

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE**  
**Improvisational Technique**  
**DNC 127.01**  
**Fall 2007**  
**MWF 10:00 am – 10:50 am**  
**Instructor: Samantha Angus**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Samantha Angus  
Phone: 936-294-4195  
Office: AB3, Room 213  
Email: [sda002@shsu.edu](mailto:sda002@shsu.edu)  
Office Hours: T,TH 10:00 am – 12:00 n; or by appointment

**Course Description:** Improvisational Technique is a tool used in the development of choreography as a way to inspire movement phrases and ideas. It is a means of non-verbal communication. Improv is a way for one to expand movement concepts and to gain an understanding of movement ideas and movement potential. Improvisational Technique requires time spent moving alone, in groups, and in pairs. Journal writing will be used in Improv as a way to communicate one's own personal experiences with movement and personal ideas developed through explorations of movement as an art form.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To become comfortable moving through space and exploring different movement concepts.
2. To discover new movement qualities and sources of movement through the technique of Improvisation.
3. To explore personal experiences towards movement ideas.
4. To build confidence in one's own personal choices and interpretation of movement explorations.
5. To be able to discuss intelligently and thoroughly one's personal attitudes and experiences of movement.

**Required Text and Supplies:**

- Various handouts given in class
- Journal for writing

**Required Attire:**

- Comfortable clothes that allow you to move freely.
- NO baggy clothing, street shoes, or jeans. NO dangling jewelry.

**Participation:**

- Dance is an art form that must be practiced frequently for mastery. Students are expected to fully participate in each class. It is recommended that any student who is ill, yet ambulatory and not contagious, still attend class. Lack of participation for any sustained period of time due to illness or injury **MUST** be accompanied by a doctor's note. *Students should consider all course work, in class and outside assignments, seriously. Registering for a course is a commitment.*

**Attendance:**

- **4** absences are excused for this class. Further absences will greatly affect the quality of the student's class participation, therefore adversely affect the student's final grade. **7 or more absences in the class will cause the student to fail the course.**
- Any student who is 10 minutes or more late for class will NOT be counted present.
- If the student arrives tardy and/or after roll call, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor he/she is present, at the END of class.
- 3 Tardies = 1 Absence.
- Tardies will also be given to students who leave class early.
- Attendance will be strictly enforced. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the number of absences acquired.

**Grading Policy:**

On the first day of class, you begin the semester with 0 points.

So...

Presence and participation in class:	Possible 44 points
1 <sup>st</sup> Presentation:	Possible 8 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Presentation:	Possible 10 points
Journal "Hand In" #1:	Possible 3 points
Journal "Hand In" #2:	Possible 4 points
Journal "Hand In" #3:	Possible 6 points
Midterm:	Possible 10 points
Final:	<u>Possible 15 points</u>
	Possible 100 points (Grade= A)

**Grading Scale:**

- 90-100 points: A
- 80-89 points: B
- 70-79 points: C
- 60-69 points: D
- Below 60 points: F

**Assignment/Test Schedule:**

September 12:	1 <sup>st</sup> Presentation
September 21:	Journal "Hand In" #1 Due
October 8:	Midterm
October 12:	Journal "Hand In" #2 Due
October 24:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Presentation
November 9:	Journal "Hand In" #3 Due
December 3 (tentatively):	Final

**Make-Up Policy:**

- Presentations and Tests **CAN NOT BE MADE-UP**, unless the student has a doctor's note for the missed class day on which the Test was given.
- Written Assignments will be accepted late, however, 1 letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

- If the student is in good academic standing with the class, an absence may be made up for *partial* credit by receiving an extra assignment from the instructor. Upon completion of the assignment, it is at the instructor's discretion if the student will be granted partial credit. It is up to the student to set up a time with instructor to discuss this option.

***The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time, in accordance to SHSU policy.***

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. **Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the University Policy. **Visitors Policy:** Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. **Religious Holiday Policy:** Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one week of returning to class. The student must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that he/she will be absent for a religious holy day no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the first day of the semester. **Disabled Student Policy:** According to the University Policy, requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. Requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty in a timely manner. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case by case basis by the Counseling Center.