

IMPROV THA M14A-D



GARY GERSHOFF/WIREIMAGE

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Moorpark College

Spring Semester 2020

CRN: A-32177, B-32179, C-32190, D-32200

Class time: M/W 7pm - 8:50pm

Location: Moorpark Performing Arts

Bldg.1-PA Rm:128

Office Hours: by appointment

Department Phone: 805-553-4847

Campus Police: 805.378.1455

Welcome!

This course is designed to advance students' comic, improvisational and ensemble acting skills as well as offering instruction in solo and group comedic material developed from improvisation. The course will culminate in a public performance of the material generated in class.

Important Dates

Please [click this link](#) to see dates for the following:

- Last day to drop with a refund
- Last day to drop without a "W"
- Last day to drop with a "W"

- Last day of class

Census date: 2/10/2020

Who's Who in the Department

Chair: John Loprieno, (805) 378-1469, jloprieno@vcccd.edu, Office: PAC 146

Dean: Monica Garcia, mgarcia4@vcccd.edu, Division office AA -101

Admin. Assist: Rain Matheke (805) 553-4746, mcdivision125@vcccd.edu, Office: AA 101

Division Hours: 8am - 5pm Monday - Thursday, 8am - 12 noon Friday

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate introductory level abilities to improvise given various comic situations in short form.
 - Analyze recorded and live comic performances through introductory level skills to determine the structures of comedic dialogue, physical comedy and sketch structure.
 - Employ introductory level acting and scene analysis skills in developing comic material.
 - Create and write basic level comic sketch material derived from in-class improvisation.
 - Generate introductory level performance material using knowledge of situation, plot, and character development.
 - Evaluate the comic material of their peers via introductory level
 - Perform introductory level material before a live audience as part of an ensemble.
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Course Outline of Record

Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of collaboration through performance of scene work.
- Demonstrate the ability to perform an improvisation or scene from contemporary American theatre at an introductory skill level.
- Understand the basic tenets of script and performance analysis and utilize the vocabulary specific to acting on the stage.



[Student Services](#)

Please visit the Student Service Syllabus by clicking the link above. There you will find information on the campus's no smoking policy and services.

Technical Support

Moorpark College has technical support for students studying online using CANVAS in their classes! Contact Info: Phone: 805-553-4188; Email: MOnlineSTUDENTsupport@vccd.edu

Walk-in location: AA-101. Walk-in / Call-in Hours for this semester - to be provided by the division office in week 1 of classes. Emails and calls during off hours will be returned within 1 regular business day. Online-Student tech staff member: Shandor Batoczki

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy

Incidents of sexual misconduct can involve students and employees and include: sexual harassment, gender/sexual orientation based slurs, social media harassment related to sex/gender/sexual orientation/gender identity, sexual assault of any type, stalking (including text/digital stalking), dating/domestic violence, gender/sex-based hate crimes, etc. If you or another student has experienced any of these types of events, regardless of where they occurred or who the perpetrator may have been, please immediately contact your instructor, Dean or the Title IX Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the College to investigate the matter and provide support and appropriate assistance to the student who may have been affected. Questions? Visit our website on [TIX/Sexual Misconduct](#).

ACCESS

Click to learn more about this program which assures all classes, activities and facilities are accessible to all qualified students.

PREREQUISITES

If you are using this course as a prerequisite for another future course and you do not pass this course with a C or better, when grades are posted, you will be dropped from the course requiring this prerequisite class even though you may have been allowed to register in it pending successful completion of this course.

SMOKING POLICY

Moorpark College Smoking Policy: Moorpark College is 100% TOBACCO FREE – No smoking, vaping, chewing. No tobacco is permitted on or in buildings, campus grounds or parking lots at all times. Violators shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. AP 6800, BP 6810, AB 846.

