

**Syllabus**  
**Improvisation**  
Porter 80I, Summer 2015

Instructor: Bob Giges  
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Office: inside the Porter College Main Office. Office hours by appointment.

The course will explore improvisation across the performing art disciplines through theoretical readings on dance, music, and theater improvisation, by viewing live performances, and by engaging in the practice of improvisation in the theatrical tradition. **The emphasis will be on studying and doing acting improv.**

You are expected to **come to class on time** and prepared. Since much of our class time will center on improvisation training, focused and sustained engagement with in-class exercises will be essential. In addition to participation in exercises and discussions I lead, you will develop a variety of reading-based and acting improv assignments including both group and individual presentations. You will be expected to attend three live improvisation performances (or attend two live + screen two performance videos) and write scene analyses in response. You will also write two short papers integrating the assigned readings of the course.

A note about attendance: While I would like you to come to *all* class meetings, I understand that illness, emergencies, etc. may preclude perfect attendance. You should know, however, that **you must attend eight of our ten class meetings in full** to earn any credit for the class because so much of the substance of the course occurs in class. Naturally, any absence will affect your grade for the course; on the other hand, perfect on-time attendance gives you an A for the attendance component of your grade.

Grades are computed as follows:

50% attendance/participation

50% written work

This may be a very different grading rubric than you are used to if you usually take classes that privilege exams or papers over attendance/participation. While many students enjoy and benefit from this change, others prefer to exercise their option to take the class pass/no pass.

**Texts/Readings:**

*Acting on Impulse* by Carol Hazenfield

*Improvise* by Mick Napier

*Whose Improv is it Anyway?* by Amy Seham (a free eBook)

*Course Reader*

The books and reader are available at the Bay Tree Bookstore on campus.

**Guests/Visitors:**

Because of the nature of the work we do with each other that relies on mutual trust developed over time, guests/visitors are not permitted in this class.

**Accommodations Requests:**

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) for more information.