

THEA 4310

Acting for the Camera: Spring 2025

Section 002 - Monday 2:00pm – 5:50pm

Section 001 - Wednesday 2:00pm – 5:50pm

RTFP 130 and Zoom

Instructor: Sarah Rutan

Office Hours: 10:00am-11:00am RTFP 222 (Appointments Appreciated)

E-mail: Sarah.Rutan@unt.edu

Class Requirements: Space/Equipment to Film Submissions for class

USB Drive (to be handed in for each assignment)

All text used will be available on Canvas Files or hard copy

Description:

The exploration of camera acting and audition technique in order to prepare the student for the diverse opportunities in the medium, with an emphasis on building confidence with the camera, expanding acting range, and preparing for the profession.

Objective:

Students will:

- Demonstrate basic on-camera acting performance techniques for a diverse range of projects
- Analyze the demands of screenplay and media script analysis and apply those observations to their performances
- Interact with and take direction from a film medium director
- Practice audition technique (including prepared auditions and taped submissions)

- Demonstrate a comprehension of basic camera and industry terminology and protocol
- Observe and discuss the lessons of existing on-camera performances from film and television and allow that to inform their own work
- Critique and offer feedback for both their own on-camera performances and those of their class colleagues

By the end of this course, a student will have a solid foundation in what performance opportunities outside of the theatre await the actor, and what is expected of an actor in the real world of media production. The time spent on camera acting and audition technique throughout the semester will provide the student with a more acute sense of their acting range, an expansion of creativity, and greater self-confidence with both the medium and acting, in general.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY:

Punctual attendance is critical for your success in the course. Thus, students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes.

The following policy is consistent with all acting courses in the department:

- Students are allowed no more than a total of TWO excused (2) absences during the semester for any reason.
- Students are considered tardy if they arrive for class no more than 30 minutes late. Arriving more than 30 minutes late for class is considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend class for the duration of the period. Leaving class before then is considered an absence.
- An occurrence of tardiness for the class FOUR (4) times is the equivalent of ONE (1) absence.
- A total of THREE (3) absences means that the highest grade the student can earn in the class is an F.

Any student with an issue in the area of attendance and/or punctuality will be referred to the Acting Faculty for guidance.

The policy is not negotiable, as that would constitute holding one student to a different standard than all students in all acting classes.

If a student's absences have resulted in a grade with which they are not pleased, they may choose to withdraw from the class.

The professor's roll is the official record of absences and tardiness. At any point, the students are welcome to check the grade roster with the professor to be sure that their attendance/punctuality record is accurate.

KEEPING IT REAL...

I am very aware that the unexpected comes up in life, and many times it is beyond your control. The attendance policy of acting classes in the Department of Dance and Theatre at UNT is set up to ALLOW for those occasional issues that may come up (illnesses, deaths in the family, emergencies, traffic, car trouble, unavoidable commitments, weather, etc.). All of these things could occur to you during the semester (even a couple of times). Please DO NOT ask for further leeway on this, because there is none. The leeway for these unexpected occurrences is already BUILT IN to the attendance policy. Changing the policy for you means that it must, in the interest of fairness, be changed for students in all acting classes. There is NO NEED to bring me a doctor's note when you are sick. If you tell me you were ill, I absolutely believe you.

The attendance policy already allows for the fact that you might get sick and miss a class or two as a result. However, there have to be limits, particularly since your absence may have an impact on a fellow actor. If you are ill and/or absent excessively, it means you are missing the actual content of the course. You are seeking to be a professional actor—get used to the fact that you simply have to BE THERE, and you have to be there ON TIME. Once you have used up the two excused absences (or the allowed amount of tardiness), I will treat absence and lateness as the INDUSTRY will treat them. It is important that you are aware of this before undertaking the challenge of the course.

Disability Accommodations:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable

accommodation anytime, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323 or

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>

Major Assignments:

- The on-camera slate
- Commercials
- Motor only shots (MOS)
- Public Service Announcements (PSA's)
- Film Scenes/Monologues
- Demo Reel

Submission Expectations:

Your work in class will be based on:

-level of preparation (appropriate set up, lighting, sound, reader, USB drive...work outside of class)

-level of memorization

-clarity of given circumstances /text analysis

-ability to engage in and explore techniques discussed in class

GRADING

Commercial #1- 5pts

Commercial #2- 5pts

MOS #1- 5pts

MOS #2- 5pts

PSA- 10pts

Film Monologue- 10pts

Film Scene- 10pts

Final- 30pts

Self Critiques (5 x 2pt)- 10pts

Terminology Quiz- 10pts

TOTAL: 100pts

(GRADING RUBRICS for Submissions CAN BE FOUND ON CANVAS-Assignments)

Grade Table:

A- 100-90

B- 89-80

C- 79-70

D-69-65

F-65 or Below

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)*

****All Self Critique Due Dates are in BOLD.****

Wk1

Syllabus and Intro

Assign S2S, Slate and Terminology Packet

Wk2

Tech and Prep Week

Wk3

Slate & Stage to Screen Due/Terminology Quiz

Commercial 1 & 2 Lecture/Assign

Wk4

Commercial 1 & 2 Rough Draft (**Self Crit #1 DUE- Stage to Screen**)

(ON ZOOM)

Wk5

Commercial 1 & 2 DUE

MOS Lecture/Assign

Wk6

MOS 1 & 2 Rough Draft (**Self Crit #2 DUE- Commercial 1 & 2**)

(ON ZOOM)

Wk7

MOS 1&2 DUE

PSA Lecture/Assign

Wk8

PSA ROUGH DRAFT

(ON ZOOM)

Wk9

PSA DUE

Assign Film Monologues/Multi/Single Cam Lecture

Wk10

Film Monologue Rough Draft (**Self Crit #3 DUE- PSA**)

(ON ZOOM)

Wk11

Film Monologue DUE

Assign Partner Scene

Wk12

Partner Scene Rough Draft (**Self Crit #4 DUE- Film Monologue**)

(ON ZOOM)

Wk13

Partner Scenes DUE

Assign Demo Reel

Wk14

Demo Reel Rough Draft

(ON ZOOM)

Wk15

Demo Reel DUE

Wk16

Demo Post Mortem (**Self Crit #5 DUE- Final Assignment**)

(ON ZOOM)