Course Code: COM 42
Course Title: 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.

Grades & Credit

Students have three grading options:

Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass) - written work is required

Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) - attendance and participation is required

No Grade Requested (NGR) - no work is required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.

Students who have selected the Letter Grade option must turn in their assignments on time. If work cannot be completed on time, please talk with me so we can develop an alternate plan. If the work is not completed by the deadline, the instructor will give Credit (CR) if appropriate, or default to No Grade Requested (NGR).
Course Materials

Speaking Up without Freaking Out 3rd Edition by Matt Abrahams

Improv Wisdom: Don’t prepare, just show up by Patricia Ryan Madson

Electronic copies of articles provided

Recommended Reference List

www.americanrhetoric.com

www.NoFreakingSpeaking.com

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

Johnstone, Keith. *Improv*

Class Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| Week 1 | Orientation and Welcome (ice breakers)  
Communication Apprehension and Fidelity  
Improv as self-discovery and gaming rules |
| Week 2 | Anxiety management |
| Week 3 | Interviewing |
| Week 4 | Games  
Interviews |
| Week 5 | Credibility and Expectation Management  
Playing status  
Speech delivery |
| Week 6 | Engagement, awareness and connection  
Audience Analysis  
Feedback  
Children's Poem Reading |
| Week 7 | Introduction Assignment  
Feedback Panel |
| Week 8 | Handling Q & A sessions  
Experts panel  
Q & A Session |
| Week 9 | HOLIDAY – NO CLASS |
| Week 10 | Toasts |