**Theater Techniques for Enhancing Teaching and Public Speaking**

**Participation**
Participation in class activities and discussions is vitally important as this class is primarily an experiential course. We are all in this together to learn and grow, neither of which is always comfortable. If you know in advance that your schedule will require you to miss two or more sessions, please defer taking this course.

**Credit Structure:** 1 credit hour, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading

**Course Website**
https://canvas.cornell.edu/
ALS 6014 - Theater Techniques for Teaching - Fall 2019 (Sem101-Tuesday)

**Assignments**
- Each week you will be required to submit a short response to instructor-provided prompts through the course website, or complete a reading or view videos.
- Upon completion of the course you will give a presentation to demonstrate and apply what you have learned.

**Rationale**
Graduate students and postdocs who are currently teaching and/or preparing for teaching in higher education or who will need to deliver talks can benefit from research-based, practical techniques for enhancing instruction and presentations. This course can be taken before or concurrently with other pedagogy courses such as the Center for Teaching Innovation's ALS 6015: Teaching in Higher Education.

**Course Outcomes**
- Identify theater strategies for enhancing classroom teaching and public speaking in formal and informal settings.
- Utilize and practice improvisational (improv) techniques to think creatively under pressure and to project confidence and respect for diverse perspectives.
- Apply storytelling techniques to communicate discipline-specific content more effectively, and in a more engaging manner.
- Design and present a short lesson or talk that addresses: rationale for how the lesson or talk was constructed around learning outcomes (or audience needs), improvisational theater or public speaking principles applied, and methods for assessing student/audience engagement and learning.
- Demonstrate evidence of practice and learning through a series of reflective essays.
- Describe how using theater techniques can help to build more inclusive classes.

**Instructor**

Tuesday Sem 101:
Dr. Colleen McLinn
colloen.mclinn@cornell.edu,
325 Caldwell, 607-255-2030

**Office Hours**
Wednesdays 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment (or Zoom)

**Fall 2019**
Tuesday (SEM 101)
4:30pm-6:30pm
Aug 29 - Oct 22
Kennedy Hall 213

**Credit Structure:**
1 credit hour, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading
## Academic Integrity
All students are expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

## Accommodations
In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for in unusual circumstances, so that arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

## Inclusivity Statement
I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community, I ask all members to:
- share their unique experiences, values and beliefs
- be open to the views of others
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- value each other’s opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the Cornell community

## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Building a Learning Community</td>
<td>9/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to Improvisation</td>
<td>9/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Connecting with Your Audience</td>
<td>9/17</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Using Your Entire Self</td>
<td>9/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Storytelling and Learning</td>
<td>10/1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Framing</td>
<td>10/8</td>
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<td>[Fall Break]</td>
<td>10/14-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thinking Creatively</td>
<td>10/22</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final presentation timeslots</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Due Date - Final Reflection</td>
<td>October 30</td>
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## Course Readings
- Required readings available in Canvas

## Questions
Visit the Canvas site, or contact Dr. Colleen McLinn.