

# **Camera Acting –TPP 4265C-0001**

**Fall 2018** - Class Time –TR 2:30 – 5

**Location – PAC 110**

## **Enrollment Requirements**

PR: PR or CR: "C" (2.0) or better in TPP 4140C. Application of previous acting training to the TV/Film medium. Occasional.

*Theater acting is an operation with a scalpel, movie acting is an operation with a laser.*

*Michael Caine*

## **Professor: Be Boyd**

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Office Hours – **MW – 1:30 – 3:30 TTh – 1- 2 and/or by appointment**

GTA – Jeffrey Sneed – [jeffasneed@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:jeffasneed@knights.ucf.edu)

Academic Calendar Link:

<https://calendar.ucf.edu/2018/fall>

UCF library link - <https://library.ucf.edu/>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will cover three major areas: 1) developing and/or advancing basic screen acting skills including playing for various camera shots and angles, continuity, reaction shots, etc, 2) we will revisit auditioning for film/television (including self- taping and developing material for website or reel) and small in class production projects (including learning to edit material from the production projects for your reel and the basic responsibilities on a set)

## **Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate a comfortable camera presence - to learn to be intimate, personal and specific for the camera
- Develop actors' skills with on-camera blocking, business, subtext, and reactions
- Demonstrate an understanding of performing the various styles for film and television (i.e. commercials, sit com, primetime, reality TV, popular film styles, mockumentary, etc.)
- To continue to develop critical on-camera audition technique and performance evaluation skills. The auditioning turn-around time will mirror the demands of the business, i.e you might get a side the day before. The goal is for you to develop and practice a process that will set you up for success during "turn-around tight" auditions. The expectation is that you will be performance and audition ready even if you have a 24 hour turn-around time.
- Demonstrate a very basic understanding of the on-camera production process
- Produce a professional looking on camera acting reel from screenplays, television scripts or commercial copies that will be uploaded to your website by the due date.

## **Additional Goals and Expectations for small production projects:**

Students will develop skills that will allow them to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of basic camera shots in front and behind the camera
- Demonstrate an awareness of the production process for on-camera performance in various genres (see description of responsibilities below)
- Acquire very basic production skills for single and multiple camera production

***\*\*\*Students are required to bring your own SD card to class every day to have a record of your work. You will need at least two SD cards (perhaps more). As you will download, assess and edit your own work, you will not be allowed to use another classmates SD card. You will need one 32GB SD card for the small cameras and one SDHC card 32GB. Once we start the production projects you are welcome to shoot on your I phone.***

## **Major Assignments**

### **Week 1 – 4 – August 21 – September 13**

#### **1.On Camera Exercises- 100pts each**

This course will be experiential. Much of the learning will happen in class as you

explore techniques and exercises needed to adapt the craft of acting to the camera. You will participate in a series of exercises for self-discovery to answer, identify, confirm and practice the following: Who am I on camera? What is my on-camera presence? What do I need to change/shift to become camera friendly? Single camera.

- You will be assessed on:
  - Preparation of Assignment or Exercise
  - Development and Demonstration of your on-camera presence/ personality
  - Demonstration of addressing the feedback received during the exercises and assignments
  - Demonstration of growth in developing an effective camera presence that is truthful to the style
  - How you approach and receive adjustments
  - Development and Demonstration of Talking, Listening and Responding

**As we move toward scripted Material for specific television and film styles you will add:**

- Preparation of Assignment/Exercise
- Demonstration of clear interpretation of content in script/scene
- Demonstration of Clarity in Point of View
- Demonstration of Specificity of style
- Demonstration of Vocal and Physical Choices for style
- Demonstration of Continuity
- Demonstration of adjustments for Camera angles/shots

## **2. Video Montage Link – 200pts**

**Upload a 45 second to one minute montage to you tube of the best clips from this section of class to use as potential material for your final reel. Send you tube link to professor by Monday September 17 by 5pm.**

## **Week 5 – 8 – September 17 – October 18**

## **3. Film and Television Styles– 200pts each**

You will have a series of scenes that cover the variety of styles for television and film.

You will be assessed on skills developed during on camera exercises, TV/Film style work:

- Preparation of Assignment/Exercise
- Demonstration of clear interpretation of content in sides/copy

- Demonstration of Clarity in Point of View
- Demonstration of Specificity of style for the audition venue
- Demonstration of Vocal and Physical Choices for Audition Venue
- Demonstration of self-taping technique – you will need a reader for this audition. They might also double as camera op for your self- taping.

#### 4. Video Montage Link – 200pts each

Select two of the best clips from this section of work and upload to you tube. Also, conduct 2 self-taped auditions. (We will discuss this process in class during this section, in the mean-time, take a look at the handout for self-taping instructions). You will need to compress the file and send through Dropbox, YouSendIt, WeTransfer, etc. Send both the you tube link and file to professor by Monday October 22 by 5pm.

