

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

UNIV*6040 : Selected Topics in Critical Studies in Improvisation

Objectives

The biennial Summer Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation, running for two weeks in late August (in alternate years), brings graduate students together with leading scholars to investigate the intellectual territory mapped out by the SSHRC funded Improvisation, Community and Social Practice Research group.

Intended for students who have an interest in musical improvisation, this interdisciplinary course provides a forum to investigate the possibility of improvised artistic practices to inform community-building models and to shape public debate and policy decisions regarding the role of the arts in society. Participants in the course will address pressing issues of social and cultural transformation such as the ability for improvisation to provide a model for transcultural understanding, initiate a revision of aesthetic categories, question social policy, gender categories and pedagogical practices.

Method of course presentation

Lectures, small group seminars, student presentations.

Over the course of the two week Summer Institute, students attend 20 hours of formal lectures and 10 hours of small group seminars offered by two invited speakers of international reputation. In conjunction with Summer Institute faculty (co-investigators from the Improvisation, Community and Social Practice Research project), students will workshop research papers to be presented at the three-day international Guelph Jazz Festival colloquium. Special sessions at the colloquium will be reserved for student papers and posters resulting from the summer institute. A core value of the summer institute is to provide professional development opportunities for all participating students. Students will have access to both scholars and practitioners of international repute providing unparalleled opportunities for the establishment of research alliances. Students will also be encouraged to submit papers to the peer-reviewed journal associated with the Improvisation, Community and Social Practice Research project, Critical Studies in Improvisation/Études critiques en improvisation (www.criticalimprov.com).

Method of evaluation

20% - 5 page research in progress report (to be submitted at the beginning of the course)

80% - Research paper (to be submitted within 3 weeks following the end of the institute)