After Hours Assistance

AFTER HOURS: If you need assistance after hours, please contact the Evening Program Office in Fountain Hall at ext. 1406. Paul Mattson's evening schedule is: Monday – Thursday, 5:00 – 10:00 PM, Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Email Paul at PMattson@vcccd.edu

Textbook

Suggested Texts (Not Required): *Truth in Comedy, Comedy Improvisation Manual*

Cost

You must see a live improv show from one of the professional improv companies in Los Angeles. You are responsible for picking a show, purchasing a ticket, and getting to the performance. You will be asked to write a critique of the performance, which will be graded. See below for details.

Bring to Class Everyday

Notebook, Pen/Pencil-- to take notes

Folder-- to save handouts and your work

Course Grading:

The course grade will be determined by a point system.

Attendance/Postive Participation	280 PTS (10 points a day)
Final Performance	50PTS
Critique for Outside Improv Show (MANDATORY)	50PTS
TOTAL:	380 PTS

No Midterm or Final

At the conclusion of the semester, your total points will be converted to a percentage for a letter grade using the following scale:

100 – 90	= A
89– 80	= B
79– 70	= C

69 – 60 = D

59 or below = F

Please see below descriptions and requirements for each assignment.

Please see the Course Map/Schedule in CANVAS for due dates for each assignment.

PUT THE DUE DATES IN YOUR PERSONAL CALENDARS.

Participation

Worth: 10 points a day (280pts TOTAL)

Your participation is a vital part of this class and is weighted accordingly. We are an ensemble for the duration of the semester and an ensemble needs *everyone's* full participation to thrive. If you are taking this class it means I expect the following: you will show up to each class on time (I will take role at the beginning of class. If you are late, you will lose points from your participation grade), a positive and supportive attitude towards your fellow ensemble members, and a willingness to play and participate in the activities and exercises. My aim is to create a safe space where we can all have fun, take risks and grow as artists and human beings. If you cannot commitment to the above, I would suggest taking a different class.

From the MC catalogue:

“All students admitted to MC are expected to attend class regularly...For credit students, when absences from class exceeds in number 1/9th of total class contact hours for the session, the instructor may recommend to the registrar that such a student be dropped...”

Absences: A doctor's note will only erase one absence, regardless of how many different doctors' notes a student brings. Absences due to religious holidays must be discussed with the instructor prior to date.

Negative Participation: It is possible to receive negative participation points for detracting from the energy or focus of the classroom. Negative participation points are subtracted from your positive participation points to determine your final participation grade. This includes but is not limited to: sleeping, wearing headphones, doing work for another class, being on your phone, not bringing the required materials to class, talking while the instructor or another student is talking, having a bad attitude, making inappropriate comments, being under the apparent influence of a substance, bringing banned items to class, treating others with disrespect.

Live Improv Show & Critique

Worth: 50 points

Due: 4/20/20 (but you are encouraged to turn it in earlier).

Assignment can be found and turned in on CANVAS.

You **MUST** see and write a critique on an improv show from one of the following improv troupes:

- The Groundlings: <https://www.groundlings.com/shows>
- Second City: <http://www.seconcity.com/?id=theatres/losangeles>
- UCB: <http://www.ucbtheatre.com/>
- Comedy Sportz LA: <http://www.comedysportzla.com/>

You need to see a show from ONLY one of the above theaters, so yes, you will need to travel. These are the best of the best. You need to be responsible for finding a show to see, buying tickets and getting there. I would highly recommend you see one of their main shows as well, not a show that the students of the improv classes at the theater get to do. Ask the Box Office when you call which show has their most veteran performers in it. The sooner you see a show, the better, that way we can learn from it and incorporate ideas into our own performance.

The CRITIQUE for the required improv show will be two pages, typed and double-spaced.

- LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS. All papers must be proofread and typed.
- That mandatory critique is DUE: **4/20/20** (but you are encouraged to turn it in earlier).

The critique should be about what worked and why, what didn't work and why, who excelled and why, who didn't and why. What did you learn from it? What games/skits would you like to do for class? Did you see any improv rules being used or broken?

