

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for THEA 3B
INTERMEDIATE IMPROVISATION
Effective: Fall 2015

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 3B — INTERMEDIATE IMPROVISATION — 3.00 units

This course will teach students Long-Form Improvisation. The class will concentrate on finding style and improving skills through various in class, supportive, exercises. We will focus on accepting/supporting, creating honest and strong relationship, and developing complex and engaging circumstances.

3.00 Units Lecture

Prerequisite

THEA 3A - Beginning Improvisation
with a minimum grade of C/P

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

Family: Theater Improv

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering the course a student should be able to:

A. THEA3A

1. Participate comfortably in improvised (spontaneous) acting exercises.
2. Express him/herself effectively both verbally and physically;
3. Experience a greater sensitivity to and awareness of self and others;
4. Identify and be able to apply the basic rules of improvisation.

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Participate comfortably and creatively within group scenes and sketches utilizing the long format style, popularized and developed by groups such as the Groundlings and Second City;
- B. Contribute to the creation of group scenes and sketches as well as incorporating the ideas of others;
- C. Evaluate in writing and in speaking the effectiveness and artistry of improvised scenes;
- D. Apply a greater sensitivity to and awareness of self and others while performing the long format style

V. CONTENT:

A. Introduction to improvisation

1. Review Rules of Review

B. Preparation Exercises

1. Development
 - a. Space Work
 - b. Character Believability
 - c. Justification
 - d. Beats and Patterns
 - e. Written/ Scripted Material
 - f. Concentration
 - g. Listening/ memorization

C. Introduction to and development of original piece of Commedia Dell' Arte

D. Improvisations and Theater Games

1. Finding and developing material for group improvisation

2. Extended group improvisation, scenes and sketches
3. Use of improvisational techniques with scripted scenes
4. Improvising with music
5. Beginning Level Competitive Theater Sports

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Instructor responses to the work/play 1. Evaluation a. Of individual performances b. Of the group performing 2. Coaching
- B. **Demonstration** -
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. Leadership of class discussions and evaluations

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Active, creative participation in the activities of each class session.
- B. Keeping a journal of in-class activities
 1. Description of the game or exercise
 2. Level of participation by the students
 3. Personal observations of the work of others in class (e.g., Thing learned or discovered)
 4. Observations of the work of other students
 5. Attending a performance of an off-campus improv group, including a written evaluation
 6. Reading articles on the history of improvisations

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Quizzes
2. Oral Presentation
3. Field Trips
4. Class Participation
5. Class Performance
6. Final Performance
7. Other:
 - a. Student response and participation in the workshop sessions
 - b. Demonstration of growing awareness, imagination and creativity
 - c. Completion and quality of required projects
 1. Journal
 - d. Evidence of ability to handle self-directed material
 - e. Evidence of ability to work actively and supportively with others
 - f. Tests on reading material

B. **Frequency**

1. A concepts quiz will be given at the end of the semester.
2. Student will participate daily in class exercises.
3. Journals of class observations will be collected bi-weekly.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Spolin, Viola (1999). *Improvisation for the Theater* (3rd ed.). Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press.
2. Bonczek, Rose Burnett (2012). *Ensemble Theater Making*. : Routledge Press.
3. Leep, J. (2013). *Theatrical Improvisation: Short Form, Long Form, and Sketch-Based Improv* (2 ed.). N/A, N/A: Palgrave Macmillan.
4. Zaporah, R. (2014). *Improvisation On the Edge: Notes from On and Off Stage* (1 ed.). N/A, N/A: North Atlantic Books.
5. Handouts on improvisation purposes, rules and etiquette

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Loose, comfortable clothing
- B. A journal or notebook