

THEA 80A-Theory and Technique of Acting for the Camera
Spring 2024
De Anza College

Instructor: Liz Stimson
Email: stimsonelizabeth@fhda.edu
Telephone: 650-949-7899 x3158
Class Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-12:15 in MLC 226
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Recognize the process by which actors are interviewed, auditioned, and cast for all forms of 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.

Recommended Text: Acting for the Camera: Back to One by Peter Allen Stone
(Available in De Anza library reserves)

POLICIES:

Attendance:

- **If you will be missing class, please send me an email to let me know.**
- First two absences=no points taken off from participation;
- 5 points off per missed class after this.
- Each tardy counts as ½ of an absence.
- You will not pass the class if you miss more than 6 class meetings **(for ANY reason)**.

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) **prior to the due date**, 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 2024](#) 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: [Student Support Services](#)

IMPORTANT DATES:

MAY 25-27

Memorial Day Weekend - no classes, offices closed

JUNE 19

Juneteenth Holiday - no classes, offices closed

[Final exams](#)

JUNE 29

[Graduation](#)

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.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Total Points **400 points**

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: THEA 80A–Spring 2024

In Class	Assignments (available in Canvas)
Week 1 (4/8, 10)	
<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
Week 2 (4/15, 17)	
<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
Week 3 (4/22, 24)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phasic Relaxation• Basic Shots• Scene work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment: Choose commercial
Week 4 (4/29, 5/1)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warm-ups & Improvs• Rehearsals: Memorization Strategies, Imagination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cold Reading Commercials—bring hard copy to class• Character Analysis Commercial—will do in class 4/29--no analysis = no rehearsal
Week 5 (5/6, 8)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warm-ups & Improv Sense Memory• Rehearsals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial memorized/off book—(5/6)
Week 6 (5/13, 15)	
<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 5/20)

Week 7 (5/20, 22)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold readings, rehearsals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Analysis--Scene--will do in class 5/20--no analysis = no rehearsal
---	---

Week 8 (5/27, 29)--No Class on Monday 5/27

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyeline, Hitting your mark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: Film Review (due 6/3) • Assignment: Chroma Key Image
--	---

Week 9 (6/3, 5)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocking, Business/Activities • Rehearsals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chroma Key Image
---	---

Week 10 (6/10, 12)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals • Off book • Recording #3: Final Scene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorized/off book (due 6/10) • Recording of final scene
--	--

Week 11 (6/17, 19)--No Class on Wednesday 6/19

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording #3: Final Scene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording of final scene--6/17 only
--	---

Week 12 (6/24)

Final: Monday June 24th: 9:15-11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing of final scenes
--	---