

SPACE FOR RENT - IMPROVISATION SYLLABUS

The purpose of this class is to use improvisation games and techniques to prepare students for performance before their peers and the community. Material to be performed will be comprised of original student work, research of historical and factual data, and literature. Students will also create and stage educational theatre to tour to local elementary schools.

Pre-requisite: Theatre I or Introduction to Theatre
You must audition to be in this class.
You must be in the magnet to take this class.
This class counts as one-year Elective Credit.

A. **GRADES** will be determined based on four areas:

1. Grades on regular and active participation in class activities.
2. Grades on tests and quizzes.
3. Grades on all performances at Roosevelt High, touring these performances to other schools within Fresno Unified, and/or evening performances to showcase student's classroom work.
4. Homework. Coming to class unprepared will lower your grade.

B. **REQUIREMENTS** Each team member is expected to:

- Keep an **Improv Notebook** with all of the games, exercises, rules, etc. that are introduced in class. It needs to be typed, neat and orderly, complete, and attractive. Notebooks are due each quarter.
- **PERFORM EVERY PLACE THAT THE TEAM IS BOOKED**, unless he/she has been excused prior or has an emergency. A large part of the student's grade is contingent upon performances. If a student has another school related conflict with the gig, he/she needs to communicate this ASAP to me to solve the conflict. Do not wait until the last minute to bring this to my attention. Students will be issued calendars so that they can be certain drama obligations do not conflict with appointments or personal commitments. **If a student must miss a performance due to illness or an emergency, the School of the Arts office should be notified as soon as possible at 253-5323.**
- **Be a good academic student.** We try to travel during our own class time, lunchtime, or after school, but this is not always possible. Students must keep their grades up, have good attendance, and be in good standing with their other teachers in order to get out of their academic classes. If students are failing their other classes, they cannot perform with S-4-R, and therefore will receive an "F" on that particular performance assignment.
- **Be a good team player.** This means taking a leadership role at times, being a follower at other times. It means taking directions and criticism and trying to improve. It means being responsible: getting props and costumes to school, permission slips signed and returned on time. It means being energetic and creative by helping to get bookings, make contacts, and send out publicity.
- **Be supportive and respectful** of other team members and treat them like geniuses.

Improvisation Syllabus (cont.)

- It is important to **stay positive and focused**. We often work under a great deal of pressure with little prep time. Personality conflicts have no place on this team.
- **Maintain a “C” letter grade in Improvisation Class in order to perform.** The RSA “No F” policy will be strictly adhered to. Students who are failing their classes will not be allowed to participate with Space-4-Rent and therefore they will receive an “F” letter grade for the booked performance assignment. Extra credit cannot be used to make-up his deficiency.

B. Requirements (cont.)

- **EMERGENCY CARDS.** Each student must have an emergency card on file in the main office *and* with the RSA office.

C. GENERAL CLASS RULES:

- **LATE WORK** will normally not be accepted.
- **MAKE UP WORK FOR ABSENCES** will be accepted for full credit for excused absences only. Students will be allowed one day for each day absent to make up work missed.
- **ATTENDANCE and TARDIES** The Roosevelt High School attendance and tardy policy will be strictly enforced. Students will lose 10 points participation per day regardless if absence is excused or unexcused. Missed participation points due to excused absences can be made up with extra credit. Unexcused tardies will result in a 3-point deduction.
- **DRESS CODE** The Roosevelt High School dress code policy will be strictly enforced. You must wear flexible and loose clothing for physical movement during class time. No flip-flops or sandals are allowed. Exposed mid-drifts or underwear is unacceptable. Failure to participate in an activity because your clothing is restrictive or inappropriate will result in detention and a lower grade.
- **UNIFORM** Students will be required to purchase a Space-4-Rent T-shirt. The improv uniform consists of: 1) clean, presentable dark blue jeans with no holes in them, no decorative trim or decor, etc. and a belt as needed; 2) the improv t-shirt; 3) clean, presentable tennis shoes. Exposed mid-drifts and/or underwear is unacceptable.
- **CLASSROOM MATERIALS** must be present at the start of class. You will need an agenda and/or planner to note homework assignments and performance dates. A pencil or a black or blue ink pen and notebook paper is always required.
- **NOTE TAKING** is very important and students should keep accurate and complete notes on all lectures, discussions, films, slides, videos, etc. Tests will include material from these sources.
- **MISCELLANEOUS**
 - Gum chewing, food, drinks, and sunflower seeds are not allowed.
 - Radios and CD players I-Pods, etc., are not allowed on campus.
 - **CELL PHONES** are not to be used anywhere in any of the theatre classrooms and/or the Auditorium.