



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

THE 564.01B — Acting for TV and Film
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Aaron Adair, Ph.D.
Office Location: Online
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Mobile: 972-379-9480
Office Fax: 903-468-3250
University Email: aaron.adair@etamu.edu
Preferred Communication: Email
Response Time: < 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks

Bialy, Sharon. *How to Audition on Camera*. New York: Down East Books (2016). ISBN: 978-1684751433
Smith, Jr., Adam. *The Actor's Mirror: Reclaiming Realism in an Age of Simulation*. New York: Brownstone Books (2025). ISBN: 979-8218686048
Tucker, Patrick. *Secrets of Screen Acting (4th ed.)*. New York: Routledge (2023). ISBN: 978-1032356969

Optional Texts: None

Software Required: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This focuses on the development of skills necessary to create believable, camera-ready characters for television and film. Students will examine the fundamental differences between screen and stage acting, explore the technical demands of on-camera performance, and study practical approaches to auditioning, character analysis, and scene work in a digital media context. The course integrates synchronous class meetings with asynchronous online learning through Brightspace/D2L to create a rigorous and responsive learning environment.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish between the technical and artistic demands of stage acting versus on-camera performance for television and film, demonstrating camera awareness in all performance work.
2. Apply established screen acting techniques drawn from the required text(s) to create psychologically grounded, camera-appropriate characters.
3. Execute on-camera monologue performances that demonstrate believable behavior, physical economy, and effective use of the frame.

- Analyze scripts from television and film with an actor's lens, identifying objectives, obstacles, beats, and subtext as tools for character development.
- Develop and articulate a personal on-camera acting process through written reflection and class discussion, integrating multiple methodological perspectives.
- Demonstrate professional audition skills for on-camera contexts, including self-tape technique, marking, and adjustment to direction.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Reliable internet access
- Access to Brightspace/D2L LMS
- Device capable of recording video (smartphone, tablet, or webcam) for on-camera monologue submissions
- Ability to upload video files to Brightspace/D2L

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This hybrid course combines face-to-face class meetings with online coursework administered through Brightspace/D2L. Instructional strategies include:

- Assigned readings from required textbooks
- Lecture and demonstration (in-person and via Brightspace)
- Discussion board posts and peer responses
- In-person and on-camera scene and monologue work
- Group critique and feedback sessions
- Individual reflection and written analysis

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Attend all scheduled in-person class meetings and actively participate
- Log into Brightspace/D2L regularly to check announcements, assignments, and discussion boards
- Complete all readings before the week in which they are discussed
- Observe all due dates — late work may not be accepted without prior instructor approval
- Communicate proactively with the professor about any challenges or concerns
- Come to each class meeting prepared, warmed up, and ready to perform

GRADING

Final Grade Scale

A	900–1000 Points
B	800–899 Points
C	700–799 Points
D	600–699 Points
F	0–599 Points

Assessment Breakdown

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Course Readings (5 weeks × 20 pts each)	100	10%
Class Participation (5 weeks × 30 pts each)	150	15%
Discussion Board Posts (5 posts × 50 pts each)	250	25%
On-Camera Monologues (5 performances × 100 pts each)	500	50%
TOTAL	1000	100%

Assignment Descriptions

COURSE READINGS (100 points | 5 weeks × 20 pts)

Each week students are expected to complete the assigned readings from the required textbooks prior to class. Brief reading response questions or reading quizzes may be administered in Brightspace/D2L to confirm engagement with the material. Readings are the foundation for class discussion, discussion board posts, and performance work.

CLASS PARTICIPATION (150 points | 5 weeks × 30 pts)

Active, prepared participation is essential in a performance-based course. Students are evaluated each week on their engagement in class discussions, in-class exercises, peer critique, and responsiveness to direction. Consistent and substantive participation is expected at every class meeting.

DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS (250 points | 5 posts × 50 pts)

Each week students will contribute a substantive post (minimum 300 words) to the Brightspace/D2L discussion board. Posts should engage critically with the assigned readings and connect textual ideas to on-camera performance practice. Students are encouraged to respond to at least one peer post per week. Posts are due by Sunday at 11:59 PM each week.

ON-CAMERA MONOLOGUES (500 points | 5 performances × 100 pts)

Students will perform five on-camera monologues across the five weeks of the course — one per week — progressing from foundational screen technique to advanced character work. Monologues are selected by the student in consultation with the instructor and must be appropriate for television or film (contemporary, realistic, camera-appropriate material). Performances will take place during in-person class meetings. Self-tape recordings will be submitted to Brightspace/D2L as part of each weekly submission. Performances are evaluated on character believability, physical economy, camera awareness, preparation, and responsiveness to direction. Specific rubrics will be posted in Brightspace/D2L.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Learning Management System (LMS)

All course content, assignments, and communication will be managed through Brightspace/D2L. Students must have reliable access to the LMS throughout the course.

[LMS Platform Requirements](#)

[LMS Browser Support](#)

[Zoom Video Conferencing](#)

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 a backup PC at home or work, use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, or an ETAMU campus open computer lab.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Professor in Brightspace/D2L or by email.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778.

[Brightspace Support](#)

Interaction with Instructor

Students should expect a timely response to email questions (within 24 hours) and prompt grading and posting of assignments. Be sure to include your name in the body of every email as well as the assignment number you are referencing. Instructor feedback will be provided before the next assignment is due (within 7 days). The professor reserves the right to make adjustments to the syllabus and/or grading policy as needed. Students will be notified of any changes.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course-Specific Policies

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct in your Student Guide Handbook.)

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.

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.

[Student Guidebook](#)

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for information on how to interact with students in an online forum.

[Netiquette Guidelines](#)

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

[Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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:

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax: (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

[Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

[Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

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

EAST TEXAS A&M SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information visit:

<https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

COLLECTION OF DATA FOR INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

In order to measure the level of compliance with accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

All readings should be completed before the class meeting for that week. All online assignments (discussion board posts, video submissions) are due by Sunday at 11:59 PM of the listed week unless otherwise noted in Brightspace/D2L.

Week	Topic / Focus	Readings	Due This Week
Week 1	Introduction to Screen Acting Course overview & syllabus Stage vs. screen: key differences Introduction to camera technique	Tucker, Secrets of Screen Acting — Chapters 1–3 Bialy, How to Audition on Camera — Ch. 1	Discussion Board Post #1 Monologue #1 (foundational technique) Reading Response Quiz
Week 2	The Camera as Scene Partner Framing, proximity & the lens Physical economy & stillness Eye lines and marks	Tucker — Chapters 4–6 Bialy — Chapters 2–3 Smith, The Actor's Mirror — Ch. 1	Discussion Board Post #2 Monologue #2 (camera awareness) Reading Response Quiz
Week 3	Character & Realism on Screen Psychological truth for the camera Subtext and listening Multi-take technique	Tucker — Chapters 7–9 Smith — Chapters 2–4 Bialy — Chapter 4	Discussion Board Post #3 Monologue #3 (character development) Reading Response Quiz
Week 4	Auditioning for TV & Film Self-tape technique & production Cold reading strategies Adjusting to direction	Bialy — Chapters 5–8 Tucker — Chapters 10–11 Smith — Chapter 5	Discussion Board Post #4 Monologue #4 (audition context) Reading Response Quiz
Week 5	Synthesis & Advanced Performance Integrating technique with instinct Personal acting process Final performances & course wrap-up	Tucker — Chapters 12–14 Smith — Chapters 6–7 Bialy — Chapter 9 (Epilogue)	Discussion Board Post #5 Monologue #5 (final performance) Reading Response Quiz