

Class Location: SSH 213

Voice Mail: 541-917-4566

E-mail dan.stone@ml.linnbenton.edu

Office Location: T-239

“Acting is about giving something away, handing yourself over to whatever role you are asked to play. I'm not hiding or escaping or seeking anonymity. I reserve the right not to have a rubber stamp on my forehead saying this is who I am. Because who I am gets in the way of people looking innocently at the parts I play.”

-Alan Rickman

“Everyone can act. Everyone can improvise. Anyone who wishes to can play in the theater and learn to become stageworthy”

-Viola Spolin

“The thing about performance, even if it's only an illusion, is that it is a celebration of the fact that we do contain within ourselves infinite possibilities.”

- Daniel Day-Lewis

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the art of improvisation. We will work on developing the student's ability to react to situations and to trust their instincts. This course will primarily focus on improvisational games but will touch on character development and scene work. Improvisation is a “Team Sport” and students will be expected to work with partners and teams. Through a series of games, exercises, and activities, this course provides an introduction to the art of improvisation. This course is open to all students and allows them to develop skills that help them to think on their feet. Students learn how to positively and productively tell stories to an audience without the benefit of a script. There will be a variety of opportunities to display these skills to the greater school community.

Objectives

This class will teach the basic techniques of comedic improvisation. The class will focus on short-form improv and will teach students a variety of games and exercises to enhance their improvisational abilities. Ultimately, the techniques the students acquire will improve their presentational and conversational abilities by strengthening their confidence, intuition and decision-making.

- exhibit open-mindedness and develop lifelong learning strategies
- take responsible risks
- recognize and appreciate alternative perspectives
- show ethical responsibility to community
- articulate personal voice and intent
- create improvised scenes and skits

Students will also be given the tools and the confidence to go out into the world to create his/her own improvised theatre.

Students are expected to be on time and ready to work in comfortable clothes that allow for movement. Recognizing that feedback and receiving critiques is a skill worth cultivating, this class will provide a basis for such an exchange in a positive and supportive manner. I view my classroom as a “sanctuary” where students feel free to learn, explore and experience without fear of judgment. All members of the class will work towards creating an environment that is celebratory of each other’s work.

Course Requirements

Graded Assignments:

25%Journal: Students are required to keep a journal. This journal is to contain your thoughts about the class with the focus being on your personal performance. Share your thoughts about your performance during games and situations. Journal pages will be collected every Friday. Please use loose leaf notebook paper.

25%Notebook: Students will compile a notebook of all “Improvisational Rules” and all “Improvisational Formats” covered during this quarter. This notebook will be handed in at the end of the quarter.

25%Mid-Term:

Our Mid-Term will be comprised of out of class performances.

25%Final:

Our Final will be comprised of an out of class public performance.

****You must participate in all out of class performances to pass this course.**

Participation & Attendance

I will assess your participation and understanding in part through individual assignments as well as contributions made within a group. Participation grades also reflect your respect of the theatre process as we discuss the material and questions that come up in class, the respect you show others in the group- including the teacher- and your active presence in class. Students are given 2 excused absences.

IF YOU DECIDE TO DROP THE CLASS YOU MUST DROP IT ON YOUR OWN. You will receive an “F” if the class has not been officially dropped within the first two weeks of the quarter.

Absences can seriously affect your grade. For each absence, beyond the 2 excused, you will lose 10% of your grade.

Extra Credit will be offered once per quarter and will be announced during class time.

Grading scale:

There are 1000 pts possible throughout the course. Percentages and correlating letter grades are as follows:

A= 90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59 or below

Students who have emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who might need special arrangements in the event of an evacuation, or students with documented disabilities who have special needs, should make an appointment with the instructor no later than the first week of the term. If additional assistance is required, contact LBCC’s Office of Disability Services at 917-4789.

LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. (For further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>)

Student Decorum Statement: Because college coursework and professional correspondence require focused study and open exchange of ideas, the Department expects the classroom to be a place of courteous interaction, a forum for demonstrating mutual respect between teachers and students. Professional communication requires all of us to listen carefully to each other (whether we agree or not) and to state our positions with clarity and our disagreements with tact. Standards for academic courtesy apply to group work, on-line interaction, and student-teacher conferences as well.

Course Policies:

- **Email:** I am available to you via email and during office hours. Send all correspondence to dan.stone@ml.linnbenton.edu. Please do not submit assignments within Moodle. When you email, it is very important that you include your name, **Acting** and the assignment name or topic of the message in the subject line. ***If you leave the subject line blank, your message may be recognized as spam and deleted!*** This information will also help me identify the nature of your request and reply more quickly. ***I will work to respond to emails within one to two BUSINESS days (business days excludes the weekends), so plan accordingly.***
- **Assignment Submission:** You will need to bring copies of rough drafts to class to receive feedback. Final drafts of all assignments will be deducted by a full letter grade if a rough draft was submitted late. Please see the Weekly Schedule for these instructions. Email final assignments to dan.stone@ml.linnbenton.edu or submit them in class on the day they are due. All report drafts must follow work-place conventions and standards of professionalism. Please type all submissions and proofread carefully.
- **Attendance:** Please attend regularly to receive full participation credit. If you are absent due to illness or a verifiable emergency, you must contact me within 24 hours to make further arrangements. Those who miss more than four class periods in a twice a week class risk failing the course.
- **Late Work:** Our classroom standards reflect workplace standards; a due date is a deadline and you don't miss deadlines without informing your supervisor of your progress on the report in advance. If you feel circumstances are working against you, you may make arrangements for an extension **PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE**.

All incomplete or late first versions will result in a deduction from the final report. Late work will lose 10% automatically and may suffer additional penalties. If any late assignments are turned in after Friday of Week 9, I cannot guarantee that I'll be able to read them for a grade before the end of the term. Please keep a copy of every paper you submit.

- **Plagiarism:** Do your own work! Using someone else's work as your own or using information or ideas without proper citations can lead to your failing the assignment or the class.