

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an upper level course in acting technique. Through in class camera work, students explore the principles and acquire the necessary skills to work in the medium of film and television. Students will be required to attend live theatre performances. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- ENG 010A Basic Writing or ENG 011 Basic Writing II or ESL 011 ESL Basic Writing II
- REA 011 Fundamentals of College Reading or REA 017 Vocabulary and Reading Comprehensive Development II
- THA 105 Introduction to Acting I: Improvisation and Fundamentals with a minimum grade of “C”
- THA 106 Introduction to Acting II: Scene Study with a minimum grade of “C”

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

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 Warm Ups 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 professionalism.	In Class Rehearsal of Scenes Acting Exercises	Presentation of Filmed Work

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
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 Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. 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 thru Specific Film and Television Examples
16. Creating a Reel

### LEARNING MATERIALS:

*Acting for the Camera*. Barr, Tony. (1997). Harper-Collins.

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: Date: 1/8/2018



*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.*