

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
CST 161 – IMPROVISATION II (3 CR.)

Course Description

This course explores the basic techniques of improvisation through short and long form exercises and the study of the history of improvisation and improvisation theory and practices. Improvisation II includes a more extensive study of long form and in-depth character development. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is designed to foster an understanding of the discipline and skills needed for an actor to perform without a script or traditional rehearsals; also a helpful tool to be used in auditioning.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

CST 131 Acting 1 and CST 160, or permission by Instructor. Fluency in Standard American English. Recommend proficiency in reading and writing at English 111 level.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will:

- Demonstrate an increased awareness of basic improvisation skills and processes.
- Practice voice, speech, trust and relaxation techniques.
- Demonstrate knowledge of both short and long form improvisation techniques by developing scenes within an ensemble or duet work
- Utilize basic tools for the evaluation and performance of improvisational performance.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of improvisation, including Commedia dell'Arte techniques
- Rehearse and perform improvisational materials, including audition techniques.
- Experience live improvised theater as both a performer and audience member.

Major Topics to be Included

- History of Improvisation
- Commedia dell' Arte
- Short Form Improv
- Long Form Improv
- Theatre Sports/Comedy Sports
- Scene Development
- Music and Movement
- Ensemble Development
- Character Development
- Critical Response