

TPP 2260 - Acting for the Camera
10:40 a.m. – 12:35 p.m. T,R
Fall 2019

Instructor: Ryan Hope Travis

Office Hours: 1:00pm-3:00pm Tues./Wed. @ McCarty C, Room 306

Phone: 352-273-0500

Email: rtravis@arts.ufl.edu

Course Description:

Acting for the Camera introduces students to the principles and techniques of various performance methods in acting for television and motion pictures. The course consists of on camera performance, scene creation and script analysis. On camera physical and vocal approaches are also explored. Students will develop their own creative process, using preparation methods introduced in class as a spring board.

Course Objective:

- A) To establish a common vocabulary that serves as a foundation for on camera acting.
- B) To explore and learn techniques required to act in the medium of film, commercial and television.
- C) To develop in the student an understanding of single camera work with particular focus on the discipline required for a compelling on camera performance.
- D) To deconstruct a grounded on camera performance and apply those techniques in practice.

Required Text:

Acting in Film, Caine, Michael. (Applause, 1990, ISBN: 0-936839-86-4)

Suggested Reading:

Save the Cat, Snyder, Blake. (MWP, 2005, ISBN: 1-932907-00-9)

Class Attendance:

This is a performance class, therefore, attendance is MANDATORY. You must be present to perform. If you miss class, the work cannot be made up. We learn from each other—your presence, whether or not a “performance” is involved that day, is important to the collective learning process.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you come in after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor after class that you came in late. With that said, **you are allowed 1 unexcused absence and 1 tardy.**

2 tardies = 1 unexcused absence

1 Unexcused absence = 30 points from your final grade

Late Assignment Policy:

**** THERE ARE NO MAKE UP DAYS FOR WORKSHOPS OR PERFORMANCE DAYS**** If you miss your *assigned* workshop or performance day, you forfeit the points for that day. Only in extreme cases will scenes be rescheduled.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Grading:

Students may have varying degrees of “talent” and experience in acting. Therefore, students will not be graded solely on the basis of the skills and talents they bring to the class. Consideration will be given to the student’s improvement and effort that are demonstrated.

Participation is a key factor in grading. Criteria for this grade include attentiveness, participation in and/or leadership of exercises, willingness to participate in class discussions, etc... in general, the TIME, EFFORT, and COMMITMENT the student displays toward this class.

Obviously, assignments must be *complete* in order to receive *complete* points. Each assignment will be awarded a specific point value. Points will be tallied at the end of the semester to determine the student’s final grade.

300-270	A
255-269	B+
240-254	B
225-239	C+
210-224	C
195-209	D+
180-194	D
193 and below	E

Self-tape Audition	20 pts.
Quizzes	10 pts ea. (60 pts total)
Monologue	35 pts
Scene 1	30 pts
Scene 2	35 pts
Final Scene	50 pts
Participation	70 pts
TOTAL POINTS = 300	

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please visit: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/.

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner while pursuing their studies. They are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy, which defines an academic honesty offense as “the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage.” In the context of this course, this includes conducting original research and properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in the writing reaction papers, journals, and self-analysis paper. Submitting work that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade. For more information on the UF Academic Honor Code visit: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Course Fees:

Information about course fees can be found at <https://one.ufl.edu/soc/2188>.

Final Business:

Acting is *ACTION*. Acting is not about attitude, or being clever. It's not about your ability to conjure up or manufacture a feeling or emotion. Acting is about the *TASK*. To get forgiveness, to get them to love you, etc., etc., etc. Be deliberate. Be direct. Be fearless. Learning how to do so is the function of this class.

This syllabus is a good approximation of what this course will be like this semester. The instructor reserves the right to make reasonable additions or subtractions to the syllabus or to allow more or less time for certain sections based on how the work progresses this semester.

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

This timetable is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

WEEK 1:

Orientation, syllabus
Introduction to the camera

WEEK 2:

Individual Inventory: Body Awareness and Vocal Awareness
Monologues

WEEK 3:

(Ongoing assignment for the semester: Begin *Acting in Film*. I will be checking-in with your progress on this reading as the semester continues, and applying your knowledge from this text to in-class work and exercises.)

Read pages 1-20 in the Caine book (Introduction/Movie Acting)
Exercises in exploring character and "discovering the text"

WEEK 4:

Audition Workshop/ The Business of Acting
Self-tape Auditions

WEEK 5:

READ pages 21-34 in the Caine book (Preparation)
Feedback and exploration of self-tapes

WEEK 6:

READ pages 34-55 in the Caine book (On Location)
Preparing a Role/Rehearsing/Choices

WEEK 7:

Introduction of Scene Study

WEEK 8:

READ pages 59-68 in the Caine book (The Take)
Scene performances

WEEK 9:

Feedback on scenes and continuing explorations
Raising the stakes: continuing the development of your skills

WEEK 10:

READ 68-84 in Caine book (The Art of Spontaneity)
Scene 2 performance

WEEK 11:

Feedback and further exploration
Scene 2

WEEK 12:

Script Development – Brainstorm session for final scenes
Script analysis and workshop for written scenes

WEEK 13:

Workshop scripts for final scenes
Feedback and explorations of material

WEEK 14:

Film final scenes

WEEK 15:

Film final scenes

WEEK 16:

Final Scene Presentations – Last Day of Class