

Professional Actor Seminar (THE6905)/HYBRID—Altmeyer, Fall 2020

PROFESSIONAL ACTOR SEMINAR

THE6905

Fall 2020

Meeting Times and Location: TR 8:30-10:40, Zoom or CON G005 (McGuire Black Box)

Credits: 3

Professor Tim Altmeyer

352.273.0503

taltmeyer@ufl.edu

232 McGuire Pavilion

Office Hours: Email for an appointment

PROFESSIONAL ACTOR SEMINAR: Designed for students with serious intent on pursuing professional careers in the field, the course explores the primary facets of the business of being an actor in the context of a major entertainment market including (but not limited to) relevant philosophical aspects, marketing and promotion, professional representation, auditioning and the development of an effective practical skill set to procure and secure employment and sustain a life-long career in the industry.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

- The student acquires a working knowledge of the elements of career building as they pertain to the professional actor.
- The student develops a working knowledge of the audition process as it applies to general auditions, prepared scenes, cold readings, on-camera auditions, self-taping, improvisation and interviews to strengthen performance within specific audition events.
- The student develops a vocabulary and an extensive working knowledge of concepts with which to build and sustain a career as an actor.
- The student develops an understanding of current professional demands and expectations.
- The student demonstrates the capacity to think critically and articulately about the audition process and career development.

TEXT:

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) [Recommended but not required]

CRITICAL DATES (Subject to Change):

9/1	Introduction
9/3	“Facing Starvation”
9/10	Headshots, Resumes, Reels and the Web
9/17	Quiz #1
9/20	EPA/General Auditions
9/24	Agents, Managers and Casting Directors
10/5	Prepared Scene Audition
10/13	Quiz #2
10/20	TV/Film Auditions
10/29	Commercial Auditions
11/17	Roundtables
12/3	Quiz #3
12/7	Final Project

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COURSE OUTLINE:

WEEK 1-3 CAREER BASICS
WEEK 4-16 AUDITION STRATEGIES AND PRACTICAL CONCERNS OF THE ACTOR

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Performance 50%
Written Work/Quizzes/Participation 30%
Final 20%
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.

Criteria by which performance work will be assessed:

- Energy & Commitment
- Authority
- Devotion to Course Concepts
- Openness to Exploration

Criteria by which written work will be assessed:

- Content (presentation, support, detail, development, and evidence of course concept knowledge)
- Quality of Writing (grammar, spelling, syntax and punctuation)

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**

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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.

Criteria by which participation will be assessed:

- Frequency of Participation
- Quality of Comments
- Listening Skills
- Behavior

ATTENDANCE POLICY: In an attempt to create a disciplined environment that simulates the demands of the actor's workplace, I typically 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. However, given the hybrid format of this course and the pandemic during which this course is being taught, there are special instructions that students must abide regarding attendance:

Students are expected to stay home and seek medical help for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill). The culture of hiding illness or the "show must go on" mentality must be avoided. Students who are medically required to quarantine will have documentation from a medical provider. Students who self-quarantine must communicate with the instructor and "attend" courses remotely synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor.

Students who elect to enroll in a hybrid course are expected to participate in in-person instruction. If a student is uncomfortable attending in-person, the student should elect courses that are delivered online only and plan to take the hybrid or face-to-face course in a future semester. In the case that the student does not have the option to take the class at a later time (i.e. a graduating senior), the student must make arrangements with the instructor to "attend" all class meetings synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor.

*Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time. **The first "unexcused" absence will result in a half letter grade (5%) from the final grade.** All additional "unexcused" absences will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade. To be considered "excused" an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation.*

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- *Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature*
- *Serious family emergencies*
- *Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)*
- *Military obligation*
- *Severe weather conditions (e.g., hurricane-related events)*
- *Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate*
- *Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)*

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To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course's instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student's continued participation in the course.

Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 2 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student's 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. **I will excuse one late arrival to class.** Each additional late shows will result in a 5% deduction from your final score. Simply put: Do the math, show up for class, and develop a discipline that will keep you working in the profession.

CANVAS AND ZOOM: Much of the administration of this course will be done via Canvas unless specified otherwise. Due to concerns related to COVID-19, all/most of this course's class meetings will be held online. Each class, students will join a Zoom session (Canvas - Zoom Conferences) and participate in live instruction unless specified otherwise.

Join Zoom URL:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95203097230>

Meeting ID: 952 0309 7230

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,95203097230#,,,,,0#,,406468# US (New York)

+13017158592,,95203097230#,,,,,0#,,406468# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 952 0309 7230

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 with penalties increasing relative to lateness; anything past deadline is at least 1 day late:

Days Penalty

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1	3 points
2	5 points
3	7 points
4	10 points
5	12 points
6	15 points
7	20 points
8 +	40 points

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.

Gainesville, FL 32611-2662

352-392-1575

www.counsel.ufl.edu