

THEA 80A-Theory and Technique of Acting for the Camera
Spring 2023
De Anza College

Instructor: Liz Stimson
Email: stimsonelizabeth@fhda.edu
Telephone: 650-949-7899 x3158
Class Meets: MW 9:30-12:15 in MLC 226
Office Hours: MW 12:15-12:45 in MLC 226 & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce students to the basics of on camera acting. We will cover vocabulary, behind the scenes work, performance preparation, on camera performance and basic auditioning and marketing information. Through on camera interviews, auditions, improvisations and scene study the student will develop an understanding of the actor's relationship to the camera.

Recommended Text: **Acting for the Camera: Back to One** by Peter Allen Stone
by John Howard Swain
ISBN: 13: 978-1-138-23367-6 (paperback) Routledge pub.
(Available in De Anza library reserves)

Optional: USB Flash Drive

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Recognize the process by which actors are interviewed, auditioned, and cast for all forms of on media production.
2. Practice and distinguish effective body movement and voice modulation as it pertains to camera acting styles, camera angle and shot size and continuity of takes.
3. Demonstrate the basic skills in the practice and performance of scripted work for the camera and the subsequent critiquing of the work including self evaluation.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the camera media from an actor's perspective.
2. Analyze, rehearse and perform scripted material on camera.
3. Develop an awareness of studio layout, studio personnel and vocabulary.
4. Learn the skills to create, develop and perform a character.

POLICIES:

Late Work: Assignments are due on the date listed in the syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to reach out to the instructor (email or office hours) if an extension is needed.

Dropping: It is the student's responsibility to add or drop the class. Please see [De Anza College Academic Calendar: Spring 2023](#) for specific dates.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities, including invisible ones, are encouraged to communicate with the instructor their needs and appropriate accommodations. [De Anza Disability Support Services](#)

Participation: Please wear clothing which does not restrict movement. Expect to be physically active.

HELPFUL SERVICES:

De Anza College Library Website: [De Anza College Library](#)

Online tutoring and workshops available at: [De Anza Student Success Center](#)

Your Guide to the Quarter: [Get Ready for Spring 2023!](#)

IMPORTANT DATES:

APRIL 10

Spring classes begin

APRIL 22

Last day to **add classes**

APRIL 23

Last day to **drop classes** without a W

MAY 27-29

Memorial Day Weekend - no classes, offices closed

JUNE 2

Last day to **drop classes** with a W

JUNE 19

Juneteenth Holiday - no classes, offices closed

JUNE 26-30

Final exams

ASSIGNMENTS:

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Recording #1 | 20 points |
| Recording #2 (Midterm) | 30 points |
| Recording #3 (Final) | 100 points |
| Character Analyses | 100 points total (2 @ 50 points each) |
| Film Review | 50 points |
| Participation | 100 points |
| Total Points | 400 points |

GRADING:

| Grade | Numerical Equivalent |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| A | 400-372 |
| A- | 371-360 |
| B+ | 359-348 |
| B | 347-332 |
| B- | 331-320 |
| C+ | 319-299 |
| C | 298-280 |
| D+ | 279-268 |
| D | 267-252 |
| D- | 251-240 |
| F | 239-0 |

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students who present the work of others without giving proper credit (citation), will receive an “F” grade for that assignment which cannot be made up. If you feel that you are having trouble with an assignment and require assistance please meet with me during my office hours or schedule an additional time to meet.

[Academic Integrity De Anza College](#)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: THEA 80A–Spring 2023

| In Class | Assignments (available in Canvas) |
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Week 1 (4/10, 4/12)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome, syllabus review, etc• Warm-ups and Improvs (back to one) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Discussion in Canvas• Read articles in Canvas |
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Week 2 (4/17, 4/19)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warm-ups and Improvs• Slate introduction• Recording #1: Slate & Interview | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read articles in Canvas |
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Week 3 (4/24, 4/26)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phasic Relaxation• Basic Shots• Scene work | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment: Choose commercial (due 5/1) |
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Week 4 (5/1, 5/3)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warm-ups & Improvs• Rehearsals: Memorization Strategies, Imagination | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cold Reading Commercials• Character Analysis: Commercial (due 5/8)--no analysis = no rehearsal |
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Week 5 (5/8, 5/10)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warm-ups & Improv Sense Memory• Rehearsals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial memorized (5/8) |
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Week 6 (5/15, 5/17)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recording #2: Commercial• Discuss Final Scene Selection | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recording #2: Commercial• Final Scene Selection Hard copies (3) (due 5/22) |
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Week 7 (5/22, 5/24)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold readings, rehearsals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Analysis--Scene (due 5/31)--no analysis = no rehearsal |
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Week 8 (Wednesday 5/31 only)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold Readings of Scenes • Eyeline, Hitting your mark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: Film Review (due 6/12) • Assignment: Chroma Key Image (due 6/7) |
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Week 9 (6/5, 6/7)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocking, Business/Activities • Rehearsals | |
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Week 10 (6/12, 6/14)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals • Off book • Recording #3: Final Scene | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording of final scene |
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Week 11 (Wednesday 6/21 only)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording #3: Final Scene | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording of final scene |
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Week 12 (Monday, 6/26 ONLY)

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| Final: Monday, June 26th: 9:15-11:15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing of final scenes |
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