



Course Information
Acting for TV and Film - THE 597 001
MONDAY SECTION – CRN: 40703
TUESDAY SECTION – CRN: 40891

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2016
PAC ROOM 126
M 9:00a – 4:00p or T 9:00a-4p
June 6 – July 7

Instructor: Joe Reynolds, MFA
Office Location: T.B.A.
Office Hours: M - T - 4p - 5:30 and by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – textbooks, readings, supplemental textbooks: Students will choose scenes from film or television scripts to perform in front of a camera.

Optional Readings:

Secrets of Screen Acting 3rd Edition by Patrick Tucker
Acting for the Camera: Revised Edition by Tony Barr
The New Business of Acting by Brad Lemack
The Power of the Actor by Ivana Chubbuck

Course Description:

This course will define the differences between film, television and stage acting, as well as other aspects of the business of acting. Working with scene partners, you will be given scenes from film and television to rehearse and perform. In addition to the scenes, you will participate in improvisations as members of a film crew, casting agency and production company to understand more fully the process of filmmaking and the role of the film/TV actor.



Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of course, every student with a passing grade will be able to:

1. Demonstrate what an actor does when acting for film or TV.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of words or phrases that you may hear on a shoot.
3. Demonstrate an ability to analyze a film/TV scene.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the business of acting.
5. Demonstrate knowledge in these concepts by performing in class regularly.
6. Demonstrate proficiency in accepting and incorporating constructive criticism into your own performances, while developing the skills needed to humanely and insightfully evaluate both personal artistic efforts and the work of others.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce and develop skills and techniques for on-camera performance.
2. To develop a basic understanding of the on-camera production process.
3. To develop critical on-camera audition and performance evaluation skills.
4. To develop a basic understanding of the business of acting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Assignments:

1. Daily Quiz – (20%)

Each class there will be one quiz over the material discussed that day. Each quiz is worth 5% of your final grade. The quiz will be multiple choice, T/F and short answer.

2. Performance Responses – (10%)

You will be required to write two type written papers that identify the presence or absence of the basic acting tenets outlined in class and what affect those elements had on the acting performance from a movie or TV show. These papers are to be one and a half to two pages, double spaced, and written in twelve-point font. Please send them to me as an attachment, (PDF or word doc) through my email. Due dates for performance responses: June 12 and June 26.

3. Audition Workshop – (15%)

You will be required to participate as an actor, producer/director and casting director for a mock audition. As an actor, you will read from sides and be able to demonstrate the skills learned from class. You will be allowed to hold the sides for reference, but you will need to be familiar with the material to make consistent eye contact and to demonstrate your listening skills as an actor.

4. Headshot/Resume – (5%)

You will also be required to create a professional resume listing your education, training and acting experience. You will demonstrate what elements make a good headshot.



5. The Business of Acting: an informative paper — (10%)

You will be required to write a one and a half to two page type written paper that demonstrates your knowledge of resources helpful to building an actor's career. In this paper you will discuss websites, agents/managers, casting directors and branding.

6. Scene work in class: (40%)

Acting in scenes every week should be your goal for this class. I know there will be times when you might not feel like it or haven't had time to prepare as much as you wanted, but you must motivate yourself and do it! The progress and growth of your acting skills are directly related to your time spent performing. Get the scenes now. Read them now. Choose a scene partner now. Choose a scene now. The scenes do not have to be long. One minute to three minutes at the most. Treat the scene work as you would a rehearsal for a play. We will work through the scenes and use them to clarify the methods of analyzing the process for the film/TV actor.

Grading

Grades will represent levels of achievement.

1. Daily Quiz (20%)
2. Performance Responses (10%)
3. Audition Workshop (15%)
4. Headshot/resume (5%)
5. The Business of Acting - paper (10%)
6. Scene Work (40%)

"A" = 90 – 100 %

"B" = 80 – 89 %

"C" = 70 – 79 %

"D" = 60 – 69 %

"F" = 59% or less

EXTRA CREDIT: As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class. In the *rare* instance that an extra credit opportunity arises, that opportunity will be announced and equally available to all members of the class.



COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. This is a summer intensive course that requires your full participation and attendance. You can contact me through email and I will respond to the best of my ability.

Student Resources:

Department of Mass Media, Communication and Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center

Hall of Languages #103

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Students and teachers have duties to each other. Successful learning and instruction depends very much on honoring these obligations. Keeping on schedule is your responsibility. Deadlines are a critical part of all business organizations, and the arts are no exception.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. From the Code of Student Conduct: “Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty has the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.” The Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook can be found here:

<http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Academic Honesty:

Students will adhere to the tenets of academic honesty while in this class. Academic dishonesty includes working on non-group projects with others, deception, impersonation, cheating during a test, and plagiarism. These are all offenses that warrant disciplinary action up to, and including, an F in the course. Additionally, any student found guilty of a Breach of Conduct, including Academic Honesty, could face the following disciplinary actions imposed by the University:

- (1) Expulsion from the University. Students may not return to the University.
- (2) Suspension from the University for a definite or indefinite period of time.
- (3) Disciplinary probation with or without loss of designated privileges for a specified period of time. The violation of the terms of disciplinary probation or the infraction of any University rules
- (4) Loss of privileges.
 - a. Denial of the use of an automobile for a designated time (on campus).
 - b. Removal from elective or appointive office.
 - c. Ineligibility for pledging, initiation, and representation of the University.
 - d. Removal from residence hall or other University housing.
 - e. Loss of such other privileges as may be consistent with the offense committed and the rehabilitation of the student.
- (5) Admonition and warning.
- (6) Notification of parents.
- (7) Such other actions as may be approved by the University Discipline Committee or the Dean for Campus Life and Student Development.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s information without proper and formal citation. Information about avoiding plagiarism can be found here:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/Thesis%20and%20Dissertation%20Services/avoiding-plagiarism.aspx>