I. LOCATOR INFORMATION:
 Semester: Course # - Sec. and Name: THEA 310 Acting for the Media
 Semester Hours of Credit: 3 Time Class Meets: Bldg/ Room:
 Instructor: Office: Phone:
 Office Hours: E-mail: Web site:

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Instruction and practice in the basics of acting for TV and film: playing to the camera, shooting out of sequence, blocking, and other production considerations. The business of film/TV acting will be explored to define necessary adjustments of one's acting styles for successful on camera acting. Students will focus on the business side of acting, researching markets and creating individual resumes, cover letters and audition journals. Prerequisite: THEA203 AND THEA206 (Beginning Acting) OR permission of the instructor.

III. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.


V. Student Learning Outcomes: BASIC OBJECTIVES in the course are to:
1. introduce the student to the art and craft of acting for the camera as an integral part of the TV/film making process.
2. provide the student with a reasonable basis for the development of camera performance skills.
3. examine a variety of theories, principles, and approaches involved in performing in front of a camera.
4. assess and analyze their own on-camera work, noting strengths and weaknesses.
5. recognize why a reel is important and how to make one.
6. develop acting, film, and commercial vocabulary.
7. evaluate work on camera and apply peer critiques as a part of the learning process.
8. implement skills such as adapting to space, medium, and location limitations and assess how they alter interpretation.
9. provide fundamental techniques and correct problems in relation to on-camera performance.

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA/GRADING SCALE:
SCALE: A = 92 - 100 B = 83 - 91 C = 73 - 82 D = 63 - 72 F = 62-0 (Failure)
Grading may be based on the following:

ASSIGNMENTS:
Reviews (2) Active Participation & Attendance
Character Type Worksheet On camera Monologues
Commercial Audition TV/Film Audition
In Class Film: (written by students in class) Preparation for Final Scene (Script selection, crew acquisition, organization) Final Scene

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: This course subscribes to the university policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty printed in the student handbook. First offense results in an F for the assignment. Second offense results in removal from the class and an F for the course.

FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom (Optional)

The Code of the University of North Carolina (of which FSU is a constituent institution) and the FSU Code of Student Conduct affirm that all students have the right to receive instruction without interference from other students who disrupt classes.

FSU Core Curriculum Learning Outcome under Ethics and Civic Engagement (6.03): All students will “prepare themselves for responsible citizenship by fulfilling roles and responsibilities associated with membership in various organizations.” Each classroom is a mini-community. Students learn and demonstrate responsible citizenship by abiding by the rules of classroom behavior and respecting the rights all members of the class.
The FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior (see FSU website for complete policy) identifies the following behaviors as disruptive:

1. Failure to respect the rights of other students to express their viewpoints by behaviors such as repeatedly interrupting others while they speak, using profanity and/or disrespectful names or labels for others, ridiculing others for their viewpoints, and other similar behaviors;
2. Excessive talking to other students while the faculty member or other students are presenting information or expressing their viewpoints.
3. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices
4. Overt inattentiveness (sleeping, reading newspapers)
5. Eating in class (except as permitted by the faculty member)
6. Threats or statements that jeopardize the safety of the student and others
7. Failure to follow reasonable requests of faculty members
8. Entering class late or leaving class early on regular basis
9. Others as specified by the instructor.

The instructor may take the following actions in response to disruptive behavior. Students should recognize that refusing to comply with reasonable requests from the faculty member is another incidence of disruptive behavior.

1. Direct student to cease disruptive behavior.
2. Direct student to change seating locations.
3. Require student to have individual conference with faculty member. At his meeting the faculty member will explain the consequences of continued disruptive behavior.
4. Dismiss class for the remainder of the period. (Must be reported to department chair.)
5. Lower the student’s final exam by a maximum of one-letter grade.
6. File a complaint with the Dean of Students for more severe disciplinary action.

Students who believe faculty has unfairly applied the policy to them may make an appeal with the faculty member’s department chair.

VII. Suggested Course Content/Typical Assignments: TBA
Final Exam: _________ pm in this classroom

VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTSIDE SCENES
Choose a partner for the scene then join with another group serving as your camera operator and director OR pair with Video Production students. Focus on the acting work instead of the mechanics of shooting. This class is meant to introduce you to the technical concerns of on camera acting.

As you work on your projects, think about:

- The arc of your emotional journey - it may be shot out of sequence.
- Understand the story up until the moment you are shooting - when shooting out of sequence, the character may or may not have certain information at a given point.
- Watch your energy from shot to shot - make sure it matches.
- Be aware of continuity, but don’t let it stifle imagination.
- Let us see the character’s thought process - in the eyes.

ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Regular participation in class exercises is expected. Attendance is mandatory. No more than three absences allowed. Each absence beyond three will lower the final letter grade one third of a letter. Chronic absentees will be dropped from course. Please be on time. Two late arrivals equal one absence.
- Rehearsal, blocking, and memorization of all scenes/monologues must be done outside of class.
- Students will be expected to file and use handouts, resumes, cover letters, audition journal, and websites pertaining to their potential theatre markets.
- Students will be expected to develop a final resume, cover letter, and audition journal which they will take with them into the marketplace.
- When not acting in scenes, all students will be expected to be gaffers, directors, camera operators, key grips, etc. as part of the crew.
· A Research Paper will be due at the end of the semester. It will include: your type, the market you plan on entering (and the reasons why), your strategy for finding work, and pertinent websites for housing, jobs, and auditions.
· The Final Exam will be a screen test, which the students will have one week to prepare.

Penalties:
1. Written Work: All paperwork must be typed, double-spaced or it will not be accepted.
2. All paperwork will be accepted at the beginning of class on the day it’s due. For each calendar day the paper is late, 20% of the grade will be taken off.
3. Memorization: Dates for memorization are marked on your syllabus. If lines are not memorized then, 10 points will be deducted from the scene’s total.

Rehearsal Policy:
You are required to rehearse both in class and as homework. Because preparation time affects performance in class, it is essential that you treat your partners with courtesy. Please alert me if your partner is consistently late, unprepared, or unavailable for rehearsals. I will gladly speak to them on your behalf.

Coaching note: If you have problems feel free to contact me or set up a meeting time with me. This could range from problems with memorization to problems with character analyses. I will even help you rehearse outside of class if you request it.

Students will focus on the business side of acting, researching markets and creating individual resumes, cover letters and audition journals. The course will be divided into various components of camera jobs (feature films, commercials, sitcoms, one-hour episodes, etc.). After learning the appropriate techniques for a particular genre, students will spend time in front of the camera working with exercises and actual commercial, film and TV scenes. Performances will be analyzed and critiqued to give students an opportunity to improve their skills. Part of the semester may be spent on a group project, putting into practice what has been learned earlier.

IX. TEACHING STRATEGIES:
Lecture, exercises, demonstration, and observation. Videotape will be used when appropriate for critiques only.

X. SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:
Caine, Michael. Acting In Film. Applause Theatre Books. 1996
Lewis, M.K and Rosemary. Your Film Acting Career. Gorham House Publishing. 1994

NOTE: This is a performance course and requires special preparation and rehearsal with other students. Each student has a responsibility to classmates for preparation of assignments. Instruction in this class involves close personal interaction and physical contact. Any student who has difficulty with this aspect of the class should see the instructor.

Completion of the Final Project is mandatory. You cannot pass the class without performing the final project.