THE 013 Improvisation Workshop Midterm

As we are discovering in class, improvisation introduces us to tools to explore who we are, what we know, how we use our imagination, our body, our voice, our senses, and our experiences to further develop our communication skills.

For the midterm, you will write about three different topics:

- Viola Spolin (approx. two pages)
- Improvisation outside the comedy club (approx. four pages)
- An assessment of what you have learned so far in and outside of class (approx. one-two pages)

1. Viola Spolin is the originator of theatre games and the author of the seminal textbook *Improvisation for the Theater*. She introduced games, storytelling, and other dramatics as tools for stimulating creative expression. These techniques changed the very nature and practice of modern theater and have also influenced, for example, the fields of education, mental health, social work, and psychology. In your paper, explore Viola’s early years and her many contributions to theatre, comedy, and improvisation techniques throughout her career.

2. As mentioned in class, the actor Alan Alda (who studied with Viola Spolin) has established a Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University where improvisation exercises are used to help scientists from around the world look at ways to improve communicating their research to the public. For this paper, identify and provide examples of at least four fields outside of the comedy club where improvisation is being used. Your examples may include but should not be limited to the four fields used as examples above in question one.

3. Reflect on your growth so far in class. What insights have you gained about improvisation and your own work during the past eight weeks? Where have you seen improvements? What areas still are challenging? What progress are you making with YES, AND?

Your paper should be approximately 8 pages in length and must be submitted to Blackboard as a word document no later than 11:59 PM Thursday, March 21, 2019. Be sure to cite the sources you used in your research—do not just copy and paste. Your written assignment must be double-spaced and typed in 12-point black font. This midterm does not replace one of your journal entries.

Please find below the grading criteria for your midterm:

- **0-59/F** = Falsifies information or plagiarizes information or paper not turned in.
• **60-69/D** = A below-average response to the written assignment. Short, brief responses that don't get to the heart of the assignment. Misinformation, lack of connecting concepts, and demonstration of poor writing skills.

• **70-79/C** = An average written response that contains basic answers to the questions without elaboration or personal perspective.

• **80-89/B** = An above-average demonstration of understanding concepts and ideas as they relate to the written assignment. Successfully puts concepts into context along with providing originality and personal perspective.

• **90-100/A** = An outstanding demonstration of comprehension of concepts and ideas as they relate to the written assignment. Student showed in their answers personal perspective, originality, and the ability to think about the material in a way that demonstrated knowledge through clear and effective writing.