

**NEOSHO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER COURSE SYLLABUS**

COURSE IDENTIFICATION

Course Code/Number: COMM 106

Course Title: Improvisation

Division: Applied Science (AS) Liberal Arts (LA) Workforce Development (WD)
 Health Care (HC) Lifetime Learning (LL) Nursing Developmental

Credit Hour(s): Three (3)

Effective Date: Fall 2015

Assessment Goal Per Outcome: 70%

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide student training in body movement, voice techniques, stage presence, spontaneity, and acting techniques. Practical application of presented theatre principles is required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS/PREREQUISITES AND/OR COREQUISITES

None

TEXTS

The official list of textbooks and materials for this course is found on *myNeosho*.

<http://www.neosho.edu/ProspectiveStudents/Registration/CourseSyllabi.aspx>

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

1. Practice Responsible Citizenship through:
 - identifying rights and responsibilities of citizenship,
 - identifying how human values and perceptions affect and are affected by social diversity,
 - identifying and interpreting artistic expression.
2. Live a healthy lifestyle (physical, intellectual, social) through:
 - listing factors associated with a healthy lifestyle and lifetime fitness,

- identifying the importance of lifetime learning,
 - demonstrating self-discipline, respect for others, and the ability to work collaboratively as a team.
3. Communicate effectively through:
 - developing effective written communication skills,
 - developing effective oral communication and listening skills.
 4. Think analytically through:
 - utilizing quantitative information in problem solving,
 - utilizing the principles of systematic inquiry,
 - utilizing various information resources including technology for research and data collection.

COURSE OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES (as Required)

1. Recognize the basics of good improvisation
 - a. List the eleven characteristics of the basics of improvisation. (Knowledge)
 - b. State the four hurdles in improvisational training. (Knowledge)
 - c. Identify the seven areas of improvisational training. (Analysis)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the preparation involved with improvisation acting and theatre vocabulary.
 - a. Identify basic preparations with improvisational acting. (Knowledge)
 - b. Describe and define the thirteen different types of preparations with improvisation. (Knowledge)
 - c. Describe the several terms that relate objective, obstacle and tactic. (Knowledge)
3. Identify the introductory exercises of improvisation for effective interpretation.
 - a. Identify and explain the four introductory exercises for which the actor must find specific answers. (Knowledge and Synthesis)
 - b. Use improvisation to develop group ensemble. (Application)
4. Discuss the concepts of trust with improvisation and acting.
 - a. Define “trust” as it relates to an actor’s physical and mental being. (Knowledge)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of trust exercises with improvisation. (Application)
 - c. Explain how trust in improvisation is specifically designed to encourage individual and ensemble trust. (Comprehension)
5. Develop useful principles of working together in an ensemble for production.
 - a. Define “ensemble” as it relates to working with other actors. (Knowledge)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of ensemble exercises with improvisation. (Application)
 - c. Explain why ensemble is important in improvisation. (Comprehension)
6. Recognize the purpose and function of rehearsal warm-up exercises.
 - a. Explain why warming up is essential for an actor. (Comprehension)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of warm-up exercises with improvisation. (Application)
 - c. Define warm-ups as it relates to an actor’s physical and mental being. (Knowledge)

- d. Explain the meaning of quick thinking, mental agility, spontaneity, and three-dimensional thinking. (Comprehension)
7. Discuss the technique of playwriting with improvisation
 - a. Identify and explain the four “w’s” for which an actor must find specific answers. (Knowledge and Synthesis)
 - b. Define “playwriting” as it relates to improvisation. (Knowledge)
 - c. List the five characteristics of playwriting. (Knowledge)
8. Develop useful principles of playwriting exercises in improvisation.
 - a. Explain the meaning of a “neutral scene” in improvisation. (Comprehensive)
 - b. Demonstrate a variety of playwriting exercises with improvisation. (Application)
9. Identify the use of beginning acting exercises as the foundation of inner improvisation technique.
 - a. Demonstrate the beginning acting exercises of improvisation. (Application)
 - b. Explain the actor’s duties during production. (Comprehensive)
 - c. Explain why an actor must learn to handle criticism. (Evaluation)
10. Demonstrate an understanding of the physical life of a character through advanced exercises in improvisation
 - a. Use improvisation to develop a character. (Application)
 - b. Demonstrate advanced exercises with improvisation using different characters. (Application)

MINIMUM COURSE CONTENT

The following topics must be included in this course. Additional topics may also be included.

