

**AI 354 QUANTUM CREATIVITY:
IMPROVISATION IN THE ARTS,
BUSINESS AND LIFE**

Spring 2007

Faculty: Pamela Meyer, Ph.D.

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Location: Loop

Day/Time: Mondays days 6:00pm – 9:00pm
April 2-June 4, With Field Trip Class session on Saturday, May 5, 8:00PM

Competences Offered

- A3-D Can assess the assumptions and implications of a significant thinker's ideas about work or leisure.
- A2-A Can create an original work of art, explore its relationship to artistic form, and reflect on the creative process.
- FX Can apply the theory and practice of improvisation to enhance workplace creativity.
- A-5 Can define and analyze a creative process.

Course Description

This course is for people who are interested in enlivening creativity in all aspects of their lives. We will explore the value of improvisation in facilitating the creative process, as well as the relationship between creativity and spirituality. Most people associate the word "improvisation" with short comic Second City style scenes and monologues. While we will be sure to have some good laughs along the way, this course will reach beyond the one-liners to explore the many applications of improvisation including, but not limited to, theatrical improvisation.

A significant portion of the class discussion and reflection will concentrate on workplace and organizational development applications of the principles of improvisation. Students will have the opportunity to learn basic improvisation forms and experiment with those forms through application to workplace creativity. In the process of this exploration students will learn to trust their own creative process and to identify and avoid some of the most insidious blocks to creativity.

Students will study the development of contemporary improvisation and selected readings on creativity.

Expected Outcomes

Quantum Creativity: Syllabus. Pamela Meyer, Ph.D. Instructor

The student will gain a deeper understanding and experience of his/her own creative process. Through direct experience, viewing the work of others and discussing current approaches to improvisation, the student will also develop an understanding of the value of creativity in business, the arts and life.

Text

Meyer, Pamela. Quantum Creativity: Nine Principles to Transform the Way You Work. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 2000. *NOTE: Be sure to buy this edition, NOT the 1997 edition of a similar title.*

Selected readings

Evaluation Criteria

- **Class Participation:** 1) Ability of the student to participate in class discussions on creativity theory, improvisation and its application to work and life. Students are expected to have read each week's assigned readings and contribute to class discussions drawing on their reading and life experience. 2) Participation in weekly improvisational games and scene work with a willingness to make new discoveries and contribute to the group's success. Participation in written and verbal reflection on improvisation experience.
- **Creative Process Journal & Learning Summary:** Students are expected to make weekly entries documenting their class experience, growth and insights. Weekly journal questions will be assigned to focus this reflection. Journal entries will be submitted electronically (via e-mail attachment). Students will use these reflections to write a final learning summary due the last week of class.
- **Essays & Final Paper:** Students will write three essays articulating the relationship between theory and practice as it applies to student's competence. (See Competence Assessment Criteria for more detail).

Faculty

PAMELA MEYER works with organizations that want innovative solutions and teams that need to unleash their creative potential. She is an educator, entrepreneur, artist and author of *Quantum Creativity*. As President of Meyer Creativity Associates, Inc. she consults and presents custom designed programs around the country. Meyer draws on more than ten years experience in the professional theater where she used improvisation to create original plays and build creative teams. Meyer is a member of the Academy of Management, Organizational Development Network, National Speakers Association and Actor's Equity Association. She received her B.F.A. from Boston University, School for Theatre Arts; an M.A. with a concentration in creativity from Antioch University; and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Systems from the Fielding Graduate University.

Course Calendar

CLASS ONE 4/2	Continuous Discovery Course Overview Introductions and Expectations Quantum Creativity: An Introduction
CLASS TWO 4/9	Listen to Your Essence/Follow Your Passion Roots of Improvisation Improvisation with imaginary objects
CLASS THREE 4/16	Abstain From Judgment Blocks to individual and collaborative creativity. DUE: Essay #1

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CLASS FOUR **Trust the Process/Yes, and . . ./Allow the Boundaries to Free You**
4/22
Innovative teamwork & collaboration
Introducing "givens" into improvisation
DUE: Journal Entries to date (submit via e-mail attachment)

CLASS FIVE **Embrace Chaos**
4/29
Improvisation at work: Creating Innovation friendly organizations
Using chaos to fuel creativity
DUE: Essay #2

CLASS SIX, 5/5 Sat., May 5, 8:00PM: **FIELD TRIP TO IMPROV SHOW**

CLASS SEVEN **Improvisation in Action**
5/7
Discuss the Field Trip
Improvisation as Art Form

CLASS EIGHT **Show Up & Pay Attention**
5/14
Improvisation & Quality of Life

CLASS NINE **Supporting the Creative Process**
5/21
• Beyond the classroom

CLASS TEN **Sharing the Wealth: Final Improvisations & Collaborative Learning Reflection**
6/4
DUE: FINAL PAPER, REMAINING JOURNAL ENTRIES AND LEARNING SUMMARY (Submit via e-mail)

CLASS POLICIES:

- Students missing more than two classes during the quarter *will not be passed. No exceptions.* If you think you will miss more than two classes, make arrangements to take the course another quarter. ALSO, for every two times you are late more than 15 minutes, you will be counted for one absence.
- All essays papers and journal assignments must be submitted by the due date, unless permission from the instructor for an extension has been requested in advance and received. All late assignments will receive a half-grade reduction for each week past deadline.
- Incomplete grades will not be granted unless advance permission has been requested and an official "incomplete form" is filed with SNL. This means that if you have not met all course requirements and have not been authorized for an "Incomplete" grade, you will receive and "F."
- You are responsible for notifying the instructor prior to any planned absence in order to get your assignments, and as soon as possible after any unplanned absence. *Weekly assignments will be posted on Black Board.*
- All papers must be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins. ALL outside sources must be properly cited. **Instructor prefers all papers and journals be submitted electronically via e-mail.**