**ACTING III - ACTING FOR THE CAMERA**

**FALL 2014 – THEA 3308-001**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 – 12:20**

**Studio 143**

**Instructor:** Julienne Greer, Ph.D., AEA, SAG/AFTRA

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**Description of Course Content:** This is an advanced acting course to acquire film and video performance technique. Required prerequisites: 1303, 1307, and 2352; and permission of faculty. Talent, skill, acting technique, and professionalism will be graded at an advanced level.

**Note:** Course syllabus, course requirements, assignments, and projects are subject to change and review by the instructor depending on instructor’s evaluation of class progress and comprehension of course material.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. To help you learn to apply your acting talents and skills to the specific needs of film and video performance.
2. To be able to identify the terminology and language in principles of acting for the camera.
3. To be able to identify and obtain resources for gaining employment as an actor on camera.
4. To work collaboratively with peers as scene partners.
5. To acquaint you with the rigors and realities of a career in film/video and commercial acting work.
6. To teach you about the unique dynamics of the actor-camera relationship and to help you develop an understanding of how the actor functions in a production setting.
7. To become acquainted with basic commercial, film, and television performance genres and types and to apply those genres to yourself as a working professional.
8. To discuss, critique, and analyze scene and monologue work and be able to offer constructive criticism for yourself and others.

**Recommended Course Materials:**

*99 Film Scenes for Actors* – Angela Nicholas.

*Acting for the Camera* – Tony Barr, revised edition.

*Playing to the Camera*: *Film Actors Discuss Their Craft.* Edited by Bert Cardullo, et. al.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:** Students will be required to memorize, rehearse, and perform monologue(s) and scene(s) with an advanced level of performance capability. Students will work collaboratively on a final performance project.

Attendance Policy: This course has a **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE POLICY.** For the successful completion of this course, all elements of this **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE POLICY** must be fully observed. This **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE POLICY** is as follows:

Ø  A student is allowed **three** (3) absences without grade point deductions. **Every absence after the third absence will result in the deduction of one full letter grade from the student’s final semester grade;** the **ONLY** standard exception to this policy is when a student can provide an **official** excuse from a doctor, with full contact information for the doctor's office, for the specific absence which is over and above the three allotted absences. (See your student health center for a medical excuse if you cannot visit your regular doctor).

Ø  Three (3) tardy events **total**, of **any** length of time whatsoever, will equal one absence. Being tardy to a Major Assignment or Exam (or the syllabus equivalent of a Major Assignment or Exam) may result in a grade of zero unless the student provides an **official** excuse from a doctor, with full contact information for the doctor's office, which clearly indicates that a medical emergency restricted the student from prompt attendance to, the completion of, or the turning in of a Major Assignment or Exam at the specified due date/time. Being tardy is defined as 10 minutes after the official class start.

Ø  **THE SIGN-IN ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR THIS COURSE WILL BE POSTED PROMPTLY AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF EACH CLASS AND REMOVED AT 10 MINUTES PAST THE OFFICIAL CLASS START. THE TARDY SHEET WILL BE POSTED THE ENTIRE CLASS. Students who arrive to class tardy have the sole responsibility to sign the TARDY sheet. If a student does not sign the sign the TARDY sheet they are counted ABSENT. Sign-in only for YOURSELF; the instructor WILL file a grievance with the university if any student signs in for another student.**

Ø  At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each and every faculty member is **free** to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. **As the instructor of this section, I have ABSOLUTELY chosen to take attendance and all elements cited in this Required Attendance Policy are absolutely crucial to student success in this course.**

**REQUIREMENTS**

* Read recommended texts.
* Watch film/television/commercials with a critical eye.
* Rehearse, memorize, and research scenes/monologues outside of class. You must schedule work and other coursework appropriately in order to prepare effectively.
* Bring photocopies of monologues/scenes to class including an instructor copy.
* Come to class and participate fully.
* Be prepared for all class activities. Wear appropriate dress for free movement and exercises.
* Failure to attempt any of the required assignments shall result in a failing grade in the course.
* You are required to be at the final exam during the scheduled final exam time.

