

DRAM 2352 ACTING IV: FILM & VIDEO

PREREQUISITES:

DRAMA 2351 (Acting III) or equivalent

REQUIRED TEXT

Caine, Michael. *Acting in Film*.

SUPPLIES

- 2 paper portfolio folders with brads and pockets.
- Pencils
- Composition Notebook
- Library Card
- Spare change for the occasional photocopy

BLACKBOARD

We will use the Blackboard program to post announcements, download course handouts, and participate in online sessions. All students are responsible for class information posted on Blackboard. Details for obtaining access to BB can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/acceid>.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers instruction in the basics of acting for the camera, and will assist students in making the transition from the theatre to the screen. It will address the technical requirements of TV and film acting such as playing to the camera, shooting out of sequence, blocking, and other production considerations. The course includes significant on-camera scene-work, character development, audition techniques, and script analysis. The assignments will include live tapings of selected materials. Through exercises and scene study, this course will familiarize students with on-camera acting techniques and expand each performer's range of emotional, intellectual, physical, and vocal expressiveness for the camera. In addition to learning basic on camera acting techniques and script analysis, students will explore the process of finding work from agent to audition, casting director to callback, from getting the gig and getting on camera.

COURSE CONTENT AND REQUIREMENTS

- Readings & Discussion
- Class Participation
- Regular Attendance
- Tech Lab Hours*
- Three Enrichment Responses
- End of Term Portfolio

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will display proficiency in critiquing written text, presentations, performances, and be able to respond to other's critiques.
- Students will illustrate competency in utilizing actor's instrument, craft, process, tools and techniques.
- Students will demonstrate professional preparation and decorum with regard to auditions and future employment.

PROGRAM LEVEL OUTCOMES*DEPARTMENTAL PORTFOLIO*

- Personal audition material bibliography (11-13 selections)
- Voice reel
- An actor's resume
- Recent headshots
- Business Card Mock Up
- Contacts List (future training or employment opportunities)
- A list of personal goals
- A five year plan for achieving those goals.
- Video Reel
- An artistic statement

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will be familiar with the differences between stage and film acting.
- Students will be familiar with relevant technical and professional terminologies associated with mediated performance, as well as a working knowledge of the film and television production process.
- Students will be able to perform for a long shot, medium shot, and close-up shot.
- Students will be able to perform on-camera blocking, business, subtexts, and reactions.
- Students will prepare for on-camera auditioning.
- Students will be able to incorporate direction.
- Students will be able to analyze screen acting.
- Students will be able to develop a professional actor's portfolio.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students entering this course should have a firm grasp of the following:

- Basic script analysis
- Marking and communicating beats
- Good vocal technique
- Good Body/physical expression
- Ability to block simple duets/monologue independently
- Good memorization skills
- Ability to create characterization
- Good concentration skills
- Solid work ethic and enthusiasm for performance

This is a performance-based course. Nevertheless, reading, research, writing, and participation in class discussions are equally integral to your learning as are direct instruction or performance. It is of the utmost importance that you attend class regularly, and stay current with assigned readings, rehearsals, and written work.

CLASS ETIQUETTE:

Please respect one another by giving your full attention to performances, presentations and studio work.

ATTIRE:

As this is a performance class, please wear clothes that are comfortable, loose fitting, and that you could wear to our first exercise entitled "Lay On The Floor." Sweats,

jogging/warm-up suits, dancewear, loose jeans, and appropriate shoes. In addition, you will need to remove any dangling jewelry before you participate in any activities.

PHYSICAL RISK:

This course includes activities, which by its very nature includes an element of risk. While it is expected and encouraged that you will participate and invest wholeheartedly in every exercise, please remain alert, follow directions, and be aware of your environment while working individually or with others in the space. Please inform me as soon as possible about any physical limitations or injuries that may affect your participation.

CONTACT:

The nature of the work in this course often requires physical contact between students, as well as between the instructor and students. If you are uncomfortable with such contact, please notify me immediately.

OUTSIDE REHEARSALS:

Work presented during studio time in class must be sufficiently prepared for presentation. Read-through, preliminary blocking, or first rehearsals of a piece will not be allowed. As we move into scene work, schedule times you are available to meet outside of class for rehearsal. The class attendance policy applies to these as well. If a partner fails to attend an arranged rehearsal, it will count as an absence in the class.

ATTENDANCE:

- Three unexcused absences without penalty to the final grade
- Absences, regardless of excuses, will not extend the due date of any assignment. Any work due on the day of an absence will still be due that day.
- The instructor will not provide class notes to students.
- After your third absence, your final grade will decrease by half of a letter grade, and will continue to fall half of a letter grade for every class missed thereafter.
- If you have six or more unexcused absences, you should drop the class, as you will not be allowed to return to finish the course.
- Please arrive for class on time. Once lecture or group exercises have begun, tardy students will not be admitted to class.

LATE POLICY

Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 15% per day late. Written work should be turned in during the first five minutes of class before lecture or exercises have begun, or it will be considered late. Performances will be scheduled in advance and must begin within five minutes of their schedule time.

