

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
THEA 5305 –ACTING FOR THE CAMERA**

FALL 2016

Day/Time: Arrange with Instructor
Graduate Independent Study
FAB 205

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Office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Acting for the camera requires the same listening and emotional honesty as stage acting. However, the camera picks up every tiny detail that no live audience could ever see.

In this class, you will 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, 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 effectively on camera.
- Demonstrate knowledge of current industry standards in regard to headshots, resumes, acquiring representation, and proper audition etiquette.
- Analyze and critique screen acting for its formal qualities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of television/film production terminology and appropriate etiquette while on-set.
- Develop beginner-level mastery of screen acting techniques (hitting your mark, eyelines, matching/continuity, etc.).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Full participation in class exercises, shoots, and discussions.
- 2) First Audition (one-hour drama)
- 3) One (1) multi-camera scene. You must be off-book. Scenes will be provided.
- 4) Two (2) single-camera scenes. You must be off-book. Scenes will be provided.
- 5) Commercial Audition
- 6) You are responsible for all assigned reading and you must be prepared to discuss the content in class.
- 7) Basic Video Project - Each of you are required to act in a minimum of ONE project in the Basic TV/Video Production class. You may participate in more than one if you wish. We will view the projects in class and you will be asked to discuss your experience as an actor on-set.
- 8) Final Audition – This is your final exam. You will be given sides and a call time two days prior to the audition. You must dress according to the breakdown description and bring a headshot/resume to the audition.
- 9) Each student will create and develop an individual, market-ready headshot and resume.

- 10) Students are required to observe fellow students as they rehearse and shoot their scenes. Observation is important, as it's another way in which we learn. You will also be required to submit written feedback regarding your classmates' scene work.

REQUIRED READING:

1. Barr, Tony. *Acting for the Camera* (Revised edition, 1997). Harper Paperbacks

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) First Audition	10%
2) Attendance	10%
3) Multi and Single Cam Scenes (3)	30%
4) Commercial Audition	10%
5) Final Audition	20%
6) Actor Analysis Paper	20%

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**. No more than *two* (2) absences are allowed. Each subsequent absence will lower your course grade by a third of a 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:

CLASS ATTENDANCE

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
1	TBD	Review syllabus. Discuss working in the industry. Assign scene for first audition.

- 2 TBD **First Audition** – You must print your name on the sign-in sheet outside of the classroom and wait until your name is called. You will audition one by one and your audition will be videotaped. Once you are finished auditioning, you're free to leave for the day.
- 3 TBD The Casting Process. Where do *you* fit into the marketplace? Review and discuss audition.
- 4 TBD Headshots & Resumés.
- 5 TBD Discuss Acting for the Camera Chapters 1-3. **Assign multi-camera scene.**
- 6 TBD View and discuss Michael Caine's *Acting in Film*.
- 7 TBD Discuss Acting for the Camera Chapters 4-5. Rehearse multi-camera scene.
- 8 TBD **Shoot multi-camera scenes (memorized).**
- 9 TBD View and discuss multi-camera scenes. **Assign single-camera scene.**
- 10 TBD Discuss Acting for the Camera Chapters 6-7. Rehearse single-camera scene.
- 11 TBD **Shoot single-camera scene.**
- 12 TBD View and discuss single-camera scene.
- 13 TBD Getting an Agent/Manager. **Assign second single-camera scene.**
- 14 TBD Discuss Acting for the Camera Chapters 8-9. Rehearse second single-camera scene.
- 15 TBD **Shoot second single-camera scene.**
- 16 TBD View second round of single-camera scenes.
- 17 TBD Discuss Acting for the Camera Chapters 10-12.
- 18 TBD Commercial Audition Exercise.
- 19 TBD **Shoot Commercial Audition.**
- 20 TBD View and discuss commercial audition.
- 21 TBD Discuss Acting for the Camera Chapters 13-14.
- 22 TBD Prepare for Final Audition. Discuss Acting for the Camera Chapter 24.

FINAL

Final Audition: Date/Time to be arranged.