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COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2020
THE 497.01B/THE 597.01B Meisner Acting for the Camera
Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Carrie Klypchak
 Office Location: PAC 129 (virtual for Fall 2020)
 Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm-4:30pm and by outside appointment (all office hours will be conducted virtually by pre-arranged appointments during Fall 2020)
 Office Phone: n/a for Fall 2020; please contact via email
 Office Fax: 903-468-3250
 University Email Address: Carrie.Klypchak@tamuc.edu
 Preferred Form of Communication: Email
 Communication Response Time: Under normal circumstances, within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook

For Graduate Students only: *Sanford Meisner on Acting* by Sanford Meisner and Dennis Longwell (Graduate Students may either purchase their own copy from an online vendor or request that the instructor send/check-out to them a classroom copy of the text to be returned at the end of the course after the student's Oral Defense.)

As the bulk of this course will be focused on practical application, there is no other required textbook. You will be supplied with THE MEISNER ON CAMERA BOOK materials (course reader) by the professor.

Required Special Supplies:

Computer with secure internet access

Individual registration for a free Zoom account (for outside rehearsals with partners)

Three-ring binder

Notebook paper

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Suggested Outside Reading: (suggested to be read *after* completing course)

The Sanford Meisner Approach (Four-book Workbook Series – Specifically Workbooks 3 and 4 for This Class) by Larry Silverberg

Course Description

The class will introduce Sanford Meisner's approach to working with both the text and the character through assignments based on scene work and monologue work for the camera. The primary Meisner-based work that we will cover in this class can also be translated to approaches to stage work in the future by the student as well. Additional emphasis will be placed on honing the concepts of 'Specificity,' 'Doings,' and 'Personalization' in performance with an introduction to "Particularization." **The course material will be instructed through lectures, activities, outside rehearsals, and projects. Graduate students will additionally embark upon essays, additional readings, and an Oral Defense at the end of the course.** While no Meisner experience is required, this class is designed for the mature intermediate or advanced student actor and is recommended for students who have had at least several courses in acting in the past, a solid history of performance experience, etc. As well, the class is designed for those who are exceptionally dedicated, firmly committed to artistic growth, and can negotiate significant time outside of class to work with scene partners via Zoom.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding and practical proficiency in executing Meisner's approach to monologue development and performance.
2. display understanding and practical proficiency in determining and implementing Meisner's approaches to interpretation, character development, textual work, the doings, and personalization.
3. determine artistic challenges and practically negotiate those challenges during rehearsal and on-camera performance

Additional Graduate Student Learning Outcomes:

4. write critically using analytical thinking skills about advanced Meisner Acting activities and theoretical concepts.
5. synthesize advanced information about Meisner Acting in quality, graduate-level scholarly writing and in effective oral communication

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods / Activities Assessments (tentative)

PARTICIPATION AND GROWTH (undergraduate: 35%; graduates: 15%) Note that Participation and Growth is a significant portion of your grade in this course – for good reason! Active participation is vital in this class. This is an interactive virtual environment and students must actively contribute to classes.

The completion of any miscellaneous homework assignments will also be considered part of your participation grade. There may be quite a few of these short assignments; they are all important to your success in this course. So please make sure you understand what is expected of you. Engaging in daily journal notations throughout the semester in *THE MEISNER ON CAMERA BOOK* (course reader) is expected and considered part of your participation grade as well. You must have *THE MEISNER ON CAMERA BOOK* available for use during each class.

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Participation and Growth grades will be calculated daily and tabulated at the end of the semester. *Each student will begin with a Participation and Growth mid-point passing grade of 80.* Exceptional effort or lack of effort during each class and over the course of the semester as a whole will either raise or lower that grade. More specific requirements will be offered during class. **Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.*

REHEARSAL LOGS (15%): Each student will be required to submit three Rehearsal Logs over the course of the semester. Outside rehearsals will be arranged by the student with appropriate scene partners via Zoom. Each Log will count as 5% of the student's overall grade in the course. You should realize the vital importance of regular rehearsal in order to achieve proficiency in Meisner training. Unless otherwise announced in class, each student is required to document at least five hours of practical rehearsal time outside of class per Log submission. More specific requirements will be offered during class. **Measures Course Learning Outcomes 2 and 3.*

