



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  

---

CONTINUING EDUCATION

## COURSE SYLLABUS/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT FORM

1. **Name of Course:** Improvisation (*as led by John Ratliff*)

2. **Number of Clock Hours:** 18

3. **Course Description:**

Great for the actor and non-actor alike, this class is appropriate for complete beginners as well as those with previous acting or improv experience. Learn to play, to connect, and to heighten your awareness. Get outside your comfort zone and rediscover your natural spontaneity and flexibility. Learn how to create compelling theater just by being present in the moment.

4. **Course Objectives:**

- To introduce the basic history and principles of improvisation
- To develop a solid grounding in practical improv techniques
- To promote an understanding of how an actor's choices affect the scene
- To explore a spectrum of scenes, from realistically dramatic to absurdly comedic
- To cultivate the tools necessary to improvise a two-person scene with confidence

5. **Rationale: State the reason for offering the course:**

Empowers a person/actor/improviser to find out who they really are. Gives a person or performer confidence. Encourages play, spontaneity, and sense of ensemble.

6. **Required Materials:**

Please wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes to class if possible. The following things should be left at home or in your car: smelly food, distracting electronics, and judgment (of yourself or others).

7. **Course Outline: What topics and sub-topics will be covered in this course?**

Every improv class differs according to who's in it. But some things are sure to come up:

- **Games and exercises:** How to get improv from your head into your body
- **"Yes and":** There's a reason every style of improv starts with this
- **Mindful attention:** Everything you need is already there in the scene; you just need to know how to look and listen
- **Character work:** Improvisers don't have the luxury of prep time but they still need to play characters, so we'll learn how to create them on the fly
- **Scene dynamics:** Comic or dramatic, the same basic principles apply to all scenes
- **Thinking like an improviser:** What we're training ourselves to notice and act on