“Film and television acting is a tough business, tough to get into and tough to survive in, but not impossible.”
—Robert Benedetti

Instructor: Alison Frost
Office Hours: Tuesday/1:00-2:00, Wednesday/11:00-1:00, Thursday/1-3 or by appointment.
Office Location: BH 3.36
Office Phone: 361.825.2500
Instructors’ E-mail: alison.frost@tamucc.edu
Film scripts: www.simplyscripts.com, www.script-o-rama.com, among others...
Recommended Readings: Audition, Michael Shurtleff ISBN: 0-553-27295-0
I’ll Be in My Trailer: The Creative Wars Between Directors and Actors, John Badham & Craig Modderno ISBN: 1-932907-14-9
Required Purchases: SD Disk (You may share the cost of this with your film team. They’re sold at CVS.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class emphasizes the practice of various acting styles for television, video, and film. The student will receive practical experience in commercial styles, public service announcements, television and video style acting, and film scene study. Through exercises and scene study, the student will expand their range of emotional, intellectual, physical, and vocal expressiveness for the camera. Students will act in numerous on-camera exercises, television, and film scenes.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The student will:
- Demonstrate appropriate on-camera acting techniques.
- Analyze the differences between stage and film acting.
- Process and produce single-camera acting techniques for acting in film and dramatic television.
- Develop skills for a master shot, medium shot, and close-up shot.
- Develop skills for on-camera blocking, business, subtext, and reactions.
- Evaluate on-camera processes of successful professional film actors/directors.

COURSE GUIDELINES:
1. Bring your binder/journal/handouts/textbook with pencil to every class meeting.
2. Be respectful. Bodies, voices, and talent are different and will vary from person to person.
3. Due dates will be strictly observed. Assignments are due even if you are absent. If you know you will miss a class, it is your responsibility to turn your work in early. There will be no make-up work unless you have a verified medical emergency.
4. Students must keep duplicate copies of all work submitted.
5. It is the responsibility of each student to let the instructor know of any injury or illness that could in any way impact him/her in classes or in performance. Doctor’s documentation may be asked for verification.
6. Your participation in all discussion and exercises is necessary to the success of the class and to your personal growth.
7. Technology: This is a participation-oriented class. There will be no need for laptops or cell phones. Please leave them in a stored/off position for the duration of the semester.
8. Web and Blackboard Access. Students must have a TAMUCC e-mail account, a preferred email account, and access to the Web as well as TAMUCC’s Blackboard. Students should check their email and Blackboard daily.
GRADING EXCERCISES:

A. **Reading assignments and quizzes (30%).** You will be required to read handouts, book chapters, scripts and articles. In addition to participation in class discussions, you will also take periodic quizzes to determine your comprehension of the material. You are well advised to read ahead, highlight the book, etc... as the midterm will cover all 14 chapters.

B. **In-class Filmed Projects: PSA, Coffee scenes, Commercial, etc... (10%)**

C. **Mid-term Exam: (10%)**

D. **Partner Presentations on Actor Process: (5%)** Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss this partner presentation. All group presentations must be approved by instructor. Do not be afraid to ask for help with this project. Your instructor is here to help you with this.

E. **Final Film Project: (30%) You will work on 2 final film projects: one as an actor and the other as behind-the-camera support crew. Each project is worth 15%--thus a total of 30%.** Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss these film projects. All projects must be approved by instructor. Do not be afraid to ask for help with this project. Your instructor is here to help you with this.

F. **Final Exam/Written Assignments: (15%) All students must turn in 2 Final Film Project Essays that includes answers to the following in depth:**
   - Please comment about your specific contributions to this project—as actor / production crew member. What tasks did you do that aided in its completion? How did you approach the acting with your film? What were your most important contributions? In what ways (if any) might you have contributed more?
   - Please comment about each group members’ contributions to this project. Be sure that you discuss each group member individually, by name. What tasks did each group member do that aided in the projects’ completion? What were their most important contributions? In what ways (if any) might each member have contributed more?
   - What did you learn about film acting and successful film making from this project? Give examples.
   - What would you do differently if you had the opportunity to repeat this assignment? Be specific.
   - What did you enjoy most from working on this project?

