Improv Theatre Course Syllabus

Teacher:	Subject:	Room Number
Mr. Kelley E-Mail: john.kelley@carrollcountyschools.com Phone #: (770) 459-5185	Improv Theatre	502 & Black Box Theatre

Class Description

Improv Theatre teaches fundamental performance skills through the medium of unscripted collaborative scene work. Students learn key improv terminology, deep listening habits, and essential techniques for scene building, character creation, and justification. Inspired by the principles of Truth in Comedy, students will explore how to react honestly in the moment, learning that humor comes from truth rather than forced jokes. They will explore different topics in performance with the objective to cultivate trust, offer and accept "gifts" from scene partners, and build spontaneous narratives together. Students will take a practical, hands-on approach by stepping onto the stage, applying these foundational elements, and taking charge of their growth as collaborative performers.

Required Materials

The following items are going to be needed and used in the classroom.

- Chromebook
- Textbook - “Truth in Comedy: The Manual of Improvisation, Halpern-Close-Johnson”
- Paper
- Pencil

Assignments and Homework

Major assignments and homework include but are not limited to journal keeping, written analyses, quizzes, classroom discussions and viewings of different films.

Participation is a vital part of any performance class. Students will gain points that will affect their grade. Participation includes being on time to class, involvement in activities, coming prepared to work, and promoting a positive classroom environment. Points for participation will be taken away for tardiness and unwillingness to attempt and or complete assignments/activities in class.

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Evaluation and Grading System

Evaluations of performances will be based on a special acting rubric that will be given to the student prior to the date of the performance.

Grades are weighted between two categories.

Participation - Formative Assessment

(Various assignments, activities, daily work, etc.) = 60% of the entire grade.

Performance - Summative Assessment

(Tests, Quizzes, Analyses, etc.) = 40% of the entire grade.

Grading will be evaluated based upon the five letter grading system.

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

Participation is valued so high that any student that makes an honest attempt, meaning that a student tries their best and completes the assignment, will do better overall than one who chooses to not complete the assignments/activities given.

Expected Student Behavior

Attending Class is Mandatory

a. If you have an excused absence you will be responsible for making up any assignments, quizzes, or tests that you have missed. An excused absence does not excuse you from completing work/assignments. If you choose to make up the missing work you will need to make the necessary arrangements.
b. All make-up work must be arranged with the teacher by the student.
c. All quizzes must be made up prior to the test covering the same information.
d. Tests must be taken within 7 calendar days of the absence, and must be arranged with the teacher by the student.

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Expected Student Behavior Cont.

Listen to instructions and don't interrupt the speaker

a. If you interrupt the "speaker" (defined as the teacher, classmate that has been called upon, video, announcements, or guest lecturer) you will be reminded to be quiet.
b. If you continue to interrupt the speaker, you will lose half of your daily participation points and will be asked to complete a half page essay on the importance of giving respect to those who are speaking.
c. If your interruptions or behavior create too great a disturbance to the class, progressive discipline will follow.

Notes will be taken in Theatre

a. Many quizzes and some tests will be open note.
b. Keep track of all of the work you complete until the end of the semester. If a score for an assignment has not been recorded accurately, using your returned assignments is the only way to receive credit; otherwise the score given will remain in effect.

Cheating

a. All copied work will receive a zero. Any attempt to cheat during a quiz or test will receive a zero.
b. Students caught cheating will be referred for disciplinary action.
c. Students must also avoid plagiarism, which is defined as a piece of writing, thought, idea, or work that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being the student's own work.
d. Students caught plagiarizing will receive a zero for the assigned project and will be referred for formal disciplinary action.

Additional Expectations

- RESPECT: Yourself, your Teacher, your peers, your school.
- LANGUAGE: Words have power, in theatre and in life. In class we use words that will not come across as offensive. Profanity, derogatory statements, or sexism does not belong in the classroom. Theatre pieces that use harsh language or profanity needs to be approved by the teacher first.
- Students are to arrive to class on time.
- Students may not leave class before the bell rings. Teacher will dismiss the class.
- Do not rearrange desks; pathways must be open in case of unexpected emergencies.
- No cell phones or electronic devices are permitted in the classroom. Infractions of this rule will result in lost participation points for the day and the device will be given to an administrator on the first offense.
- Students are encouraged to practice their performances outside of the classroom for family and peers.
- ***Accommodations will be made for those with valid IEP's/504's, and other accommodations.***