COURSE CALENDAR

Varies by section

GRADING SYSTEM

Total Points	Grade
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
0-599	F

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the roll should he or she decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is submitted before the Final Withdrawal Date. The student is also strongly encouraged to retain their copy of the withdrawal form for their records. Students who enroll for the third or subsequent time in a course taken since Fall, 2002, may be charged a higher tuition rate, for that course. State law permits students to withdraw from no more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career at Texas public colleges or universities. With certain exceptions, all course withdrawals automatically count towards this limit. Details regarding this policy can be found in the ACC college catalog.

INCOMPLETES

An instructor may award a grade of "I" (Incomplete) if a student was unable to complete all of the objectives for the passing grade in a course. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor but may not be later than the final deadline for withdrawal in the subsequent semester.

SAFETY STATEMENT

Austin Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. You are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Additional information on these can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/ehs>. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the Emergency Procedures poster and Campus Safety Plan map in each classroom. Additional information about emergency procedures and how to sign up for ACC Emergency Alerts to be notified in the event of a serious emergency can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/emergency/>. Please note, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be dismissed from the day's activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities.

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USE OF ACC EMAIL

All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify you of any college related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Instructions for activating an ACCmail account can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/accmail/index.php>.

STUDENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

ACC strives to provide exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. Information on these services and support systems is available at: <http://www.austincc.edu/s4/>. Links to many student services and other information can be found at: <http://www.austincc.edu/current/> ACC Learning Labs provide free tutoring services to all ACC students currently enrolled in the course to be tutored. The tutor schedule for each Learning Lab may be found at: <http://www.austincc.edu/tutor/students/tutoring.php> For help setting up your ACCeID, ACC Gmail, or ACC Blackboard, see a Learning Lab Technician at any ACC Learning Lab.

IMPORTANT ACC INSTITUTIONAL GUIDELINES

BE INFORMED!

Read the Student Handbook thoroughly and read it often. Know your rights and responsibilities as student.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework. (Student Handbook)

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a free search for truth and its free expression. Hence it is essential that faculty members at Austin Community College be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without unreasonable restriction and to voice and publish their conclusions without fear of institutional censorship or discipline. They must be free from the possibility that others of differing vision, either inside or outside the college community, may threaten their professional careers. The concept of academic freedom in Austin Community College is accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility, shared by the Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty members. The essential responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and administrators regarding academic freedom are set forth in the Criteria for Accreditation, adopted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, as updated and revised. In the classroom or in College-produced telecommunications, faculty members should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, and to show respect for the opinions of others. In addition, instructors should be judicious in the use of material and should introduce only material that has a clear relationship to the subject field.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Students at the College have the rights accorded to all persons under the Constitution to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility for each individual to accord the same rights to others in the College community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. As willing partners in learning, it is expected that students will comply with College rules and procedures. ACC students are recognized as responsible persons who neither lose the rights nor escape the responsibilities of citizenship. Enrollment in the College indicates acceptance of the rules set forth in this policy, administered through the office of the Campus Dean of Student Services. Due process, through an investigation and appeal process, is assured to any student involved in disciplinary action.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The purpose of this policy is to identify for the ACC community the rights and responsibilities of its students, to specify acts prohibited and standards of conduct required, and to set a range of appropriate penalties in cases of rule violations.

DUE PROCESS

In cases of violations of this policy, the following procedures recognize and afford the federal and state due process rights of students as citizens.

EMERGENCY ACTION

Provisions are included herein to protect the College and members of the College community in cases of emergencies and other instances requiring immediate action. Nevertheless, even in such instances, the student is afforded federal and state due process rights by these procedures.

ADMINISTRATION OF DISCIPLINE

The Campus Dean of Student Services or the appropriate facility administrator shall have primary authority and responsibility for the administration of student discipline. The Campus Dean of Student Services works cooperatively with faculty members in the disposition of scholastic violations.

OFFENSES: PROHIBITED ACTS

Prohibited acts include, but are not limited to, the commission of any act punishable by fine, incarceration, or both, under any law of the United States, or of the State of Texas, or under any local governmental ordinance, all as amended from time to time. A student may be punished for acts occurring on ACC-operated property or in connection with ACC-sponsored activities and for acts occurring off ACC-operated property when such acts interfere with the educational process and goals of ACC. Other prohibited acts that constitute offenses for which discipline may be administered are listed in the Student Handbook.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with the instructor. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

OFFICE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester (Student Handbook)

TESTING CENTER POLICY

Testing centers are located at Northridge, Rio Grande, Eastview, Riverside, Cypress Creek, Pinnacle, Round Rock, San Marcos, and Fredericksburg. Sites and hours are subject to change without notice. The following regulations and guidelines apply to all campuses:

- Proper ID is required (current ACC I.D. or a current fee receipt plus valid photo I.D.):
- Only enrolled students may use the testing centers.
- Give your instructor's name, course name and number, the section number, synonym number, and the exam name or number.

- Bring only those items you will need to take your exam. There is no secure storage space for books, purses, etc.
- Students with disabilities requiring individual assistance on tests need to work with the Office for Students with Disabilities.
- The use of unauthorized materials while taking an exam in an ACC Testing Center is subject to disciplinary action.

For more information, consult the "Guide to Student Use of the Testing Centers," available at all Testing Centers.