Stephen F. Austin State University

Acting For The Camera

Spring 2016  THR 422-001  THR 422L-020
Instructor:  Brad Maule
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Office: Cinematography building 318 East Starr
Office Hours:  Call and make an appointment

Class meetings: Cinematography Bld.  318 East Starr Ave.

Monday:  12:00 – 12:50 pm
Wednesday:  11:00 – 12:50 pm.
Friday:  11:00 – 12:50 pm.

Course Description:  The process of acting in front of a camera for television and film production. This includes various styles of technique for all different genres of media. This is an acting class for Theatre students who want to translate their stage (acting) skill for the camera. This is not to change or challenge their craft, but to give the student flexibility for film and television.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre/film practitioner or scholar/critic. (A, F)

2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of theatre/film history and a variety of theatrical styles. (A, F)

3. The student will demonstrate collaborative and/or leadership competencies appropriate to participate or take a leadership role in an effective theatrical/film production. (A, F)

4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical/film creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships. (A, F)
5. The student will be able to form and articulate a critical analysis and evaluation of a work of theatre/film. (A)

6. The student will demonstrate intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatre/film specialization(s). (A)

7. The student will be able to use an understanding of educational psychology and appropriate organizational skills to create a positive and disciplined learning environment for students of theatre/film. (E)

8. The student will be able to complete and document a major project as a stage manager, as a designer or technician, or as an actor or director, demonstrating advanced competence in the student’s specialty. (F)

9. The student will be able to present an effective presentation appropriate to the student’s specialization. (F)

Key:
A = BA (liberal arts) program
E = BA with teacher certification (theatre education) program
F = BFA program

PLO’s for BA and BFA in Theatre supported in this course:

1. See above and amend theatre to include television and film.
2. See above and amend theatre to include television and film.
3. See above and amend theatre to include television and film.
8. See above and amend theatre to include television and film.
9. The student will show through performance on digital media advanced competence as an actor.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

SLO’s for BA and BFA in Theatre supported in this course:

When you successfully complete this course, you will be able to…

1. Analyze a television or film script in ways necessary to interpret the meaning and intention of the writer and give a performance in that spirit.
2. Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with other students in class to give a performance that masters insecurities and channels them in a positive way.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the process of acting. Learn about yourself from a casting person’s perspective and to be able to view yourself from a more objective viewpoint.
4. Learn the “business” of show business from headshots, resumes, acting classes, and unions, all the way to, “how to survive the first six months”.
5. And finally, how to find the “truth” of a scene.

Course Requirements:

1. **Perform five monologues or scenes from a film or television production.**
   A. FIRST SCENE/MONOLOGUE is to determine your type and skill level as a performer.
   B. SECOND SCENE/MONOLOGUE will be from a current sitcom (i.e. The Big Bang Theory).
   C. THIRD SCENE/MONOLOGUE will be from a current “filmed” television (i.e. NCIS).
   D. FOURTH SCENE/MONOLOGUE will be film/cable (i.e. True Detective).
   E. FINAL MONOLOGUE/SCENE

2. Write a (typed) analysis of FOUR of the scenes/monologues
performed.
This paper is to be turned in THE DAY OF performance.

3. One self-written monologue in class that is done over a thirty minute period in a stream of consciousness form without regard to topic, form, or spelling. You will read your self-written monologue in front of the class.

4. All scenes must be memorized for performance.

5. Active participation in class.
The student must be an active participant not only in performance, but also in viewing and critiquing other student’s work. Many students think class is about their work on camera, but there is equal if not more value in watching your fellow students perform.

GRADES will be given based on:

1. FIVE MONOLOGUES/SCENES PERFORMED
2. MEMORIZATION OF WORK
3. ANALYSIS OF MONOLOGUES (TYPED AND TURNED IN)
4. THE FINAL SCENE PERFORMED (INCLUDING ANALYSIS)
5. “STREAM OF CONSCIOUS” PAPER AND PERFORMANCE
6. ATTITUDE AND PARTICIPATION
7. ATTENDANCE (THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL LOWER GRADE BY ONE LETTER)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1)
submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly
the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained
from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an
author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Please copy and paste the following information regarding Withheld Grades into your
syllabus. Add additional information as needed to meet your departmental or course
needs.

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the
academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot
complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete
the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a
WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in
future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated
course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
Please copy and paste the following statement and place in your course syllabus.

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids,
students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human
Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the
semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the
accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a
timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to
http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.