

Stanford | Continuing Studies

Course Title: Improvisationally Speaking

Course Code: COM 42

Instructors: Adam Tobin and Matt Abrahams

Class Sessions and Recording

Meeting days and times: Mondays from 7-9PM Pacific

Meeting location: Zoom (Class sessions will not be recorded)

No class on May 29

Course Features:

- Live session
 - Lecture, demonstration, practice time, discussions, and Q&A
 - Requires interaction and active participation
- Assignments & Coursework
 - Students will do one major assignment early on
 - Classes will be interactive with group and break out work

Course Summary

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.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
 365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
 continuingstudies@stanford.edu
 650-725-2650

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Students must attend at least 80% of classes.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Students must attend at least 80% of classes.

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Textbooks/Required Materials

Speaking Up without Freaking Out 3rd Edition by Matt Abrahams

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

Tentative Weekly Outline

Date	Topics
Session 1	Orientation and Welcome (ice breakers) Communication Apprehension and Fidelity Improv as self-discovery and gaming rules
Session 2	Anxiety management
Session 3	Interviewing
Session 4	Games Interviews
Session 5	Credibility and Expectation Management Playing status Speech delivery
Session 6	Engagement, awareness and connection Audience Analysis Children's Poem Reading
Session 7	Introduction Assignment Feedback Panel
Session 8	Handling Q & A sessions Experts panel Q & A Session
	HOLIDAY
Session 9	Toasts

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