

Montgomery County Community College
 THA 201
 Acting for the Camera
 3-2-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to help students learn the fundamental techniques of acting and the craft of adapting those skills to the screen. Projects are presented in-class for discussion and feedback from the instructor and fellow students. This course will also explore the related business aspects of pursuing an acting career. Students will be required to view live and/or streamed theatre performances.

REQUISITE(S):

Students must have successfully completed or tested out of REA 017 or REA 011, ENG 010A or ESL 011 or ENG 011.

Students must have successfully completed THA 105 with a C or better or have prior experience or training in the art of acting (upon permission of instructor).

CO-REQUISITE(S):

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Interpret character for television and film performances through application of movement, voice and imagination with freedom and expression.	In Class Rehearsal of Monologues & Scenes Warmups Acting Exercises Lecture/Demonstration Viewing and Critique of Taped Sessions	In Class Participation Presentation of Filmed Work
2. Apply skills to the creation of a public performance or presentation of filmed work (monologue, improvisation, interview, and scene), using proper theatrical etiquette and	In Class Rehearsal of Scenes Acting Exercises	Presentation of Filmed Work

professionalism.		
3. Analyze a written text for film or television to determine artistic and aesthetic choices used to interpret and communicate the writer/creator's vision (text analysis).	In Class Discussion Readings	Response Papers Presentation of Filmed Work
4. Utilize appropriate research techniques to create an original filmed performance of a theatrical work or a related topic.	Library and Online Research	Presentation of Scenes
5. Apply skills required to work with film studio equipment, and an understanding of industry terminology.	In Class Rehearsal of Monologues & Scenes Lecture/Demonstration Viewing and Critique of Taped Sessions Assigned Readings	Oral Exam Written Exam In Class Demonstration
6. Write a critique of a film performance that incorporates detailed acting description, interpretation [meaning making], and evaluation.	AV/Multimedia Materials Journaling Viewing and Critique of Taped Sessions	Written Response Paper
7. Apply specific techniques for television and film acting to the creation of a filmed performance with respect to those techniques and methods.	Reading In Class Discussions Acting Exercises In Class Rehearsals	In class Demonstrations Personal Exercises
8. Engage with live theatre and theatre artists to experience and understand theatre arts in practice.	Attending Live Theatre Performance(s) and/or Seminars, Talk Backs with Theatre Professionals	In Class Discussion or Response Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Director of Educational Effectiveness. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

All movement classes will include warm-up exercises and combinations in the center and traveling across the floor. Each class will emphasize a particular concept or skill.

1. Course Introduction
2. The Difference between Stage and Film Acting
3. The Difference between Film and Television Acting
4. Learning Lines – How to Memorize
5. The Concept of Acting without Words
6. Specificity and Truth on Film
7. Listening
8. Improvisation
9. Identifying Your “Screen Persona”
10. Screenplay Analysis
11. What to Expect “On Set”
12. An Overview of the Techniques and Terminology of Film Acting:
 - Preparation
 - The Wide and Medium Shot
 - The Close-Up
 - Energy – How Much, How Little
 - Movement
 - Continuity
 - Marks
 - Key Lighting
13. Video Taping
14. Viewing and Critique of Taped Sessions
 - a) Observation
 - b) Aesthetic value
 - c) Analysis
15. Demonstrations through Specific Film and Television Examples
16. Creating a Reel

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Acting for the Camera: Back to One: Back to One 1st Edition by Peter Allen Stone

Or

Alternate texts as appropriate to the course.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College’s Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Michael Whistler Date: 10/24/2008
 VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: John C. Flynn, Jr., Ph.D. Date: 2/25/2009

Revised by: Michael Whistler Date: 2/10/2013
 VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 2/15/2013

Revised by: Timothy Gallagher Date: 12/15/2017
 VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 1/8/2018

Revised by: Tim Gallagher Date: 4/18/2024
 VPAA or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 11/19/2024



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved, and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.