

THTR 304 Section 63001D
Advanced Medical Clowning
Units: 2
Term: Spring 2020
Day, Time: Wednesdays, 2-5pm

Location: Split between campus in a studio TBD, and LAC -USC

Instructor: Zachary Steel

Office: JEF 208

Office Hours: available by appointment

Email: zsteel@usc.edu

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Course Description

This course further explores the practice of bringing clowns into places of healing (hospitals, trauma sites, etc.) for the purpose of improving the physical and mental well-being of those in need. Through observation of Medical Clowns engaging with patients, and subsequently, practicum in the hospital, students will be able to utilize the skills they have acquired and learn through immersion. This course would be appropriate for artists who want to put their medical clowning studies to practice.

Learning Objectives

- To observe and assess the impact of clowns in the hospital.
- To acclimate to the new and unique performing environment of a hospital.
- To develop and apply clown principles to the practice of medical clowning.
- To assess one's own impact when intervening in various healing settings.
- To gather observations and experiences into a journal prefaced by a clear and comprehensive preamble.

Prerequisite(s): THTR 290 Introduction to Medical Clowning

Suggested Readings and Supplementary Materials

PDFS of the following articles and studies will be available on blackboard for review, to support and enrich your experience in the hospital.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

For every shift to the hospital, there will be a shift report due. It will be a one page reflection of your experience highlighting interactions that stood out, what worked and what didn't, and lessons learned. The instructor will create a google folder specifically for each student to submit their weekly reports

At the end of the semester, a preamble to the journal of shift reports will be due. This will compile all the main ideas and experiences from the semester into one 3-4 page document. This will also be dropped into the google folder.

Grading Breakdown

| Assignment | Points | % of Grade |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Hospital Work | 100 | 40 |
| Studio Work | 100 | 15 |
| Shift Journal | 100 | 25 |
| Preamble (final) | 100 | 20 |
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| TOTAL | 400 | 100 |

Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

| | |
|----|--------------|
| A | 95-100 |
| A- | 90-94 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 73-76 |
| C- | 70-72 |
| D+ | 67-69 |
| D | 63-66 |
| D- | 60-62 |
| F | 59 and below |

Assignment Submission Policy

As mentioned above, all written assignments will be turned in via Google.

Grading Timeline

The work will be discussed on a weekly basis to ensure that every student is aware of their status.

Additional Policies

- For hospital visits, please wear appropriate clothing, ie dress like you would for a job interview.
- We do not provide transportation to and from the hospital but we will work it out as a group.
- No absences are permitted except in case of illness or emergency. No lateness permitted. Violation of these requirements will result in grade deductions.

Course Schedule:

Aside from the weeks where we meet on campus, each student will have a weekly three hour session at Los Angeles County Hospital. There will be three phases, each phase lasting approximately five weeks:

Phase 1 – Observation: The students observe Raquel Gendry and Zach Steel practicing Medical Clowning in the hospital.

Phase 2 – Guided Practice: The students are paired with either Raquel or Zach and they will practice together.

Phase 3 – Independent Practicum: Under the observation of Zach, the students will be paired with each other and discover and develop their own practice.

At least once in between each phase, and as needed, we will meet on campus and work on the craft in the studio classroom. Those weeks where we meet on campus, we will not be going to the hospital.

SDA PRODUCTIONS

SDA productions are courses and therefore do not supersede any other courses in which you are enrolled. When in an SDA production, students must not register for evening classes that conflict with regularly scheduled rehearsals. In short, being involved in an SDA production is a curricular assignment and must be treated as any other curricular assignment.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITMENTS AND ISPS

Should you choose to participate in any extra-curricular project, such as an Independent Student Production, the SDA administration and faculty will not make allowances or exceptions for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, home work that is required as preparation for class, or lack of participation in class resulting from your extra-curricular involvement.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university’s site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Support Systems:

Campus Support & Intervention (CSI) – (213) 740-0411

Campus Support & Intervention is an office within Campus Wellbeing and Crisis Intervention. We are a team of professionals here to assist students, faculty, and staff in navigating complex issues. Whether you are here seeking support for yourself or someone else, we are available to help you problem solve, understand options, and connect with resources. <https://uscса.usc.edu>

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <https://titleix.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://titleix.usc.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu