

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
THEA 3371 –ADVANCED ACTING FOR THE CAMERA**

SPRING 2016

Tuesdays/Thursdays

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

FAB 205

Marjorie Scott, Assistant Professor of

Communication and Theatre

Office Phone: 432-837-8039

Email: mscott3@sulross.edu

Office Hours: MWF 1:00 – 2:00 pm

T/TH 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

Office: FAB 203A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class you will continue to hone the skills and craft necessary to be truthful and spontaneous on camera. Acting for the camera requires the same listening and emotional honesty as stage acting. However, the camera picks up every tiny detail.

In this class, you will further explore the techniques and necessary adjustments in acting styles to be a successful actor on camera. You will also learn the business of acting, including: auditioning, info about SAG-AFTRA, getting an agent, understanding the different markets within the industry, and creating your individual headshot and resume.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES *The graduating student will demonstrate:*
COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Knowledge of eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History.

Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

- 2) The ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance the ability to analyze a script.
- 3) The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.
- 4) The ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production.

Additionally, the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:

- 5) The ability to apply all approaches to the theatrical design and rendering of the design.
- 6) The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

Additionally, the student will be able to:

- 7) Describe the theater process and compose a functional definition of the theatre event.

- 8) Describe the close link between theatre and religion.
- 9) Name the basic responsibilities and roles of the playwright, director, actor, and designer in the theatre production
- 10) Have a basic understanding of the difference between tragedy, comedy, melodrama, farce, epic, and absurdist theater.
- 11) Describe the uniqueness of the theatre art.
- 12) Understand and describe the elements necessary to bring about a unified production.
- 13) Identify a variety of theater spaces.
- 14) Know the names and works associated with key figures in the theatre.
- 15) Demonstrate their understanding of acting, directing, playwriting, or design in the areas of set, sound, or makeup.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this class, students will:

- Perform dramatic and comedic scenes fully, honestly, and effectively on camera.
- Demonstrate knowledge of current industry standards in regard to headshots, resumes, acquiring representation, and proper audition etiquette.
- Analyze and evaluate screen acting for its formal qualities.
- Demonstrate advanced-level acting technique in front of the camera
- Demonstrate advanced-level mastery of technical skills (i.e. hitting your mark, eyelines, matching/continuity, etc.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Full participation in class exercises, shoots, and discussions. Everyone must help out during the shoots (boom operator, slate, etc.)
- 2) Three Scenes. You must be off-book, warmed up, emotionally full, and ready to shoot.
- 3) Speeches: Each actor will be given a scene wherein he/she must deliver a speech to another actor.
- 4) Commercial Audition and Cold Reading Exercise
- 5) You are responsible for all assigned reading and you must be prepared to discuss the content in class.
- 6) Final Shoot – This is your final “exam.” You will be given your scene a few days before the shoot. You will not rehearse with your scene partner. You will show up to “set” off-book, emotionally full, and ready to shoot.
- 7) You must provide constructive feedback on your classmates’ work. Observation and feedback are essential, as both will help you improve your work as an actor.

REQUIRED TEXT:

1. Weston, Judith, *Directing Actors: Creating Memorable Performances for Film & Television*, 1996, Michael Wiese Productions

RULES & EXPECTATIONS:

Late work will not be accepted.

Plagiarizing, cheating, or any other dishonest behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated. Rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook. This course will abide by these established policies. A student found to be engaging in these activities, will be penalized to the full extent of Sul Ross State University policy.

Please turn off all cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices upon entering class. If your cell phone goes off in class, you'll be required to turn it in to me for the duration of the class period.

Punctuality is essential in this business. In the industry, arriving *early* is arriving on time. In this class, two late arrivals (arriving after class has begun) will be counted as one absence.

COURSE EVALUATION

Assignments are valued as follows:

1) Personal Growth	20%
2) Two-Person Scenes (3)	30%
3) Speech	10%
4) Cold Reading/Audition Exercise	10%
5) Final Audition	15%
6) Preparedness/Participation/Attitude	15%

Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is **mandatory**. The work we're doing in this class is inherently collaborative. Your absences affect not only you but your classmates as well. So, show up! No more than *two* (2) absences are allowed. Each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one half letter grade. If you must miss a class for a school-related activity, the absence must be discussed (and arrangements made regarding coursework) **prior to the absence**. If you must miss a class for an emergency or illness, please contact me **by email or phone as soon as possible**. Six (6) absences will result in you being dropped from the course with a grade of "F" as per Sul Ross State University policy.

Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University 2012-2014 Course Catalogue:

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.

A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three-hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: [432-837-8203](tel:432-837-8203). Her email address is: mschwartz@sulross.edu

CLASS DATES: Assignments and Deadlines

Note that these dates and the details of each class are subject to change at the instructor's discretion

Class	Date	Topics and Assignments	Reading DUE
1	Jan 19	Review syllabus. Expected outcomes.	
2	Jan 21	Rehearse First Scenes	
3	Jan 26	Rehearse First Scenes (Continued)	
4	Jan 28	Shoot First Scenes	
5	Feb 2	Shoot First Scene (Continued)	

6	Feb 4	View/Discuss First Scenes	Weston: Intro & Ch. 1 & 2
7	Feb 9	Rehearse Second Scenes	
8	Feb 11	Rehearse Second Scenes	
9	Feb 16	Shoot Second Scenes	
10	Feb 18	Shoot Second Scenes	
11	Feb 23	View Second Scenes	Weston: Ch. 3 & 4
12	Feb 25	Cold Reading Exercise	
13	Mar 1	Cold Reading Exercise	
14	Mar 3	View Cold Readings	Weston: Ch. 6
15	Mar 8	The Business	
16	Mar 10	Audition Exercise	
17	Mar 15	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
18	Mar 17	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
19	Mar 22	Rehearse Speeches	
20	Mar 24	Rehearse Speeches	
21	Mar 29	Shoot Speeches	
22	Mar 31	Shoot Speeches	
23	Apr 5	View/Discuss Speeches	
24	Apr 7	The Business	
25	Apr 12	Rehearse Third Scenes	
26	Apr 14	Rehearse Third Scenes	
27	Apr 19	Shoot Third Scenes	
27	Apr 21	Shoot Third Scenes	
29	Apr 26	View Third Scenes/Get sides for final audition	

30 Apr 28 Final Audition

31 May 3 The Business

FINAL View Final Audition: Thursday, May 12th 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.