



Com 42

Improvisationally Speaking

Instructors: Adam Tobin and Matt Abrahams

Course Description

Improvisationally Speaking is a hands-on, practical class that combines theory, basic principles, and methods of effective public speaking and improvisation. Through exercises and collaborative activities, you will be able to speak extemporaneously with greater confidence and clarity, regardless of content or context. In this class, we emphasize development and delivery of both formal presentations and less formal, impromptu speaking opportunities.

We believe that true learning only comes about when everyone is involved and interested in the material being presented. Our class will consist of a combination of brief lectures and demonstrations, discussions, collaborative activities, and speeches. Through safe, constructive feedback, we will all have the opportunity to teach and help each other. We encourage you to use this course to explore and broaden your world-view.

Course Objectives

- (1) Examine, understand, and apply the basic theories and tenets of public speaking and improvisation.
- (2) Develop skills in preparing, organizing, and delivering formal presentations and less formal, impromptu speaking opportunities to an audience.
- (3) Diagnose, evaluate and suggest communication improvement strategies.
- (4) Get practical experience presenting, facilitating and listening
- (5) Enhance critical thinking skills by employing improvisation skills and tenets.

Course Materials

Speaking Up Without Freaking Out: 35 techniques for confident, calm, and competent presenting by Matt Abrahams.

Improv Wisdom: Don't Prepare, Just Show Up by Patricia Ryan Madson

Recommended Reference List

www.americanrhetoric.com

Heath, Chip and Heath, Dan. *Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die*

Johnstone, Keith. *Impro*

Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Assignment
Apr 2	Orientation and Welcome (ice breakers) Communication Apprehension and Fidelity Improv as self-discovery and gaming rules	Read <i>Speaking Up without Freaking Out</i>
Apr 9	Anxiety management	Anxiety Management Plan
Apr 16	Interviewing	Interview: Job you want and why
Apr 23	Games Interviews	
Apr 30	Credibility and Expectation Management Doing status Speech delivery	Children's Poem Reading
May 7	Engagement, awareness and connection Audience Analysis Children's Poem Reading	Introduction Assignment -Endowment
May 14	Introduction Assignment	Feedback Panel – Become an Expert
May 21	Feedback Panel	
May 23	Creating coherent themes Providing Support and Analysis	Prepare for Q & A Session
May 28	Handling Q & A sessions Experts panel Q & A Session	Toasts
June 4	Toasts	