**ALS 6014**

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

**Instructor**

Tuesday Sem 101:
Dr. Colleen McLinn
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**Drop-In Office Hours**

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

**Course Website**

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

**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

**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.
Course Readings

- Required readings available in Canvas