

## **EFS 689B: Building Communication Skills through Improvisation**

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Improvisation is the process of creating something from nothing, performing theater without a script. In this class, you will learn and practice theatrical improvisation games and techniques that will help you with spontaneity, team building, storytelling, and confident public speaking. Practice your English in a fun and supportive environment and build your speaking and listening skills in English that can be applied to performance as well as personal and professional development.

A word about English language concerns: As participants in this course, you may be a little concerned about your speaking and listening abilities in English. Rest assured: You are more than qualified to take this class! The course is co-taught by an improvisation expert and an ESL instructor, and we will be moving at a pace that is fun and appropriate for everyone. We will encourage you to take risks and push your limits but you will never be pushed into a situation where you feel too uncomfortable. After this course you'll have more confidence and skills to step into challenging situations!

### **Required Textbook**

*Improv Wisdom, Don't Prepare, Just Show Up* by Patricia Ryan. Bell Tower Publisher, 2005, ISBN-10: 1400081882. Amazon price: \$13.02, Kindle: \$9.99

### **Tentative Schedule of Topics**

Week 1: Intro to Improv: spontaneity and saying yes

Week 2: Space Objects: creating worlds from nothing

Week 3: Narrative: building a story

Week 4: Endowment: creating characters

Week 5: Status: relating to others

Week 6: Games and Scenes: practice performing!

### **Course Requirements**

- Attend at least 90% of class meetings and be on time.
- Take risks and support your partners.
- Participate enthusiastically in all tasks and activities.
- Complete short assigned readings in *Improv Wisdom*.