MONOLOGUE SHOWINGS (15%) Each student will memorize, develop, and perform a monologue on camera from *Spoon River Anthology* per the parameters outlined by the professor. The monologue will be presented in two "showings" during class – with improvement evidenced in the later showing (the first showing counting 5% and the second showing counting 10%). More specific requirements will be offered during class. ** Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 3.*

SCENE SHOWINGS (25%): With a partner or partners, each student will memorize, develop, and perform an assigned acting scene for the camera using the principles of Sanford Meisner's acting approach as learned in class. The scene will be presented in two "showings" during class – with improvement evidenced in the later showing (the first showing counting 10% and the second showing counting 15%) **Measures Course Learning Outcomes 2 and 3.*

SCRIPT WORK (10%): Each student will conduct in-depth script work regarding their assigned scene over the course of the semester and to be submitted at the end of the semester. This script work will include identification and documentation of Provocative Statements, Key Facts, the character's Spine Phrase, Beats, and Doings (both Core and Literal). Submitted script work will also include a good deal of required free association writing for determined Provocative Statements and Key Facts. More specific criteria regarding script work will be outlined in class. **Measures Course Learning Outcome 2.*

Additional Graduate Student Assignments:

REFLECTIVE ESSAYS (10%): Each graduate student will submit two formal reflective essays during the semester in which they will write critically using analytical thinking skills about Meisner Acting activities – each worth 5% of the overall grade. For each submission, the student will write a three to five page reflective essay focused on the work undertaken and individual responses to the course activities during the periods of work in question. These essays should not include simple documentation of activities outside of class time (that will occur in your Rehearsal Logs). These responses can include individual successes and challenges faced throughout the week, goals for yourself and a justification for those goals, reflections about the work in response to the discipline of acting as a whole, etc. Please avoid knee-jerk responses (keep those

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responses for your personal journal entries). Really reflect in great depth and try to see the work in this course from both theoretical and practical standpoints in your essays. Please remember to use appropriate terminology as covered in this course. Use very specific examples to support your claims in the essays. Your daily journal notations in class should help you in composing the formal essays – although again, those journal notations will be immediate, daily, and personal responses to the work. These essays will be formally written reflections about the weeks in question after you have had time to consider broader perspectives. The essays should be typed, double spaced, utilize one-inch margins, and a 12 point acceptable scholarly font. Each individual essay should include the student's name and the dates of the week under review at the top of the first page. Students will be graded on the depth of thought and the content of their essays, as well as the formal construction of the documents – so please use your very best writing skills. More specific criteria will be outlined in class. **Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.*

ORAL DEFENSE (10%): Each graduate student will engage in a formal one-on-one final Oral Defense of their work throughout the semester with the professor. The student will use specific concepts as offered in *Sanford Meisner on Acting* by Sanford Meisner and Dennis Longwell to reflect on their own engagement, successes, and challenges with those concepts using appropriate terminology and advanced critical thought in a verbal format. More specific criteria will be outlined in class. **Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 5.*

Grading

SEMESTER GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

A=90%-100% (Exceptional Quality Work); B=80%-89% (Good Quality Work); C=70%-79% (Average Quality Work); D=60%-69% (Below Average Quality Work); F=0%-59% (Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

Note: Numerical correlations for individual assignments receiving awarded letter grades in this class may be calculated as follows: A 95%; B 85%; C 75%; D 65%.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Virtual Attendance

Under normal circumstances, students are expected to attend all virtual class sessions during the semester. Should an unavoidable emergency circumstance arise that has been communicated to the professor in advance, a link to a recorded version of the missed virtual class will be shared with the student.