- I. Warm-up games and Journal (1-6)
- II. Performance games and Journal (7-14)
- III. Transition on a Theme and Journal (15-20)

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

For specific instructional methods see the syllabus supplement on the syllabus page for this class on myNeosho.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION

A = 90–100% B = 80–89% C = 70–79% D = 60–69% F = 0–59%

For specific instructional methods see the syllabus supplement on the syllabus page for this class on myNeosho.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT GAIN

The purpose of assessing student learning at Neosho County Community College is to ensure the educational purposes of the institution are met and appropriate changes are made in program development and classroom instruction to allow for student success. The instructor(s) of this course will determine the methods of assessment most appropriate and complete an assessment report at the end of the course.

Attendance Policy

1. NCCC values interactive learning which promotes student engagement in the learning process. To be actively engaged, the student must be present in the learning environment.
2. Unless students are participating in a school activity or are excused by the instructor, they are expected to attend class. If a student's absences exceed one-eighth of the total course duration, (which equates to one hundred (100) minutes per credit hour in a face-to-face class) the instructor has the right, but is not required, to withdraw a student from the course. Once the student has been dropped for excessive absences, the registrar's office will send a letter to the student, stating that he or she has been dropped. A student may petition the chief academic officer for reinstatement by submitting a letter stating valid reasons for the absences within one week of the registrar's notification. If the student is reinstated into the class, the instructor and the registrar will be notified. Please refer to the Student Handbook/Academic Policies for more information
3. Absences that occur due to students participating in official college activities are excused except in those cases where outside bodies, such as the State Board of Nursing, have requirements for minimum class minutes for each student. Students who are excused will be given reasonable opportunity to make up any missed work or receive substitute assignments from the instructor and should not be penalized for the absence. Proper procedure should be followed in notifying faculty in advance of the student's planned participation in the event. Ultimately it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the planned absence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

NCCC expects every student to demonstrate ethical behavior with regard to academic pursuits. Academic integrity in coursework is a specific requirement. Definitions, examples, and possible consequences for violations of Academic Integrity, as well as the appeals process, can be found in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and/or Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Student cell phones and other personal electronic devices not being used for class activities must not be accessed during class times unless the instructor chooses to waive this policy.

NOTE

Information and statements in this document are subject to change at the discretion of NCCC. Students will be notified of changes and where to find the most current approved documents.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are a student with a disability who may need accommodation(s), in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, please notify the Dean of Student Services in the Student Services Office, Sanders Hall, 620-432-0304, on the Chanute Campus, or the Dean for the Ottawa and Online Campuses, 785-248-2798, on the Ottawa Campus as soon as possible. You will need to bring your documentation for review in order to determine reasonable accommodations, and then we can assist you in arranging any necessary accommodations.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The following link provides information related to the non-discrimination policy of NCCC, including persons with disabilities. Students are urged to review this policy.

<http://www.neosho.edu/Departments/NonDiscrimination.aspx>

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY (TITLE IX)

At NCCC, it is the responsibility of an instructor to help create a safe learning environment in the classroom, including both physical and virtual classrooms. All instructors are considered mandatory reporters at NCCC, therefore any information regarding sexual misconduct that is shared by a student in one-on-one meetings with the instructor must be reported to appropriate personnel at the College. Instructors will keep the information private to the greatest extent possible, but it is not confidential. Generally, climate surveys, classroom writing assignments or discussions, human subjects research, or events such as Take Back the Night events do not provide notice that must be reported to the Coordinator by employees, unless the reporting party clearly indicates that they wish a report to be made.

The following link provides information related to the sexual misconduct policy of NCCC, including resources, reporting options, and student rights. Students are urged to review this policy.

<http://www.neosho.edu/TitleIX.aspx>

COURSE NOTES