

Stand Up Comedy Scrw 377-901**Instructor: KEVIN BOZEMAN****Fall 2022 MON 5:45pm - 9:00pm****OFFICE HOURS: MON 5:00-5:45 9-9:45 (BY APPOINTMENT)****COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, students will study and analyze stand-up comedy as a route to success in Film and Television. Students will learn about the history of stand up comedy and the comedians who parlayed success on the stage into success in television and films. Students will study the process of how comedians first created their material and honed/perfected it on stages around the world. Finally, students will mine their own lives for funny stories, creating original stand-up comedy routines (5 minutes), work-shopping them in class and eventually performing these routines on the Main Stage at Zanies Comedy Clubs

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

In the service of the learning about the history of stand-up comedy, the process of writing and performing their own, students will become better and more confident when speaking in front of others.

WARNING

This class shows stand up comedic sets that are some times graphic in language and content

REQUIRED TEXTS:

[Will be discussed in class DAY #1.]

GRADING:

Class attendance and Assignments 34%

Midterm 33%

Final Project 33%

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C = 77-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0. A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

Attendance

Each week's class consists of lectures, screenings; and readings. Attendance is **critical**. For the purposes of this class, an absence is defined as not showing up for class or showing up 15 minutes (or more) late for a class without the approval of the professor. Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade. The professor upon his discretion can refuse a student to perform during the final exam

ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments must be completed by the date to which they are assigned in the syllabus. Reasonable deadlines are given for completion for each assignment. Consequently late assignments will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

School policies

Online Instructor Evaluation

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>.

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

FOOD POLICY

No food or beverages are allowed in the lecture room.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

The policy as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

DePaul University's College of Computing and Digital Media
243 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago IL 60604

We talked last night, so some of my questions have already been answered. I was a little concerned that you didn't (still may not) have enough stuff to do, but I TOTALLY agree with keeping it vague up front so that you can assess who these people are that you're going to be teaching (and what they have to offer). Therefore, I would print out the two pages above and use this as your syllabus initially. You can walk them through the rest in class.

(On the above, I obviously changed some of the course description and course objectives – I don't care personally and you should definitely cut and trim or just revert back to what you sent me, but I thought this would better explain not just to the students, but to upper administration if they ever ask to see or get a hold of your syllabus).

You unquestionably have plenty of stuff to fill up the time – the students practicing their bits over and over again in front of one another (clearly valuable and great) – but I also think that you should weave in the other aspects of the class to reinforce it (like the “history of” or a couple of cool readings – articles or pieces on the web that would benefit them to know) throughout. Figure out the through-lines of the class (history of, process of comedians getting from the stage to the screen, and then the practical aspect of them working on their own bits).

Weeks that look a little light right now:

#2, #3 (I get that half the class period will be taken up with “Comedian”, but what is “Due diligence of comedy”?), #4, #5, #6, #8, #9.

WEEK BY WEEK Schedule: (FOR YOU):

Week 1: Intro to Stand-Up Comedy

Course Overview, an understanding of stand-up comedy and its relevance to television and film.

Brief introduction to Kevin Bozeman.
Brief introduction of the students in the class.

Syllabus walk-through.

Introduction to numerous prominent comedians and their climb from stage to screen.

In-class assignment: pair up. Tell stories and interview one another for material that could be written and delivered (about your partner) in class.

Take home assignment: Develop a 2-3 minute monologue about your partner to be read in front of the class. (ANY PARAMETERS – DON'T BE AN ASSHOLE?)

Week 2: Finding Your Medium

Developing material for characters: Who is the character? What makes them funny? What is the market for that character? ETC.

Assignment: Pick the stand-up personality you will write about for your midterm (WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS? WHAT IS A STUDENT LOOKING TO WRITE ABOUT? HOW WILL THEY CHOOSE THEIR COMEDIAN?)

Week 3: Due diligence of comedy
Watch in Class: “Comedian”
Discuss: The work ethic of comedy

Assignment: re-tell your favorite bit done by your mid-term comedian.

Week 4: Timing is everything

Establishing your timing and delivery will set you apart from everyone else. Examine different styles of delivery and timing

Assignment Due: Re-telling your favorite comedic bit

Assignment: 2 minutes of your routine

Week 5: The Club Scene

The ins and outs of the standup comedy club: What's expected of you as a stand-up comic.

Assignment Due: Turn in Midterm and 2 minutes of routine (HOW IS THIS BEING DELIVERED? ON PAPER or IN FRONT OF THE CLASS?)

You explained this to me – it's going to be delivered. This could be great and sufficient. I don't know how many times you can do this, but I'm sure it'll be helpful.

(LESSON: "The Light")

Assignment: 3 minutes of your set (delivered or written up?)

Week: 6 (April 30th) - Getting work

Marketing yourself through social media (what's the lesson?)

Assignment: 4 minutes of your act (delivered or written up?)

Week 7: Practice run

Run through of Stand-up material and feedback

Week 8: (May 16th) Alternative Comedy

Opportunities that may derive from stand-up that are not traditional television and film roles (OKAY, BUT WHAT SPECIFICALLY FILLS THIS TIME?)

Q & A with a comedy club booker provided we have time (OKAY – WHY? MAKE IT PART OF ONE OF THE LONGER THROUGH-LINES OF THE CLASS INSTEAD OF HAVING IT BE RANDOM)

Week 9: (May 23rd)

TBA

Week 10: (May 30th) Memorial Day. No class

Final Exam (June 4th)

Zanies Comedy Club Performance Times to be announced

THIS IS GOING TO BE INCREDIBLE!!!