   **THESE FINAL FILM PROJECT ESSAYS MUST BE PRINTED AND SUBMITTED ON THE DAY OF THE FINAL EXAM.**

Extra Credit

Each student is allowed to accumulate extra credit totaling no more than five percent of your grade. Five percentage points of extra credit will be awarded to students who complete a mini-research project on an Emmy or Academy Award-winning director focusing on their process of working with actors. These projects can be fun—include what they’re working on now, what they’ve said on “Inside the Actor’s Studio” or “Charlie Rose”, etc... Projects should be no less than 750 words and should follow MLA format. Each project must be approved by the instructor in advance.

**GRADING SCALE:** The final course grade will be based on the student’s earned percentage of total points available.

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 0-59% = F

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance in this course is critical to your success. For purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in your family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions.) Your absence affects the progress of the entire class. Two absences are without penalty; 3 absences will lower the final grade by a letter; and the fourth absence results in an automatic F. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You must consult with the instructor immediately to make such an exception viable.
Being on time: means being in the classroom ready to work and discuss the coursework.

Lateness: Two late arrivals constitute one absence. If you arrive more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

Missed Assignments: No make-up work for quizzes or missed in-class activities. Assignments are due on the assigned deadlines and will not be accepted late. If you know you will be absent, turn the assignment in early. An unexcused absence on the date of an assignment will result in a zero.

SAFE ZONES AND PERSONAL SPACE
It may be necessary for your instructor or fellow classmates to make physical contact with you to determine breathing, muscle tension, alignment, or perhaps in the form of interactive role play. If this ever makes you feel uncomfortable, please let the instructor know immediately.

DROPPING A CLASS
Should you find it necessary to drop this (or any) class, please consult with the instructor before doing so. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and completing a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

CLASSROOM / PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR
Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. This institution’s goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. It is expected that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated by TAMUCC.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Any student found guilty of academic academic misconduct or dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating will receive an “F” for the assignment, and, if the situation warrants it, for the entire course.

Definition of Academic Misconduct
Academic Misconduct is engaging in an act that violates the standards of the academic integrity policy as described in the Student Code of Conduct and Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases. In addition, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct.

a. CHEATING:
Cheating is intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.

Examples of Cheating: Copying from another student’s paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during a quiz, test or examination. Using books, notes, note cards, or other devices (e.g., calculators, cell phones, or computers) when these are not authorized. The acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff. Unauthorized collaboration on exams.

b. PLAGIARISM:
The intentionally, knowingly or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own. Exception is made when the ideas, information, etc. are common knowledge.

Examples of Plagiarism: Using another’s work from print, web or other sources without acknowledging the source. Quoting from a source without citation. Using facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without acknowledgement of the source.

c. MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS:
The submission of substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from instructors of the class for which the student submits the work.

Examples of Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without instructor permission. Making minor revisions in a credited paper or report (including oral presentations) and submitting it again as if it were new work.

d. COMPLICITY:
Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

**Examples of Complicity:** Knowingly allowing another to copy from one’s paper during an examination or test. Distributing test questions or substantive information about the material to be tested before a scheduled exercise. Deliberately furnishing false information.

e. **FABRICATION, FALSIFICATION, OR FORGERY:**
The intentional and unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation that is used in assessing academic work.

**Examples of Fabrication, Falsification, or Forgery:** Inventing, counterfeiting or omitting data and/or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record. Falsely citing the source of information. Altering the record of or reporting false information about practicum or clinical experiences. Altering grade reports or other academic records.

Adapted from Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, used with permission of and our thanks to Dr. Jennifer Buchanan, Associate Dean of the Faculties. Reference: Florida State University, Academic Honor Policy - http://academichonor.fsu.edu/policy/policy.html

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**PERSONAL COUNSELING: SHORT-TERM COUNSELING SERVICES:** University Counseling Center staff provide short-term individual counseling and psychiatric services to help students address personal problems that interfere with meeting the demands of college life and their academic success. Counselors can work with you to aide you in increasing self-awareness, improving self-confidence and acceptance, enhancing your ability to cope during changes and challenges, improving your decision making and communication abilities, and teaching you strategies to replace hurtful or self-defeating thoughts, feelings, and actions with healthy, adaptive, alternatives. Services are available to TAMUCC students who are currently enrolled and whose needs match our services. Walk-ins are welcome 8am to 5pm. Driftwood Bldg. #107 361-825-2703

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**GRADE APPEALS PROCESS**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
# TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

