

# THEA-122: IMPROVISATION AND PHYSICAL THEATER

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## Effective Term

Fall 2025

## CC Approval

12/06/2024

## AS Approval

02/13/2025

## BOT Approval

02/20/2025

## COCI Approval

05/15/2025

## SECTION A - Course Data Elements

### CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

### Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Drama/Theater Arts (Master's Degree)	

### Subject Code

THEA - Theater Arts

### Course Number

122

### Department

Theater Arts (THEA)

### Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

### Full Course Title

Improvisation and Physical Theater

### Short Title

Improv and Physical Theater

### CB03 TOP Code

1007.00 - Dramatic Arts

### CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

### CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

### Rationale

update textbook and DE Activities

## SECTION B - Course Description

### Catalog Course Description

This interactive course explores improvisation and physical theater through theater games, somatic awareness, individual and ensemble performance and devised work. The course also increases spontaneity, in the moment problem solving and dynamism on stage through physical expression. Topics may include the works of Spolin, Johnstone, Bogart, Meyerhold, Barba and Grotowski.

**SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment****Open Entry/Open Exit**

No

**Repeatability**

Not Repeatable

**Grading Options**

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

**Allow Audit**

Yes

**Requisites****SECTION D - Course Standards****Is this course variable unit?**

No

**Units**

3.00

**Lecture Hours**

54.00

**Outside of Class Hours**

108

**Total Contact Hours**

54

**Total Student Hours**

162

**Distance Education Approval****Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

**Online Delivery Methods**

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

**SECTION E - Course Content****Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Analyze dramatic literature.
2. Demonstrate basic improvisational skills.
3. Produce a piece of dramatic art for peer, professional or academic review.

**Course Objectives**

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

1. Create, prepare and organize spontaneous dialogue, characterization and storytelling.
2. Apply listening and responding techniques.
3. Prepare the mind and body for the task of performing as an actor on stage.

4. Analyze and evaluate the use of the kinesthetic expression and spontaneity in performance.
5. Develop a piece of theater for performance.
6. Approach acting kinesthetically.

### Course Content

1. Warming up
  - a. Voice
  - b. Body
  - c. Imagination
2. Improvisation
  - a. Spontaneity
  - b. Physical and verbal flexibility
  - c. Concentration and relaxation
  - d. Listening
  - e. Accepting
  - f. Responding
  - g. Playing with status
3. Physical Theater
  - a. Devised work
  - b. Interdisciplinary approaches
  - c. Relationship of artist and audience

### Methods of Instruction

#### Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Students work together to create scenes to learn material kinesthetically.
Critique	Students do evaluations of each others work and performances.
Discussion	Facilitated discussions occur after each unit of study during each class meeting.
Lecture	Students listen to lectures about he course topic.
Observation and Demonstration	Students observe and model different acting approaches through improvisation technique.
Visiting Lecturers	Experts in improvisation visit to describe working as an improve artist.

#### Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards  
 Chat Rooms  
 Discussion Boards  
 E-mail Communication  
 Telephone Conversations  
 Video or Teleconferencing

#### Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms  
 Discussions  
 Group Work

#### Course design is accessible

Yes

## Methods of Evaluation

### Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Performances	Perform improvisational and scene/monologue exercises.
Class Participation	Participate in group critiques. Read an opening scene. 1. Write a character analysis based on the scene. 2. Rehearse and present the scene for class critique.
Essays/Papers	Submit written character analyses.
Projects	Complete midterm and final performance projects

## Assignments

### Reading Assignments

1. Read Chapter Six of Improvisation for Actors and Writers and present a scene about the do's and don'ts of Improv.
2. Read Chapter Eight of the textbook and write a summary about the requirements of group improvisations.

### Writing Assignments

1. Memorize an open scene and present it in class.
2. Write a biography for a character developed during an "in-class" improvisation scene.

## SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

### Material Type

Textbook

### Author

Bill Lynn and Kip King

### Title

Improvisation for Actors and Writers

### Publisher

Meriwether Publishing

### Year

2004

### Material Type

Textbook

### Author

Viola Spolin

### Title

Improvisation for the Theater

### Publisher

New Albany

### Year

2013

### Material Type

Textbook

**Author**

Dymphna Callery

**Title**

The Active Text: Unlocking Plays Through Physical Theatre

**Publisher**

Nick Horn Books

**Year**

2015

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**Material Type**

Textbook

**Author**

Andrew M Spragge and Karen L Eichler

**Title**

The Big Book of Improv Games: A compendium of performance-based short-form games

**Edition/Version**

Paperback

**Publisher**

Independent

**Year**

2021

**ISBN #**

979-8605858331

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**Material Type**

Textbook

**Author**

Sam Marsden and Abigail Hing Wen

**Title**

Acting Exercises for Creative Writing (A Pocketful of Drama)

**Edition/Version**

Paperback

**Publisher**

Morpho Press

**Year**

2024

**ISBN #**

1916974066

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## **Course Codes (Admin Only)**

### **ASSIST Update**

No

### **CB00 State ID**

CCC000245718

### **CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status**

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

### **CB11 Course Classification Status**

Y - Credit Course

### **CB13 Special Class Status**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

### **CB23 Funding Agency Category**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

### **CB24 Program Course Status**

Program Applicable

### **Allow Pass/No Pass**

Yes

### **Only Pass/No Pass**

No