Class Meeting - Modality

This class is a "Blended" class. As of the initial writing of this syllabus, the very first class will have a face-to-face attendance option in PAC 100 (mainstage) during the scheduled class time

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(Zoomed attendance is also an option for this first class for any student in lieu of face-to-face attendance). All remaining classes for the semester will be offered virtually via Zoomed attendance for all. Students should arrange for privacy during Zoom class sessions. The professor will email all students a Zoom invitation for all classes.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Leomail

It is a course expectation that you have a working leomail email address that you check daily. There will be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

Saving of Assignments

Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your original and graded assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

LMS: All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Dr. Klypchak

Please feel free to schedule a virtual meeting with me anytime during the semester. I am here to help! Communicate, communicate, communicate! If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. Don't be intimidated. I am here to assist you in success and will do my best to help you achieve it. Talk to me! The easiest and most reliable

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way to contact me is via email. I check it frequently. Please do not leave a message for me on my office phone or in the main department office during Fall 2020.

Student Resources

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101
Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

LATE ARRIVALS: To foster a high level of commitment – and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus – the class will adopt the following late entry policy for virtual attendance. Under normal circumstances, students should be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less-than-disciplined/committed artist. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you are late for class, your participation grade will reflect this. The class will begin promptly at 4:30 p.m.! Under normal circumstances, if you arrive after 4:40 p.m., please do not enter the virtual classroom. If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. A late arrival or early departure may significantly reduce your participation grade.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Each assignment will have different submission options to accommodate in-residence students as well as distance-learning students (Brightspace D2L, email, and/or physical submission options in the main department). Please listen carefully to the options for each assignment submission throughout the class.

CELL PHONES: Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the virtual classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course.

LATE WORK: *Under normal circumstances, I cannot accept late work from graduate students.*
Undergraduate Students: Under normal circumstances, a missed “showing,” performance, or presentation may not be made up. Late Written Work/Projects – Under normal circumstances, late written work/projects will be deducted a full letter grade each weekday after the assigned due date. All assignments are due before class begins on the assigned day. At 4:30 p.m. on the day that the assignment is due, your assignment will receive one letter grade reduction in credit; at 4:30 p.m. the following day another letter grade will be reduced, and so on. No late assignments will be accepted after one week past the original due date.

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EXTRA CREDIT: As a general rule, there is no extra credit offered in this class.

ADAPTATION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Due to the fluid nature of this performance-based class, some assignments/scheduling may need to be adapted. All changes will be announced prior to implementation.

FOOD, DRINK, GUM AND SMOKING/VAPING: Please do not eat, chew gum, or smoke/vape at any time during the activities of the class.

INCOMPLETES: Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will not be given for a final grade in this course.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY: The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- 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- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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Face Coverings

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Missed Class Due to Communicable Disease

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

***Very* Tentative Course Schedule:** (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Note: All classes will be "zoomed" during the regularly scheduled time throughout the semester.

Tuesday, Aug. 25

Introduction to Meisner Acting for the Camera
Joyous Object Presentations
Lecture/Activities: Meisner Principles

Tuesday, Sept. 1

Personal Spine Phrase Presentations
Lecture/Activities: Meisner Principles
Introduction to Monologues/*Spoon River Anthology*

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Personal Music Presentations
Lecture/Activities: Meisner Principles
Monologue Work (*Spoon River Anthology*)

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Monologue Work (*Spoon River Anthology*)
Introduction to Scene Work/Writing of Script

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Monologue Work (*Spoon River Anthology*)
Scene Work – Mechanical Readings

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Monologue Work (*Spoon River Anthology*)
Scene Work – Working Readings

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Monologue/*Spoon River Anthology* Showing 1
Scene Work – Working Readings and Provocative Statements
Due: Log 1

Due: Graduate Reflective Essay 1

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Tuesday, Oct. 13

Monologue/Spoon River Anthology Showing 2
Scene Work – Working Readings and the Key Facts

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Scene Work – Working Readings and the Spine Phrase

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Scene Work – Working Readings, Beat-Units, and the Doings

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Scene Work – Working Readings and Personalizing the Doings
Due: Log 2

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Scene Work – Working Readings and Introduction to Particularization

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Scene Work – Showing #1
Due: Graduate Reflective Essay 2

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Scene Work – Showing #2
Due: Log 3

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Final Self-Reflection Sessions
Due: Script Work

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Final Self-Reflection Sessions
Due: Graduate Oral Defenses (individually scheduled with the professor)