

THTR 217

Improvitational Theater, Long-Form

Tuesday, Thursday 11:30am - 12:50pm

Location: KUPFRIAN 110

Mode: Face-to-face

Louis Kornfeld

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Office Hours

KUPFRIAN 113 Tuesdays 1pm by appointment

Description: THTR 217 introduces the techniques of long-form improvisational 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 includes exercises that promote long-form interactive narrative and story development skills. In addition to exploring storytelling this technique is used in other media such as, music, movement, and film. The students will perform multiple times getting feedback only a live show can give. This course satisfies the three credit 200 GER in History and Humanities.

Attendance: A major part of your grade is based on 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 - 30%
- 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)
- In-class presentation - 20 (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

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.

Aggregate Grading Scale for Semester Grades (based on percentage of points earned):

A= 100%-90%

B+= 89.99%-86%

B= 85.99%-80%

C+= 79.99%-76%

C=75.99-70%

D=69.99%-60%

F= Less than 60%

1/21/25		Introduction/ Course Overview
1/23/25		Foundational principles: acceptance; truth in comedy; supportive choices
1/28/25		Monologues and storytelling
1/30/25		Monologues and storytelling
2/4/25		Introduction to scenic improvisation
2/6/25		Preparing improvised scenarios: the art of finding a strong premise
2/11/25		Spot improvisation: making and accepting offers
2/13/25		Spot improvisation: making and accepting offers
2/18/25		In class presentations/ first journal entries due
2/20/25		In class presentations/ first journal entries due
2/25/25		Group scenes & games
2/27/25		Character development
3/4/25		Patterns and behavior
3/6/25		Patterns and behavior

3/11/25		Narrative skills
3/13/25		Narrative skills
3/18/25		SPRING BREAK
3/20/25		SPRING BREAK
3/25/25		Building trust & group mind: How to make others feel comfortable
3/27/25		Introduction to The Harold
4/1/25		Intergrating scenes and games
4/3/25		WELLNESS DAY - NO CLASS
4/8/25		Rehearsal for final/ Second journal due
4/10/25		Rehearsal for final/ Second journal due
4/15/25		Rehearsal for Final
4/17/25		Rehearsal for Final
4/22/25		Directing classmates: How to offer constructive notes
4/24/25		Directing classmates: How to offer constructive notes
4/29/25		Final Presentation
5/1/25		Final Presentation
5/6/25		Last Day of Class
Please note, this syllabus is subject to change over the course of the semester. Any changes will be discussed beforehand, in class.		