#### Week 9 – 15 – October 23 – November 29

#### 5. Small Multiple Camera Production Projects – 200pts each

- Each of you will participate in **short “one day shoot” production projects** as an actor and as a crew member. We will split the class into two groups – one group of ten and one group of 11. The sequence will be as follows: On Tuesday, five of you will be talent in front of the camera and the other five of you will be crew members. On Thursday you will shift. The other five will be talent and the other will be crew members. We will continue to work this way for the rest of the semester.
- The **first two** projects (October 23 – November 1) should be a pre-existing script (a primetime drama like Law and Order and the other one should be a sit-com). The other **two** (November 6 – November 26) will be material your group writes and can be any genre.
- Each short production project can be one long scene or several short scenes that when edited will be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 4 minutes in length. This project is designed to have material to add to your current website for your reel.
- As a crew member, you will rotate among these responsibilities, director, camera op, continuity, script supervisor and editor. **As with your previous acting classes, your group will be responsible for costumes, creating your set (in this case, selecting a location for the shoot) and any special make-up.**

- Each project must be shot during class time, which means you have roughly two hours and 10 minutes to shoot your project because you have to factor in set up, breakdown and travel time to and from location. See the specific breakdown of responsibilities in the Camera Acting Handout.
- All locations will be found on campus.
- **I am also open to a different structure for the production projects.**

### **Schedule for Production Projects:**

***\*\*\*Each project should be edited and uploaded a week after completion of the project. Uploaded through you tube to Camera Acting face book page.***

**First Project: October 23** (edited and uploaded by Oct 30) and **Oct 25** (edited and uploaded by November 1)

**Second Project: Oct 30** (edited and uploaded by Nov 6) and **Nov 1** (edited and uploaded by Nov 8)

**Third Project: Nov 6** (Edited and uploaded by Nov 13) and **Nov 8** (edited and uploaded by Nov 15)

**Fourth Project: Nov 13** (edited and uploaded by Nov 20) and **Nov 15** (edited and uploaded by Nov 26).

### **You will be graded on:**

- Successful Demonstration of your assigned responsibility (actor, director, etc.) – refer to the details for responsibilities of position listed near the end of syllabus
- Editing
- Preparation of Material (including lines, camera shots, location decision, shooting schedule, etc.) – refer to the details for responsibilities of position listed near the end of syllabus
- Working Relationship with your team
- Demonstration of Camera skills developed from previous assignments/exercises and all of the bullet points of assessment listed with them

## **6.Final Project – (Final Exam)**

A **three minute compilation** of the work you have done in class over the semester. Material should come from the previous major assignments. You can do one continuous 3 minute montage or 3 one minute montages. Material should be

uploaded to your **website** and **instructor provided** with the link for website by **Tuesday December 4 no later than 5pm.**

### **Class Room Behavior and Grading**

- If you miss class, you must make up the work assigned for the day you missed and you must be prepared to participate fully in class exercises or performances upon the day of your return.
- If you are absent during a group performance or presentation, you will not be allowed to make up this assignment, unless you have a certified excused absence. In this case, the other members of the group will be given an amended list of guidelines for completing the project without you.
- Your **first unexcused absence** will lower your final grade five points, your **second unexcused absence** will lower your grade 10 points (which will lower it a full letter), and your **third unexcused absence** will result in a failure of the course.
- Participating in a show is not a valid excuse for missing class or lack of preparation for an assignment.

### **ONLY THE FOLLOWING ARE CONSIDERED EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

- university sponsored and excused events
- serious illness that is documented by a doctor's note
- death or serious illness in the immediate family – please be aware you may be asked to provide documentation
- Or see excused absences under UCF Core statements.

### **Attendance**

- Acting training is a progressive process. Do not miss class. Acting training is about changing your technique and approach to acting. Every class is a valuable step toward altering your process.
- Punctual attendance for class - as for rehearsal calls - is mandatory. Repeated neglect

of this will result in a lowering of the final grade. You will be given a daily attendance and participation grade. (Participation is defined as daily in class exercises and assignments and/or daily constructive, professional feedback for your classmates that is based on techniques in class.)

### **Instruction / Content**

- Theatre requires the use of mind, voice, and body, therefore there will be situations requiring a certain amount of physical contact between you and the instructor and the other students. You will work with the instructor and your partner/s to develop physicality and/or physical contact that is comfortable for all parties involved and matches the given circumstances of the script.
- There are screenplays and materials which may express adult or controversial themes as well as strong language.
- You must inform the instructor during the first week of class if you have any physical challenges or otherwise that might impede your full participation and development of in class work. No need to go into details, just basic information to help the instructor understand your parameters and to set you up for success in the class.

### **Grading**

All work will be based on a 100pt grading scale (See specific points for each assignment)

Your overall grade for the class will be based on the accumulation of points for the following areas:

- Major Assignments (see weekly schedule)
- Possible Quizzes
- Participation in daily assignments and exercises
- Assignment deadlines and punctuality
- Willingness and Consistency when rehearsing with partners outside of the scheduled class time
- Professionalism (including attitude toward criticism, and respect for fellow classmates)

### **Grading Scale**

**95 – 100 / A**  
**94 – 90 / A-**

**83 – 80/ B-**  
**79 – 77/ C+**

**69 - 67/ D+**  
**66 - 64/ D**

**89 - 87 / B+**  
**86 - 84/ B**

**76 - 74/ C**  
**73 - 70/ C-**

**63 - 60/ D-**  
**Below 60/ F**

## **Academic Integrity**

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity

<http://academicintegrity.org>.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>.

## **Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating**

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF

degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a “Z Designation” on a student’s official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <<http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>>.

## **Course Accessibility Statement**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>> (Ferrell Commons 185, [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu), phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

## **Campus Safety Statement**

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide’s physical location and review the online version at <[http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency\\_guide.html](http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html)>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <<http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF>> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <<https://my.ucf.edu>> and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address,

cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”

- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>>).

### **Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses**

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <<https://my.ucf.edu>> and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

### **Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities**

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <<http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.1MakeupAssignmentsForAuthorizedUniversityEventsOrCocurricularActivities.pdf>>

### **Religious Observances**

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <<http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdf>>.

### **Deployed Active Duty Military Students**

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.