

COURSE SYLLABUS
 THR 431.01
 ACTING FOR THE CAMERA
 3 CREDIT HOURS
 SPRING 2008
 UTC 151, MWF 11:00 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Maureen V. McIntyre
 OFFICE: UTC 114
 OFFICE HOURS: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
 (Please make appointments, whenever possible, at least a day ahead.)

OFFICE PHONE: (936)294-1337 or secretary 294-1329
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An intensive and practical study of the special techniques of acting for film and television as well as study of methods for surviving in the business. Scenes will be taped in class and outside of class. Extensive scene work will be done on-camera and critiqued. Prerequisite: Acting I or consent of the instructor.

SUPPLIES: You will need access to a DVD or video camera if you wish to shoot scenes outside the UTC. If shooting inside the UTC, it is often possible to use a departmental camera. Many props may be borrowed from the departmental prop area or you may use props from your home. In addition, you will need copies of two film scripts to be used for class scenes to be chosen by the student with approval from the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should:

- Have a solid beginning methodology for basic techniques of acting for camera
- Be familiar with headshots
- Know how to write a resume and methods of acquiring an agent
- Understand basic terminology of the film and television industry
- Understand the structure and personnel on an average “shoot”
- Understand the basics of acting in commercials

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: ACTION! By Robert Benadetti

COURSE PERFORMANCE

ASSIGNMENTS:

On Camera Work:

- 1 (one-minute or less) improvised solo “true” story to be shot in class
- 1 (one to two minute) monologue from a TV or film script to be shot outside of class
- 1 (one to two page) film or TV duet script – to be memorized and shot onsite at the UTC
- 1 or 2 (three to four minute) film or TV duet to be shot outside of class

1 (30 second or 45 second) commercial to be shot outside of class

EXAMS:

- One major exam on film terminology in mix and match format
- Three exams on the textbook in a format combining true/false and short essays (Two exams will be given in class, and one will be a “take home” exam.) Exams missed without a written excuse signed by medical or university personnel or without proof of family emergency will result in a **0** on the exam. Nature of proof of family emergency must be negotiated with the professor.

PLAY ATTENDANCE:

Students are required to attend three University Theatre productions or full-run rehearsals during the semester. Failure to do so will result in a 2 point cut in the overall semester grade for each production missed. One complimentary ticket will be available to each student for each of the plays in the season bill.

GRADING:

Naturally in a performance-oriented course, grading is somewhat subjective because a value judgment must be made. Before each assignment, the primary points to be graded will be reviewed. The grading scale is “A”=90-100; “B”=80-89; “C”=70-79; “D”=60-69; “F” is 59 or below. Extra credit, up to 10 points on an assignment, may be obtained by performing in an extra scene with a classmate who has lost his/her partner on a scheduled scene. Students will be graded on written work, improvement in acting quality over the semester, chemistry in duet acting and the specifics of each assignment. It is mandatory that students read/view the entire scripts from which scenes filmed out of class are taken. Failure to do so may result in a **20 point cut** in the assignment grade!! All graded work counts as one grade for each assignment, except the grades on textbook chapter exams which will be combined into a single grade for the semester. In addition, excessive absences will negatively impact grades. No grades are posted online until final grades are posted. See “Attendance,” “Play Attendance” and “Exams” re grading as well.

ATTENDANCE:

After 4 absences in an M-day class or 3 absences in a T-day class any additional non-school related absences will cause a 2 point cut (each) in the overall semester grade. An unexcused absence on the day an assignment is due means the absent student will receive a **0** if the assignment is an in-class shoot. If a video or DVD of the student’s work is due, but not turned in and the student has an unexcused absence, the student will receive a **0**. If the video is turned in, but the student is absent for in-class critique and viewing without an excuse, the absent student will lose **10 points** off the grade as penalty. Validated doctor’s excuses are mandatory for excused absences due to illness. Proof of absence due to family emergency may be necessary if the absence is to be excused. Should a postponement be allowed for an in-class shoot, no shoot may be postponed twice. Any makeup work should be done within 4 class days after the student returns to school. No makeup work will be done during finals week. A student planning to be absent for a religious holy day not on the University calendar must complete any assignments within 6 class days after the absence and must notify the instructor in advance of the absence to schedule makeup work.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against any student accused of any form of academic dishonesty. In THR431, in particular, cheating on exams, failure to read entire scripts from which scenes are taken for performance, are of particular concern and will result in severe grade penalties. Cheating on an exam will result in a **0** on the exam.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

University policy states that students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment conducive to learning. Please turn off or mute cellular phones/pager. Students are prohibited from eating and drinking in class (except in scenes), using tobacco products, use of offensive language (except in scenes,) reading newspapers, etc., sleeping, talking while the professor is lecturing or others are performing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave the class or being reported to the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary action. **Gentlemen, please remove your hats/caps.**

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

It is the policy of Sam Houston state University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 294-1720.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Students must be excused for travel for observance of a religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. Missed assignments should be made up within 4 class days after returning.

VISITORS:

Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom and have permission of the instructor to remain. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. Visitor must not present a disruption to the class.

Be PREPARED and PASSIONATE about your CLASSWORK!