

Syllabus Fall 2009
Movement Improvisation TD312M unique number 25772

Taught by Tom Truss Office B.128

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Office hours: 12:30 - 2:00 T. &Th. or by appointment

The goal of this class is to become better artists and performers through improvisation. This shall be done through exploring Authentic Movement, Mary Overlie's 6 viewpoints, Anne Bogart's Viewpoints and studies in spontaneous compositions. By semester's end students will be familiar with the tools of improvisation and will have increased their understanding and proficiency of the art and craft of improvisation both as a way to generate movement and as a performance in and of itself.

Our in class work is divided into 2 sections. On Tuesdays we will explore improvisation as a way to generate movement and on Thursdays we will explore improvisation as performance. Outside of class there will be weekly "viewings" of reserved material at the Fine Arts Library, occasional online readings, a mid-term evaluation, two papers and two "events" to attend off campus, plus chances to obtain extra credit.

Calendar

Week 1 - 8/27 read syllabus Intro to 6 Viewpoints **Space** ~ weekend readings
 Week 2 - 9/1 Authentic Movement (AM), 9/3 6 Viewpoints S add **Shape**
 Week 3 - 9/8 AM, 9/10 6 Viewpoints SS add **Time** ~ video 1
 Week 4 - 9/15 AM, 9/17 6 Viewpoints SST add **Emotion** ~ video 2
 Week 5 - 9/22 AM, 9/24 6 Viewpoints SSTE add **Movement** ~ video 3
 Week 6 - 9/29 AM, 10/1 6 Viewpoints SSTEM add **Story** ~ video 4
 Week 7 - **mid-term evaluations** 10/6 AM 10/8 SSTEMS ~ video 5
 Week 8 - 10/13 AM, 10/14 intro to Anne Bogart's Viewpoints ~ video 6
 Week 9 - 10/20 AM, 10/22 Viewpoints ~ video 7
 Week 10 - 10/27 AM, 10/29 **Paper # 1** Viewpoints ~ video 8
 Week 11 - 11/3 AM, 11/5 Viewpoints ~ video 9
 Week 12 - 11/10 & 12 Spontaneous Composition ~ video 10
 Week 13 - 11/17 & 19 Spontaneous Composition ~ video 11
 Week 14 - 11/24 **Paper # 2** Spontaneous Composition
 Week 15 - 12/1 & 12/3 Spontaneous Composition

There will be no final

GRADING

Homework 15% video viewing and outside events
 2 papers 20%
 attendance 20%
 participation 45%

PAPERS

#1 due Tuesday Oct 27th

Review of a live improvisational performance of your choice. Base your review off of our homework and what you have learned and experienced in class as an improviser. Make sure you employ the language and principles from our class when reviewing the work.

#2 due Tuesday Nov 24th

Write a reflective paper on what you have learned in our class this semester and how you can apply it to your art and craft as a performer and creator; end with what you will continue to develop and foster as an artist after this class.

“A” work in this class means you have to do outstanding work, not necessarily be an outstanding improviser. It means you are ALWAYS present and prepared. In class you are alert, willing to take risks and ask questions, you are able to give insightful feed back and you can receive feed back and take adjustments with ease. An A student will turn everything in on time will never be late and will play with openness even when the desire is to close up.

“B” work means you are doing most of the above most of the time.

“C” work means you were doing some of the above some of the time.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of the class period. Please notify the instructor BEFORE class if you anticipate being late and the reason for the tardiness. Failure to arrive within ten minutes of the beginning of class will be considered an absence. The door will be closed. Don't enter because we will be engaged in something mysterious and undoubtedly earth shattering...wait to be let in, but you will not receive credit for that day. If you are consistently late that will affect your grade: five tardies will drop your grade by one letter. Students are allowed only two (2) unexcused absences during the semester. I encourage you NOT TO TAKE them. Three unexcused absences will result in the loss of one letter grade. Four unexcused absences will make a “C” the highest grade possible for the semester, five unexcused absences will make “D” the highest possible grade, and six unexcused absences will result in an automatic failure of the course.

Special Considerations for an Improvisation Class:

Emotional Risk and Respect

Improvising requires us to take great risks, to be vulnerable, to play the king and the fool, to not know what we're doing and to expose ourselves in front of a group of people. In order for this class to be successful and for your time here to be worthwhile, you must help to create an environment in which such risk is encouraged, undertaken safely, and rewarded. I expect you to respect and support one another fully, as I will respect and support you.

Physical Risk

This course involves activities that may include an element of physical risk. Students are encouraged to remain alert, follow directions, and be aware of potential hazards in working

individually or with others. Please exercise common sense and caution, both in the classroom and outside of class in rehearsals. Since you know more than anyone what your body can and cannot do please say stop when you have questions or sense any danger.

Physical Contact

The nature of improvisational movement requires physical contact between students, as well as between the instructor and the student. If you are uncomfortable with such contact, please notify me ASAP.

Dress

You will be MOVING in this class! Wear clothes that are comfortable and appropriate. Do not wear clothing that makes you worry if your butt is showing or so baggy we can't see your body. Please don't chew gum and keep your hair out of your face. In other-words, be available and leave at the door anything that will get in the way of you from being present and training the brilliant artist that lives within you.

Special Needs Accommodations:

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, or 471-4541 TTY. If you have a disability, please do this ASAP. I am happy to make any accommodations you need; it helps me to know this sooner rather than later. Please feel free to modify any exercise or warm up to fit your needs. Unless of course you're just tired.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. According to the 2004-2005 General Information Catalog, " 'Scholastic dishonesty' includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act." If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please ASK me. You may also contact the Office of Student Judicial Services, or find information online at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity2.html>