THEATRE 278: ACTING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION
FALL 2014
INSTRUCTOR: Elise Forier Edie
CLASS HOURS: M 6:45-10pm (HLRC 115)
OFFICE HOURS: M 4-6:00pm, TR 11-12:30pm (FA 102)
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WELCOME
This semester, you will work on understanding the craft of acting for the camera. You will develop
your acting technique as you master a vocabulary and basic skill set needed for on camera
acting. Your involvement in performing and analyzing scene work in class will build critical
thinking skills, an understanding of human emotions, and motivations as expressed through a
variety of scripts. You will also learn and practice the fundamentals of working on a TV/film set
including hitting marks, targeting, and physical positioning for the camera. The goal is for you to
become a better actor, and develop a greater appreciation for the actor’s craft by the end of this
course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The basic fundamentals of acting for the camera are explored.
Demonstration, exercises and improvisations are used to practice the techniques. Scenes are
practiced, taped and critiqued.

TEXTBOOK
Acting for the Camera
Tony Barr

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES
  Students demonstrate the basic fundamentals of acting for the camera:
  Talking and listening, basic preparation and script analysis, audition protocol
  Students demonstrate fluidity and familiarity with basic cinema terms, such as mark,
boom, dolly, mixer, gaffer, slate, prop, shot
  Students practice critical thinking by commenting and evaluating on their work and
others, both in written form and oral form
  Students practice rasaboxes techniques for emotional preparation
  Students explore and perform a variety of texts, including television, film and commercial
scripts

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES
  Critical Thinking: Evaluation of successful on-camera performances. Analyze positive and
negative aspects of a scene and group discussion
  Communication: Create effective, compelling acting scenes in collaboration with
classmates that are videotaped, reviewed and analyzed.
  Self-awareness/Interpersonal Skills: Apply self-awareness strategies as students review
and critique their videotaped performances. Prepare scenes and participate in exercises and
improvisations with a variety of students from diverse backgrounds.
  Technical Competence: Use competent technique in on camera performance. Distinguish
between the demands of stage and film required of an actor, and utilize camera specific
techniques.
  Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them
in the collaborative art form of acting.
  Ethics: Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity,
honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.
  Aesthetics: Use multiple approaches to produce creative, artistically satisfying acting
performances.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Scene work and exercises
This is a performance based class and a majority of your grade will be based on your participation in exercises and scenes that will be rehearsed, then provided with instruction and feedback regarding on camera acting technique. Grade will be based on improvement, proficiency, and willingness to participate. Scenes will be regularly taped and played back to provide feedback. There will also be some lecture and demonstration. Scene projects include:
- Five to ten line scene for type
- Highly emotional scene
- Partner scene
- Cold reading

Written self evaluations
Each student must complete a written, typed self evaluation for ALL performance projects, which must be turned in the week AFTER the final performance. (Format provided by instructor)

Scene Analysis
For TWO of the performance projects, students are required to do analysis for Facts, Conditions and Preparation. These typed analyses must be turned in on the day of performance, before performing. (Format provided by the instructor)

Quiz
At the end of the semester on terms and vocabulary in your book

Late Assignments
Each student is allowed ONE late written assignment. It must be turned in by the next class meeting to receive credit and the grade will be reduced by one letter grade. DO NOT e-mail me your written assignments. They will not be accepted. Other late assignments will not be accepted.

NOTE: There are NO late performance assignments. If you miss a performance assignment, please see the instructor as soon as possible about possible make up work

Attendance
Because class discussions and scene work are an integral part of this course, attendance is mandatory. Up to 3 absences are allowed. After that, you could be dropped. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Excessive absenteeism will lower your grade, as well as walking in and out of class. 3 tardies = 1 absence.

Walking In and Out of Class
When you arrive to class, make sure you have used the restroom, had a chance to eat, checked your messages, etc. Walking in and out is rude and disruptive. If you need to leave early, or have some other problem, you need to notify me in advance.

Preparedness
You are expected to arrive on time. You will come to each class session prepared having rehearsed scenes, made an attempt at memorization, and done required reading and writing assignments.

Cell Phones, iPods, etc.
Turn them off and put them away when class begins! Although it may not seem possible, you can survive without talking and texting on your cell phone, or listening to your iPod. Talking and texting on cell phones not only distract you, but they are a distraction for me and your peers.
Contacting Instructor
E-mail is the best and quickest way to contact me. You may also call me. Thanks to modern
technology, my e-mail is linked to my phone. If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact
me immediately. Students are expected to ask questions and obtain help from instructor via email
and/or during office hours.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)
In accordance with code 9803.28, academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated in
this class. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions:
cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the
instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to
more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one’s identity for the purpose
of enhancing one’s grade. Academic dishonesty of any type, such as cheating or knowingly
furnishing false information, by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor
or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation
marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation.

