



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

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FACULTY OF ARTS
SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS - DRAMA
Course Title: Drama 571: Improvisation
Session: Fall

Instructor	Karen Johnson-Diamond
Office	CHD 219
Email	karen@johnsondiamond.com
Office Hours	By Appointment. Please email above for an appointment
Location and Time of class	Mondays, Sept 8 2014 to Dec 1 2014 15:00hr – 16:50 hr. (No classes Oct 8 or Nov 10 th) CHE 004
Text(s)/Readings	Suggested reading Truth in Comedy – The Manual of Improvisation. Halpern/Close/Johnson
Prerequisites	NA
Course Description	<p>This class will teach improvisation including character driven improvisation. Using games, exercises, discussion and long form performance, class work will focus on the basics of 'yes and' as well as intentions, tactics, reaction, truth and honesty, listening and honoring one's partner.</p> <p>This class will be one of observation and discussion with an expectation of a high level of participation and risk taking.</p> <p>Attending 2 improvisational performances in Calgary will be included in the class requirements. Students will be responsible for their own ticket purchases, however a complimentary or discounted ticket will be offered.</p> <p>Suitable for performers of all levels of experience.</p>
Course Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facilitate the development of a positive, ensemble approach to improvisation2. Promote the use of character development through improvisation, and improvisation through character3. Explore ensemble performance4. Investigate the acceptance of failure.5. Explore improvisational technique beyond comedy6. Develop a professional, ethical, and generous improvisation practices

Course Activities and Content	<p>Exercises will address the following principals of Improvisation, with class work starting at a game/ensemble stage and moving towards character development, scene work, and The Harold (a long form improv structure). The classes will follow this structure:</p> <p>Class 1 Ensemble/Listening and Positive affirmation</p> <p>Class 2 Listening and Acceptance</p> <p>Class 3 Truth / Intentions and Tactics</p> <p>Class 4 Atmosphere work / Group Scenes and the shared stage</p> <p>Class 5 Character development (back story and hot seats)</p> <p>Class 6 `` `` `` ``</p> <p>Class 7The group mind /The game within the scene</p> <p>Class 8 The Harold</p> <p>Classes 9-11 Scene work and Harolds</p>
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Assessment	1) Class-work Journal 10% 2) Attendance and critique of 2 improvisation performances 20% 3) Participation: Growth and Development 15% 4) Technique 55% (-Ability to listen and accept 15%) (-Ensemble work 15%) (-Story advancement 10%) (-The shared stage 15%)	
	<p>Journal A Journal will be kept of classroom activities, and for self-reflection regarding personal growth, as well as critiques and reflections following the attendance of 2 Improvisation performances. This journal will be shared with the instructor near the end of the semester.</p> <p>Attendance and critique of two improvisational performances The students will be asked to attend at least 2 improvisation performances within 13 weeks of the course. Options can include Obviously Improv, The Kinkonauts, The Loose Moose Theatre Company, Dirty Laundry, among others. Available show times, locations, and discount tickets will be provided. Students will write a critique of both performances, with guidelines for the critique to be provided</p> <p>Participation and Growth and Development The instructor will be assessing: -Participation and level of engagement -commitment to improving one’s own improvisational practice. -risk-taking</p> <p>Technique The instructor will be assessing: -listening skills. The use of ‘yes’ -level of truthful work -The no star system -application of learned skills -generosity and respect -story development -Ensemble work and the willingness to share the stage and scene</p> <p>There are no formal examinations.</p>	

Grading Scale	<u>GRADE BREAKDOWN</u>			
	<u>Letter</u>	<u>G.P.A.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Description</u>
	A +	4.0	95 - 100	mastery of material
	A	4.0	90 - 94	excellent, superior
	A-	3.7	85 - 89	
	B+	3.3	80 - 84	very good
	B	3.0	75 - 79	good, above average
	B-	2.7	71 - 74	
	C+	2.3	67 - 70	
	C	2.0	63 - 66	satisfactory, basic understanding
	C-	1.7	59 - 62	
	D+	1.3	55 - 58	poor
D	1.0	50 - 54	minimal pass	
F	0	0-49	failure to meet course requirements	
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Attendance	<p>Class work is entirely participatory and requires working as an ensemble. Missed classes cannot be regained. It is essential that students take a professional attitude to their work and attend <u>all</u> classes. Without prior notice to the instructor, lateness and/or absence will impact negatively the student's grade. Students must be prepared to begin class at 3:00 pm sharp.</p> <p>Release from class for outside performance commitments is permitted on a negotiated basis only. Attendance at two improvisational performances is required.</p>			
FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Visit us for answers about course registration, graduation checks, and the 'big picture' on programs and majors. Drop in at SS102, email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca or call us at 403-220-3580. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns. • For academic success support, such as writing support, peer support, success seminars, and learning support, visit the Student Success Centre on the third floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL), email them at success@ucalgary.ca or visit their website at http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/ for more information or to book an appointment. • For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625], by email at futurestudents@ucalgary.ca or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block 117. 			
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION	http://www.ucalgary.ca/access			
FOIP	http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy			
ACADEMIC STANDING	http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html			
CAMPUS SECURITY	220-5333. Help phones: located throughout campus, parking lots, and elevators. They connect directly to Campus Security; in case of emergency, press the red button.			
COURSE OUTLINES FOR TRANSFER CREDIT	It is possible that you will be asked for copies of this outline for credit transfers to other institutions or for proof of work done. It is the student's responsibility to keep these outlines and provide them to employers or other universities when requested. Please ensure that outlines of all the courses you take are kept in a safe place for your future reference. Departments/Programs do not guarantee that they will provide copies.			

DEFERRALS OF EXAMS/TERM WORK	It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examinations for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with your advisor if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.
EMERGENCY EVACUATION	http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints
LETTER OF PERMISSION	If you wish to study at another institution while registered at the U of C, you must have a letter of permission. You can submit your request through your Student Centre at MyUofC. Students must have the Letter of Permission before they take the course at another school. Failure to prepare may result in no credit awarded and could result in suspension from the faculty.
PLAGIARISM	Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. For details see the University of Calgary Calendar. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3 rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.
SAFEWALK	220-5333 anytime. http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk
STUDENT MISCONDUCT	http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html
STUDENT UNION CONTACT STUDENT OMBUDSPERSON	Faculty of Arts reps: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca ; arts2@su.ucalgary.ca ; arts3@su.ucalgary.ca ; arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS	DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society, CH C 005 uofcdus@gmail.com MUS: Music Undergraduate Society, CH F 219 undmusic@ucalgary.ca PIVOT: Dance Undergraduate Society, CH E 211 pivotdancers@gmail.com