>12/22/15</i>
College Curriculum Committee Chair		
College Dean	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>2/4/15</i>
Director of Liberal Studies (as needed)		
Director of Honors College (as needed)		
Provost (as needed)		
Additional signature (with title) as appropriate		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	<i>Gail Schust 2/25/15</i>	



Syllabus of Record

I. Catalog Description

THTR 231 Improvisation and Creativity	3 Class Hours
	0 Lab Hours
Prerequisites: THTR 140 Foundations of Performance or consent of instructor	3 Credits (3c-0l-3cr)

Introduces short- and long-form improvisation techniques and scene practice. Explores an overview of improvisatory styles and practitioners. Analyzes how social mores, world events, and prevailing attitudes shaped and continue to shape the world of improvisational theater throughout theater history. Studies and practice culminate in final improvisation performance project.

II. Course Outcomes

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

1. Apply improvisational games, exercises, and techniques to acting scene work
2. Initiate and participate in short-form improvisational games for team-building and entertainment purposes
3. Utilize long-form improvisational exercises to develop characters, themes, and entire scenes
4. Incorporate improvisational skills in a performance situation in front of an audience
5. Use improvisational foundations for writing comedy sketches, stand-up routines, and short as well as full-length plays
6. Implement improvisational techniques in other professional, academic, and daily living situations
7. Acquire skills to lead and teach improvisation exercises

III. Course Outline:

Each week of instruction typically includes the study and implementation of improvisation techniques, both in the form of "short-form" games (tasks with a time limit and a specific, usually comic goal) and "long-form" scenes with more fully developed characters and conflicts. Students will be encouraged to question and draw their own conclusions about established improvisational styles and "rules," and they will further be encouraged to use these rules and styles to take initial steps to creating their own theater work. The course content is inter-related as well as cumulative, and many class activities will incorporate several course objectives simultaneously. The instructor will identify specific areas of focus in each session, and encourage individual and group reflective awareness.

- A. Instruction in the games, warm-ups, and foundations of long-form improvisation (6 hours)
- B. Exploration of choices, offers, and individual status, as well as working with partners and small groups (6 hours)
- C. Establishing group dynamics, developing the environment of play, listening and responding, and giving and taking in a performance format (6 hours)
- D. Exploration of scene foundations, scene building and heightening (7 hours)
- E. Exploration, discussion, and analysis of improvisation history (7 hours)

F. Exploring and implementing the “Harold” format of long-form improv performance, developing related scenes and integrating games into a performance (10 hours)

G. Final Exam/Performance during Final Exam Week (2 hours)

Total: 44 instruction hours

IV. Evaluation Methods:

40% Attendance and critiqued participation, maintaining focus and using cumulative material to build partner and team relationships throughout the semester

10 % Student presentations of improv-related historical material and assigned reading

25% Midterm presentation

25% Final presentation

V. Grading Scale

A 100-90%; B 89-80%; C 79-70%; D 69-60%; F 59-0%

VI. Attendance Policy

Given the experiential, physical nature of the material, consistent attendance is encouraged by point weighting in Grading Scale. Definition of allowable absence is three class hours.

VII. Required Textbooks

Johnstone, Keith. *Impro*. New York: Routledge, 1989.

VIII. Special Resource Requirements

None

IX. Bibliography

Besser, Matt, et al. *The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual*. New York: Comedy Council of Nicea, LLC, 2013.

Boal, Augusto. *Games for Actors and Non-Actors*. New York: Routledge, 2002.

Halpern, Charna, et al. *Truth in Comedy: The Manual for Improvisation*. Colorado Springs, CO: Meriwether Publishing, 1994.

Hauck, Ben. *Long-Form Improv: The Complete Guide to Creating Characters, Sustaining Scenes, and Performing Extraordinary Harolds*. New York: Allworth Press, 2012.

Libera, Anne. *The Second City Almanac of Improvisation*. Chicago, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2004.

Napier, Mick. *Improvise: Scene from the Inside Out*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann Drama, 2004.
Salinsky, Tom, and Deborah Frances-White. *The Improv Handbook: The Ultimate Guide to Improvising in Comedy, Theatre, and Beyond*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2008.

Spolin, Viola. *Improvisation for the Theater*. New York: New Albany Press, 2013.

---. *Theater Games for the Classroom*. Chicago, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1986.

Tavares, Greg. *Improv for Everyone*. Charleston, SC: M&L Books, 2012.

**Course Analysis Questionnaire
THTR 231 Improvisation**

Section A: Details of the Course

- A1. This course is designed for majors in the BA in Theater Program. This course offering is being created as part of a strategic review of the Department's Curriculum. There are currently no other courses in the department curriculum designed specifically for majors to gain a comprehensive knowledge of improvisation.
- A2. This course does not require changes in existing courses.
- A3. This course has been offered as a special topics course in Spring 2012, with 14 students.
- A4. This course is not intended to be dual level.
- A5. This course is not to be taken for variable credit.
- A6. Similar courses are offered at the following institutions, among others:
 Improv, Santa Clara University
 Improvisation: History, Theory, and Practice, University of Pennsylvania
 Improvisational Acting, Quinnipiac University
 Improvisation, Pepperdine University
- A7. This course is designed to meet the competencies described in the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) Handbook 2014 for students in a BA Musical Theater Degree.

Section B: Interdisciplinary Implications

- B1. This course will be taught by one instructor.
- B2. The content of this course does not overlap with any other at the University.
- B3. This course is not cross-listed.

Section C: Implementation

- C1. No new faculty member is required to teach this course. The course offering is being created as part of a strategic review of the Department's Curriculum. This review has taken account of current Department complement and been structured accordingly. This course will be counted as one preparation and three hours of equated workload.
- C2. Other resources:
- a. Current space allocations are adequate to offer this course.
 - b. No special equipment is needed for this course.
 - c. No laboratory supplies are necessary for this course.

- d. Library holdings are adequate.
- e. No travel is anticipated.
- C3. No grant funds were necessary to provide the resources for this course.
- C4. This course will be offered every four semesters.
- C5. One section will be offered at a time.
- C6. Up to 16 students can be accommodated in this class.
- C7. NAST does recommend enrollment limits on "studio" courses. The standard is that, "When individual faculty attention to individual student work is required during class, class size shall be such that students can receive regular critiques of meaningful duration during the regular class period." NAST Guidelines recommend, "Classes in creative work generally should not exceed 16 students."
- C8. This course is not a distance education course.

A. Miscellaneous

No additional information is necessary.