Student Conduct
According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be
tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes
for more information.

Recording Devices
State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a
classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who
needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to
the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for
approval (WLAC College Catalog)

CAMPUS RESOURCES

As stated earlier in this syllabus, if you are having problems, don't let them snowball. Come and
talk with me and check out some of the campus resources available to you.
Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)
Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119 | (310) 287-4450.

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal
educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and
Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled
students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration,
registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive
technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center
Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4486
 Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling, math fundamentals and chemistry
knowledge with convenient, self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center.
Increase your knowledge and learning success: sign up for tutoring in various college subjects
(WLAC College Catalog).

Library Services
Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 287-4269 & (310) 287-4486
The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research
databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library
has course textbooks which students may use while in the Library. Web access is available in LIRL as well as meeting rooms. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study (WLAC College Catalog).

GRADING:
Attendance - 125 points
Scene work – 100 points (4 scenes, each 25 points)
Written Self Evaluations – 100 points (4 scenes, each 25 points)
Scene analysis – 50 points (2 scenes, each 25 points)
Quiz – 25 points
Proficiency and improvement – 100 points

FINAL GRADES:

DAY TO DAY SCHEDULE
(Subject to change at Instructor's discretion)

MONDAY, Sept 29:
In class:
On camera – introduction of type
Go over and practice a slate
Homework:
Find a FIVE TO TEN LINE SCENE from TV or a movie centering on a character of your type (you would have five to ten lines, no more).
Hint: Look for two person and three person scenes.
Hint: If the scene is much more than two pages it is too long
Transcribe the scene in proper format, (see page 333 in your book for format), (typed, not hand written) and bring TWO (2!!!) copies to class
Memorize all of your lines BY ROTE (without expression) PERFECTLY
You will be using this scene on camera in a mock audition BE PREPARED
READ: p 59-79 in "Acting for the Camera” – Preparation and Facts and Conditions

MONDAY, Oct 6:
In class:
Analyze the script you have chosen for Facts and Conditions and Preparation
On camera: “Audition” for the part with slate
Analyze performances
For those who performed - Fill out a self evaluation sheet and turn in to instructor in class.

MONDAY, Oct 13:
In class:
GUEST SPEAKER Robert Wuhl and “Assume the Position”

MONDAY, Oct 20:
BRING WORKOUT CLOTHES TO CLASS FOR PHYSICAL WORK
In class: Practice rasaboxes, explore imagination
Homework: Analyze provided scene for Facts and Conditions and Preparation. Decide who your character is and what is happening to them. Write a detailed analysis and bring it in to class.
Memorize lines from provided scene. Know all of your lines BY ROTE (without expression) PERFECTLY
MONDAY, Oct 27:
BRING WORKOUT CLOTHES TO CLASS FOR PHYSICAL WORK
Guest Speaker: Anya Adams, First Assistant Director from "Blackish"
In class: Practice rasaboxes with text.
Homework: Prepare your highly emotional scene for camera work. This means you memorize the lines perfectly and prepare as instructed. It does not mean you practice the lines a certain way.

MONDAY, Nov 3:
In class:
Mock auditions for highly emotional scenes (on camera)
Discuss how they look and went
Homework:
Read p 19-26 "Listening"
For those who performed - Fill out a self evaluation sheet and turn in to instructor in class.

MONDAY, Nov 10:
In class:
Finish up mock auditions for highly emotional scenes, if needed
Begin working with partners on repetition
Guest Speakers: Professional actors Damien Washington and Patrick Donahue, author of “So You Want To Be An Actor in Los Angeles.”
Homework:
For those who performed - Fill out a self evaluation sheet and turn in to instructor in class.

MONDAY, Nov 17:
In class:
Go over terms from the reading
Work with partners on talking and listening on camera.
Receive two person scenes
Homework:
Study two person scene to memorize lines completely

MONDAY, Nov 24
In class: Begin work with partners on two person scenes
Blocking the scene, marking the scene
Homework: Memorize and prepare your scene with your partner
Read p192-254 “Shooting a Scene”

MONDAY, Dec 1
In class: Perform 2 person scenes (on camera)
Homework: For those who performed - Fill out a self evaluation sheet and turn in to instructor in class.

MONDAY, Dec 8
In class: Mock “cold reading” audition
Determine who got the part?
Homework:
For those who performed - Fill out a self evaluation sheet and turn in to instructor in class.
Homework: study terms for quiz
MONDAY, Dec 15 (FINAL EXAM)
Test on terms: Please show up on time, as class will be short.
Student Acknowledgment
(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

“I ______________________________________, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

Special needs or circumstances:

Signature:_______________________________________

Date:__________________________________________