

Coffeyville Community College

THTR-240
COURSE SYLLABUS
FOR
SKETCH COMEDY I

Bethanie Frank
Instructor

COURSE NUMBER: THTRE-240 **COURSE TITLE:** Sketch Comedy I

CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Bethanie Frank

OFFICE LOCATION Arts and Sciences Building 166

OFFICE HOURS: See schedule posted on door

PHONE: 620-251-7700 ext. 2188

PREREQUISITES: Improvisation I

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: *Comedy Writing Secrets*. Mel Helitzer 2nd Edition. 2005. Writer's Digest Books Publishing Company. Cincinnati Ohio

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide students with an overview of modern improvisation techniques. These core skills are useful to performers, instructors and directors. Special emphasis will be placed on techniques used to build an ensemble and the use of improv as a tool to boost creativity. Students will learn how improv can be used to help the performer with auditions and performances. Students will also learn the various techniques needed to create written comedy sketches for performance.

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:

1. Perform student written comedy sketches
2. Illustrate the basics of humor writing
3. Apply various humor writing techniques

LEARNING TASKS AND ACTIVITIES:

Students will keep a journal of comedy ideas. They will write various sketches based on different writing techniques. Sketches will be presented in class and critiqued by the students.

Part I – The Basics – August 16-October 1
Part II – Techniques – October 4-November 1
Part III – Markets – November 3-December 6

ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES:

All assignments are expected to be complete by the date due. Work is never accepted late. All directions must be followed.

90-100 = A
80- 89 = B
70- 79 = C
60- 69 = D
0- 59 = F

Most assignments will be in-class activities and participation exercises.

If you miss class, these cannot be made up.

The final grade will be based upon the following: class participation, out of class assignments, and attendance.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All students are expected to attend class each day. This is particularly important in a performance oriented class as you will learn as much as an audience member as you will as a performer. Please be aware there is a strict attendance policy. You will have 100 attendance points, from which ten (10) points will be deducted for each class missed. Excused absences are reserved for school field trips and **must** be arranged in **advance**. Failure to attend on the day you are scheduled to perform (with no advance written or formal explanation) will result in a zero for that assignment with no make-up assignment allowed. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what was done, what was assigned, and to be prepared when you return to class.

The institution's attendance policy reads as follows:

"Students are expected to attend all classes. Regular class attendance is necessary for maximum success in college. It is the responsibility of students to make definite arrangements for all work before going on field trips or other college-sponsored trips. School-sponsored activities will be counted as excused absences providing students complete all necessary assignments as designated by the instructors and the activity sponsors notify the instructors at least three days prior to the day(s) the students will be absent. Excused absences are to include academic competition, judging team competition, music events, official athletic events, field trips, convocations, and other College-sponsored events as approved by the Vice President for Learning. A student may be withdrawn from any class for excessive absences. (See "Withdrawal from Classes for Non-Attendance.")"

STUDENT STATUS: If a student has been dismissed from school by the administration for any reason, that student will not be allowed to complete the class. The student will be assigned a failing grade, and missed class assignments, lectures, or test cannot be made up. If a student is dismissed from school prior to the deadline to drop a class, a student can drop the class.

This syllabus is subject to revision with proper notice to the student by the instructor.

COMPETENCIES:

PERFORM STUDENT WRITTEN COMEDY SKETCHES

1. Perform sketches written by others in the class. (application)
2. Develop various characters from sketches and ideas. (synthesis)
3. Rewrite sketches. (comprehension)
4. Critique sketches written by other students. (evaluation)

ILLUSTRATE THE BASICS OF HUMOR WRITING

1. Create sketches that can be performed in a show. (synthesis)
2. Explain why people laugh. (comprehension)
3. Outline the perfect 'recipe' for comedy writing (knowledge)

APPLY VARIOUS HUMOR WRITING TECHNIQUES

1. Demonstrate the following humor writing techniques: play on words, the reverse, triples. (application)
2. Apply brainstorming techniques to create sketches (application)