

Course Syllabus
THR 3372.01
Improvitational Techniques
3.0 Hours Credit Spring 2018

Location: PAC 184
Class Hrs: T/TH 11:00-12:30
Instructor: Penny Hasekoester
Office Location: PAC 284J
E-Mail: hasekoester@shsu.edu
Office Hrs: Mon-Thurs 2-5 pm. Morning hours by appointment only.

Course Description:

- This course is designed to develop students' use of improvisations, games, and ritual to enhance creative thinking, problem solving skills, characterization, and trust within the rehearsal process.
- Much of your grade will be based on work in class with a partner or partners.
- Some of your grade will be based on work that is rehearsed outside of class (classic scene and contemporary scene), performed in class and then reworked during class time. You must be available to work with a partner in the rehearsal process. If you are unavailable to work with your partner, your grade will be lowered. **If you do not show up on the day when your scene is due to go up, you will be given an automatic ZERO for your scene.** Your partner will not be penalized.
- You will be required to perform one classic and one contemporary scene and rework it in class. All students are required to see all four Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre Spring 2018 productions, which are Lady Windermere's Fan, Clybourne Park, Speech and Debate, The Shape of Things, and Pippin. Each production will be discussed in class.
- All students are required to keep a dream journal in order to create the dream scenes. This journal needs to be turned in at the time specified in the course outline. Failure to turn it in will result in a grade of zero for the dream journal.
- Research is also required for both the Classic scene and the Contemporary scene. The research must be turned in on the first day that scenes are performed. If the research is not turned in the student will receive a zero for the research for the scene. Research is comprised of character journals (at least six entries) and copies of any type of research used while creating the character you are playing in the scene.
- This is a very physical class so please wear clothing that is comfortable and loose fitting.
- Prerequisite: THR 1364. Credit 3.

Objective: This course is designed to develop students' use of improvisation, games, and ritual to develop creative thinking, problem solving skills, characterization, and trust within the rehearsal process.

Textbook(s) and/or reference(s): The following scripts will be required for use in this class. You will be required to purchase only those texts you will be working with. They are as follows:

Classic Scenes

Antigone: Sophocles – any translation will do. The translation must be cleared by your instructor.

The Importance of Being Ernest: Oscar Wilde

Tartuffe: Moliere (Richard Wilbur Translation).

Contemporary Scenes

*Creature: Heidi Schreck

*Dream of a Common Language: Heather McDonald

*The Swan: Elizabeth Egloff

*Take Me Out: Richard Greenberg

*These scripts will be available through the instructor.

Recommended Text: Stanislavski by Jean Benedetti

Attendance Policy: Daily attendance is imperative. This class is about process and each absence diminishes the process.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE ***** After two absences your grade will be reduced by **five points for each absence**. Save the absences for when you need them!

Assignments and Grading Policy:

Class participation	16
Short text scene	4
Dream journal	10
Dream scene	15
Classic scene	35
Classic scene research/journal	10
Classic scene rework	20
Contemporary scene	45
Contemporary scene research/journal	15
Contemporary scenes rework	30
TOTAL	<hr/> 200 Points

There will be no final exam in this class; however, scenes may be performed during the exam time. You must attend these scenes or your grade will be reduced by five points.

FINAL GRADES:

180 - 200=A

179 - 159=B

158 - 138=C

137 - 117=D

Below 117=F

Academic Honesty: *All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.*

The nature of most theatre classes encourages co-operation and collaboration between students. The sharing of information and ideas is very appropriate. In doing your research please indicate the nature of your sources.

Indicate what you have used. Do not simply copy your partner's research and present it as your own. If this does occur, you will receive a zero.

Classroom Demeanor: Please come to class focused and ready to work. Please turn off all cell phones. No food or drinks.

**The drop date for all Spring 2018 classes is Friday, April 6, 2018.
Last day to drop with a "Q" grade for Spring Courses**

Classroom Visitors: Please talk to me prior to class if you would like to bring a visitor to class.

Americans with Disabilities Act: *It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 294-1720.*

Religious Holidays: University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Students will be excused for travel for observance of a religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved by Thursday, February 1, 2018.