

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA (MFA)

TPP 6266

Spring 2017

Meeting Times and Location: TR 10:40am-12:35pm, CON G14

Credits: 2

Professor Tim Altmeyer

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232 McGuire Pavilion

Office Hours: MWF 9-10am or by appointment

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA: Designed for students with serious intent on pursuing professional careers in the field, the curriculum emphasizes cognition through actual doing, providing an opportunity for the student to understand hands-on how she may better work as a storyteller within the specific constraints of the film/television medium. In addition, the class helps to prepare the actor to procure work in the industry through discussions of and explorations focused on the business aspects of being a professional actor.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

- The student develops a familiar, amicable relationship with the camera
- The student demonstrates an awareness of how the camera perceives the individual
- The student develops skills and a process specifically geared to on-camera storytelling, to enhance the quality of work in terms of economy, size, truth, spontaneity, and immediacy
- The student demonstrates a camera vocabulary and a working knowledge of production aspects specific to the medium.
- The student develops methods for the actor to project the best representation of himself in an on-camera audition scenario
- The student demonstrates a more confident understanding of the primary facets of the business of pursuing and securing employment as an actor in the context of a major market

TEXT:

Acting in Film (Paperback) by Michael Caine (Applause Original, 1997, ISBN: 1-55783-277-3)

A Practical Handbook for the Actor (Paperback) by Melissa Bruder et al (Vintage Original, 1986, ISBN: 0-394-74412-8)

Acting Professionally (Paperback) by Robert Cohen & James Calleri (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, ISBN: 978-0-230-21724-9)

Secrets from the Casting Couch (Paperback) by Nancy Bishop (Methuen Drama, 2009, ISBN: 978-1-408-11327-1)

CRITICAL DATES:

1/5	Intro/Monologue
1/17	Scene 1
1/24	Scene 2
2/7	Close up
2/17	Professional Actor Seminar
2/28	Pilot Audition
3/14	Commercials
3/28	Scene 3
4/4	Close up #2
4/11	Day One Revisited
4/13	Terms Quiz/Evaluation Day/Final Thoughts

COURSE OUTLINE:

- WEEK 1 NOT ALL ACTING IS CREATED EQUAL (Discussion of Film Acting)
- WEEK 2-4 FROM A DISTANCE (Medium-shot scene work)
- WEEK 6-7 AT CLOSE RANGE (Close-ups)
- WEEK 8-13 MONKEY BUSINESS (Actor business seminar/Television & commercial auditioning)
- WEEK 14-16 USE WHAT YOU KNOW (Application)

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Performance 70%
Written Work/Participation 30%
Total 100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	100-94	4.0
A-	93-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-84	3.00
B-	83-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-74	2.00
C- *	73-70	1.67
D+	69-67	1.33
D	66-64	1.00
D-	63-60	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	59-0	0.00

- Please note that a C- is no longer an acceptable grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major.

UF grading policy website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculatinggpa>

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING BEHAVIOR/DEMEANOR: One goes to a good school to get a good education and, in turn, to get a leg up in her profession. The professional workplace demands disciplined work and behavior. Otherwise, you get fired and create a very bad reputation for yourself. Bad reputations get around. A similar work ethic is required of you in this class, as an advanced-level college student, a responsible citizen and future professional. Assignments will be completed in a timely, thorough fashion. They will meet a level of sophistication fitting for advanced students of the theatre. Also: **Attendance is mandatory.** (See *Attendance Policy*.) To learn to act, you must act. To act, you must be here. Your learning comes in the shared experience. Your participation has as much to do with others' growth as your own. Your absence is costly to everyone. The professional theatre does not make allowances for illness. Actors do not have the luxury of getting sick. Exercise. Eat healthfully. Drink lots of water. Don't smoke. Your body and your breath are your greatest tools as an actor. Protect them. Please note: **Attendance is not the same as participation.** You are expected to be not only physically present, but mentally. You will be expected to

demonstrate your understanding of class concepts by the comments and criticisms you make. Speak thoughtfully and often.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: In an attempt to create a disciplined environment that simulates the demands of the actor's work place, I will enforce an attendance policy that allows little room for you to exert any personal control over the business of being an actor. The callback, the shoot, and the evening's performance do not wait for your good health or your good night's sleep. Sometimes you must work tired or work sick. Sometimes you fake it. Sometimes it is during these times that you do your best work (being too tired to put energy into all your old bad habits.) In that way, I allow just two unexcused absence. You may have numerous excused absences (within university strictures), but they are limited to medical illness documented by a physician, family emergency documented by the appropriate person, religious holidays (please give notice in the first 2 weeks of the semester) and official excuses from school administration. Each additional unexcused absence will result in the lowering of 1.5% points from your final grade. In the same way, tardiness will also be penalized. It has no place in rehearsal, at auditions, at your early morning call on set for a shoot or at half-hour in the theatre, and it has no place in the classroom. However, having suffered myself at the hands of an inconsistent mass transit system en route to the theater and the casting office, I will excuse two late arrivals to class. Each additional two late shows will result in one absence and another 1.5% deduction from your final score. Simply put: Do the math, show up for class, and develop a discipline that will keep you working.

POLICIES REGARDING MAKE-UP WORK AND LATE WORK:

Excused absences do not make one exempt from class obligations. Work must be made up in a timely fashion, at the discretion of the instructor, typically in the week follow the student's return to class. Unexcused late work will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor, with penalties increasing relative to lateness.

UF HONESTY POLICY: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold both ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: ***On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.***

UNAUTHORIZED RECORDINGS: A student shall not without express authorization from the faculty member and, if required by law, from other participants, make or receive any recording, including but not limited to audio and video recordings, of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting, or meeting with a faculty member.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:

UF Counseling Center

3190 Radio Rd.

P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida

Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

352-392-1575

www.counsel.ufl.edu