

# THTR 217

## Improviseational Theater, Long-Form

Tuesday, Thursday 1 - 2:20pm

Location: KUPFRIAN 110

Louis Kornfeld

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Office Hours

KUPFRIAN 113 Tuesdays 12 - 1

**Description:** THTR 217 introduces the techniques of long-form improviseational theater through practical in-class exercises promoting spontaneity, play, and imaginative space work. Students will learn how to hone their innate narrative skills and how to create cohesive, unscripted theater pieces as part of a functioning ensemble.

**Course Objective:** To engage in spontaneous problem solving, critical thinking, and ensemble based theater making. The student at the end of this course will be more confident working in groups and in a public setting.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to act spontaneously under the pressure of a live performance, will learn to perform as part of an ensemble, and will develop the ability to take creative risks while challenging the fear of failure.

**Prerequisites:** [ENGL 101](#) and [ENGL 102](#) with grades of C or higher; [ENGL 102](#) may be taken concurrently as a corequisite. This course satisfies the three credit 200 GER in History and Humanities.

**Attendance:** The majority of your grade is based on classroom participation. If you miss class, your participation grade will be reduced.

**Materials:** Students are required to keep a notebook for weekly journal entries.

**Grading:** Students will be graded according to the following criteria:

- Attendance and In-class participation - 40%
- In-Person Self Evaluation - 10% (Students are expected to meet with the professor during office hours at least once over the course of the semester to discuss insights gained throughout the class )
- Written Journal - 20% (Students are expected to keep a written journal detailing

observations and thoughts throughout the week. These will be evaluated twice over the course of the semester.)

- In-class presentation - 10% (Presentations will consist of improvised scenes, developed in collaboration with a partner or partners, and performed in front of the class. Students will be evaluated on their ability to grasp the exercise and communicate their ideas to an audience)
- Final Performance- 20% (Final will be an ensemble performance consisting of two different long-form structures, demonstrating understanding of the semester's material. Students will be evaluated on their ability to work together as a cohesive whole.)

**Honor Code:** The NJIT and Rutgers honor code will be upheld, and any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students.  
[http://www.njit.edu/academics/pdf/academic integrity- code.pdf](http://www.njit.edu/academics/pdf/academic%20integrity-code.pdf)

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:  
<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu)

**Class Conduct:** You are expected to be respectful and courteous to each other at all times. If you feel uncomfortable at any time, for any reason, please speak to me.

1/16/24		Introduction/ Course overview				
1/18/24		Truth in Comedy & Yes And; the Twin Pillars of Long Form				
1/23/24		Monologues & Stories - Active Listening				
1/25/24		Monologues & Stories - Continued				
1/30/24		True Stories & Improvised Scenes				
2/1/24		Learning the Monologue Deconstruction				
2/6/24		Character & Point of View				
2/8/24		Improvising Second Beats				
2/13/24		Planned vs. Spot Improvisation: Working with Suggestions				
2/15/24		Time Dash & Introduction to the Harold				
2/20/24		Introducing Group Scenes				
2/22/24		Introduction to Group Mind				
2/27/24		Tagouts and Narrative				
2/29/24		Thinking Like an Ensemble				
3/5/24		Playing the Piece as a Whole				
3/7/24		Connecting Scenes: the Hall of Mirrors				
3/12/24		Spring Recess - No Class				
3/14/24		Spring Recess - No Class				
3/19/24		Planning a Running Order				
3/21/24		Opening and Closing Games				
3/26/24		Monoscenes				
3/28/24		Monoscenes				

4/2/24		Active vs. Passive Narrator					
4/4/24		Introduction to Story Theater					
4/9/24		Reviewing the Semester					
4/11/24		Reviewing the Semester					
4/16/24		In- Class Rehearsal					
4/18/24		In- Class Rehearsal					
4/23/24		In-Class Performance					
4/25/24		In- Class Performance					
4/30/24		Last Day Recap					
5/2/24		Reading Day					
5/9/24		No class					
5/11/24		Final Grades Submitted					

Please note, this syllabus is subject to change over the course of the semester. Any changes will be discussed beforehand, in class.