**GRADING:**

Character Analysis (4) 25 Points Each 100 Points

Performance (3) 50 Points Each 150 Points

*A performance rubric will be handed out in class.*

Final Exam Performance 50 Points 50 Points

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS 300 POINTS**

[Scale: 300-270 pts. =A, 269-240 pts. = B, 239-210 pts. = C, 209-180 pts. = D, 179 or below= F]

* This is an advanced, senior-level acting course and performances, technical skills, acting technique, and professionalism at all times will be graded at an advanced level.
* A majority of your grade is in collaborative scene work. You must work professionally with each other at all times. Being late or not showing up for outside rehearsals is unacceptable and will affect your grade.
* If a student does not perform a required scene or does not attempt a required assignment, the student will receive a failing grade for the entire course.
* There are no extra credit assignments for this course.
* Incomplete grades are not given in this course.
* Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.
* Grade grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

You are expected to be disciplined in your work; meet all assignments on time; take notes on scene critiques; practice outside of class – **this is your homework**; use class rehearsal time wisely, seek help and further explanation from the instructor if needed; and, make interesting and informed choices on camera.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Grade Grievances**: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Writing Center.** **:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit [https://uta.mywconline.com/](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/luket%40exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=jqplelmmw0KcvkWv1pRv_rHS8ofUUtFIXl_CWZTLffEmCPyZf3x4ncUbBmD9p3gSPROCbhSJj7U.&URL=https%3a%2f%2futa.mywconline.com%2f" \t "_blank) to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS ATTENDANCE/PRODUCTION DUTY POLICY:**Students who fail to meet class attendance requirements may be removed from acting, directing, design, stage management, and/or other major production positions for the current semester's productions at the discretion of the department chair. (Refer to the Theatre Arts Student Handbook for all updated policies.)

**CONFERENCES/AUDITIONS:** Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and auditions. However, students are expected to complete assigned coursework in a timely manner and to notify instructors prior to their absence. Such notification must be in writing. At the discretion of each instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, students are advised to consult with their instructors prior to engaging in such activities.

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

For non-emergencies, contact the UTA PD at 817-272-3381.

**Course Schedule
Course Schedule for Acting III – Acting for the Camera**

**Week 1**: Aug. 21: Syllabus, Introduction.

**Week 2**: Aug. 26: Exercises – Image Day.

Aug. 28: Image Day. Lecture on commercial work. Select 30 second or 1-min commercial. No-camera rehearsal of commercials.

**Week 3:** Sept. 2: Lecture. No-camera rehearsal of commercials. Commercial exercises.

Sept. 4: On-camera rehearsal. Rehearsal of commercial copy and cold readings.

**Week 4:** Sept. 9: Cold-reading mock audition for commercial. Critique playback.

Sept. 11: Critique playback. Discuss monologue selection/preparation/character analysis. **HOMEWORK – select 1-min+ monologue (Film/TV) for class, Tues. Sept. 16th**, **hard copy. Bring character analysis of monologue. Sign-up for Monologue 1.**

**Week 5:** Sept. 16: **CHARACTER ANALYSIS DUE Monologue 1. On-camera rehearsal prep for Monologue 1.**

Sept. 18: On-camera monologue graded work. Monologue 1.

**Week 6:** Sept. 23: On-camera monologue graded work. Monologue 1.

 Sept. 25: On-camera monologue graded work. Monologue 1.

**Week 7:** Sept. 30: Playback Monologue 1.

Oct. 2: Playback Monologue 1. **HOMEWORK – select 3-5-min+ scene (Film/TV) for class, Oct. 7**, **hard copy. Prepare character analysis of scene. Sign-up for Scene 1.**

**Week 8:** Oct. 7: **CHARACTER ANALYSIS DUE Scene 1. On-camera rehearsal prep for Scene 1.**

Oct. 9: On-camera scene graded work. Scene 1.

**Week 9:** Oct. 14: On-camera scene graded work. Scene 1.

Oct. 16: On-camera scene graded work. Scene 1.

**Week 10:** Oct. 21: Playback Scene 1.

 Oct. 23: Playback Scene 1. **HOMEWORK – select 3-5-min+ scene (Film/TV) for class, Oct. 28th**, **hard copy. Prepare character analysis of scene. Sign-up for Scene 2.**

**Week 11:** Oct. 28: **CHARACTER ANALYSIS DUE Scene 2. On-camera rehearsal prep for Scene 2.**

Oct. 30: On-camera scene graded work. Scene 2.

**Week 12:** Nov. 4: On-camera scene graded work. Scene 2.

Nov. 6: On-camera scene graded work. Scene 2.

**Week 13:** Nov. 11: Playback Scene 2.

Nov. 13: Playback Scene 2. **HOMEWORK – select 3-5-min+ scene or 1-min+ monologue for final exam project. Bring a hard copy. Prepare character analysis of scene. Sign-up for Final exam shoot**.

**Week 14**: Nov. 18: Lecture collaborative work with final project. Reel. Storyboard. Shot sequence. Editing.

Nov. 20: Lecture collaborative work with final project. Reel. Storyboard. Shot sequence. Editing.

**Week 15:** Nov. 25: Shoot final projects. Edit final projects

**Week 16**: Dec. 2: **CHARACTER ANALYSIS DUE FINAL PROJECT.** Shoot final projects. Edit final projects.

**Final Exam: Tues., Dec. 9th 11:00 – 1:30 p.m.**