Improvisation as a Way of Life
CDIN 50910, MUSI 45511, CMLT 51800, DVPR 50901, PHIL 50910
Arnold I. Davidson and George E. Lewis
Mondays 2:30 pm - 5:20 pm, JRL 207

This seminar is organized around the idea that the practice of improvisation is not at all limited to the artistic domain, but is a ubiquitous practice of everyday life, a primary method of exchange in any interaction. Improvisation is, in effect, a certain kind of orientation or attitude towards oneself, others, and the world, and this seminar aims at the exploration of new models of intelligibility, agency, expression, and social responsibility.

Requirements

Each person will be responsible for a seminar presentation on one of the week’s readings. A 3-5 page discussion paper on the topic of your presentation should be available for all seminar participants to read in advance (by noon on the Friday before your presentation).

A final paper of approximately fifteen pages is also required.

No late papers and no incompletes.

Primary Readings

Week One: Introduction/Background


Week Two: Self-Transformation and Spiritual Exercises

Foucault, Michel. "6 January 1982: First Hour; 6 January 1982: Second Hour." In


Week Three: Ethics and Freedom


Week Four: Agency


Week Five: Politics and Power


Week Six: Intelligibility


Week Seven: Creativity


**Week Eight: Performances**


**Week Nine: Spontaneity, Indeterminacy, Uncertainty**


**Week Ten: Emotional Transduction**