Final Performance

Worth: 50 points

Date: 5/6/2020 at 7:30p

You will have a final performance with an invited audience for the class. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO MAKE THE PERFORMANCE. It is currently scheduled for the last day of class: Wednesday, May 6th (although that may change based on space availability). You will arrive at regular class time (7p) and the invited audience is welcome to attend at 7:30p.

More info soon.

Extra Credit

Extra-Credit is available.

If a student participates in on-campus productions, including Club M, extra credit will be given for appropriate written assignments, please see instructor for details. You may also receive extra credit if you see an additional improv show and write a critique on it, following the same guidelines for the mandatory critique.

You can only do one extra credit show critique and it is worth 50 points. You must get your extra credit approved by the instructor *first* otherwise your extra credit will not be accepted.

Directions and requirements for extra credit opportunities can be found on CANVAS.

Academic Policies and Code of Conduct

Please see the Moorpark College Catalogue for information regarding attendance and behavior.

From the catalogue regarding attendance: *"When a student's absences exceed 1/9 of the total class contact hours for the session (e.g. absence from the equivalent of two weeks of a regular semester-long class), the instructor may drop the student from the class and record a grade in accordance with the policy for dropping a course."*

From the catalogue regarding academic dishonesty: *"Academic dishonesty, in any form, is a violation of the Moorpark College Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities section and, as such, is subject to investigation, charges of misconduct, and disciplinary consequences."*

There is a list of about 21 violations of the Student Code of Conduct that are subject to disciplinary actions. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of these rules and procedures.

DISCLAIMER: THE ABOVE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Improv Week by Week

*Please check CANVAS for the most up to date calendar as this will inevitably change

UNIT I - The Basics: Building a Base Reality

Week 1 (week of 1/20)

Day 1 - **NO CLASS - MLK Day**

Day 2 - First Class: Basic Building Blocks of Improv, Review Syllabus

Week 2 (week of 1/27)

Day 1 - Review basic building blocks, Base Reality (Who)

Day 2 – Base Reality (What), Object Work

Week 3 (week of 2/3)

Day 1 - Base Reality (Where)

Day 2 – Base Reality Relays & games

UNIT II - The Game: Finding the Funny

Week 4 (week of 2/10)

Day 1 – Justification and Philosophy

Day 2 – The Unusual Thing

Week 5 (week of 2/17)

Day 1 - **NO CLASS - President's Day**

Day 2 – Finding the Game

Week 6 (week of 2/24)

Day 1 - Finding the Game & Mapping

Day 2 – Harold Structure & the Pattern Game

UNIT III - The Harold Structure

Week 7 (week of 3/2)

Day 1 - Group Games & Short Form Games

Day 2 - Group Games & Short Form Games

Week 8 (week of 3/9)

Day 1 – Short Form Games & Symphony (Closings)

Day 2 – Short Form & Opening/Closing of the Harold

Week 9 (week of 3/16)

Day 1 - Character / Scene Work

Day 2 – Character / Scene Work

UNIT IV - Putting It All Together

Week 10 (week of 3/23)

Day 1 - Act One of the Harold

Day 2 – Act One of the Harold

Week 11 (week of 3/30)

Day 1 - Act Two of the Harold

Day 2 – Act Two of the Harold

*******SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS FROM 4/6-4/10*******

Week 12 (week of 4/13)

Day 1 – Act Three of the Harold

Day 2 – Act Three of the Harold

Week 13 (week of 4/20)

Day 1- Short Form Games & Scene Work, Harold Review

Day 2 - Short Form Games & Scene Work, Harold Review

Week 14 (week of 4/27)

Day 1- Review for Club M

Day 2 - Practice Harold

Week 15 (week of 5/4)

Day 1- Practice Harold

Day 2 - Final Performance

*** Note: The schedule is subject to revision**