(Subject to change at instructor's discretion and depending upon the progress of the students in the class.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>In class</th>
<th>Assignment due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>Stage vs. Screen TV vs. film Acting</td>
<td>Discussion of syllabus and text</td>
<td>Discussion Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>Stage vs. Screen TV vs. film Acting</td>
<td>Discussion continued Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Quiz: Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 8, Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>The Frame, The Camera, Film jobs, Vocabulary</td>
<td>YouTube Research Assignment Outside of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>The Frame, The Camera, Film jobs, Vocabulary</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Quiz: Chapters 3, 4 DUE: 1-Minute written observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Film in class: PSA</td>
<td>FILM: 30-second Public Service Announcement</td>
<td>Public service announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>Film in class: PSA</td>
<td>FILM &amp; VIEW 30-second Public Service Announcement</td>
<td>Public service announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>Reactions, Business/Continuity, Sound, Vocal</td>
<td>Discussion Final Project Groups Assigned</td>
<td>Quiz: Chapters 5, 6, Checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>Coffee Scenes / Business</td>
<td>Assign / Rehearse coffee scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>Coffee Scenes</td>
<td>FILM: coffee scenes in class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td>Coffee Scenes</td>
<td>FILM: coffee scenes in class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>Coffee Scenes</td>
<td>FILM: coffee scenes in class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Coffee Scenes</td>
<td>View and discuss coffee scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3-Min Film Project</td>
<td>GROUPS 1/4 &amp; 2/5 : 3:30 GROUPS 3/6 &amp; 4/1: 3:55 GROUPS 5/2 &amp; 6/3: 4:20</td>
<td>Groups meet and plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>Acting in Commercials</td>
<td>Discuss/rehearse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>Acting in Commercials</td>
<td>FILM: Commercials in class</td>
<td>DUE: Commercial prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3.19</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>Shooting and Editing</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Quiz: Chapters 13, 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM: Chapters 1-14 &amp; Discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>Film Actors &amp;/or Directors: Their Process</td>
<td>Group Presentations: 7 minutes total each group</td>
<td>DUE: Process presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3-Minute Film Prep</td>
<td>Dry-run, filming prep, nuts and bolts</td>
<td>DUE: costume list, prop list, shot list, script, location approval, addendum of scene requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>In-class Rehearsal Observation</td>
<td>Groups 1, 2, 3 perform their scene for a critique</td>
<td>Scenes memorized and blocked</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>In-class Rehearsal Observation</td>
<td>Groups 4, 5, 6 perform their scene for a critique</td>
<td>Scenes memorized and blocked</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Start-End</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Description</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Sunday-Saturday | 4.12-18  | 3-Minute Film On-set                                                     | Group 1 acts 3-minute scene  
Group 4 techs 3-minute scene  2 hours, 30 minutes maximum  
Filming must be completed from 4.13-4.19  
Filming may not overlap with Groups 2/5 |
| Sunday-Saturday | 4.12-18  | 3-Minute Film On-set                                                     | Group 2 acts 3-minute scene  
Group 5 techs 3-minute scene  2 hours, 30 minutes maximum  
Filming must be completed from 4.13-4.19  
Filming may not overlap with Groups 1/4 |
| Sunday-Saturday | 4.19-25  | 3-Minute Film On-set                                                     | Group 3 acts 3-minute scene  
Group 6 techs 3-minute scene  2 hours, 30 minutes maximum  
Filming must be completed from 4.20-4.26  
Filming may not overlap with Groups 4/3 |
| Sunday-Saturday | 4.19-25  | 3-Minute Film On-set                                                     | Group 4 acts 3-minute scene  
Group 1 techs 3-minute scene  2 hours, 30 minutes maximum  
Filming must be completed from 4.20-4.26  
Filming may not overlap with Groups 3/6 |
| Sunday-Saturday | 4.26-5.2 | 3-Minute Film On-set                                                     | Group 5 acts 3-minute scene  
Group 2 techs 3-minute scene  2 hours, 30 minutes maximum  
Filming must be completed from 4.27-5.3  
Filming may not overlap with Groups 6/3 |
| Sunday-Saturday | 4.26-5.2 | 3-Minute Film On-set                                                     | Group 6 acts 3-minute scene  
Group 3 techs 3-minute scene  2 hours, 30 minutes maximum  
Filming must be completed from 4.27-5.3  
Filming may not overlap with Groups 2/5 |
| Tues        | 5.5       | Q&A, Review                                                              |                                                                                                       |
| Thurs       | 5.7       | FINAL EXAM: 1:45-4:15 p.m.                                              | FILM PRESENTATIONS & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS DUE FOR FINAL EXAM                                        |
|             |           |                                                                          | DUE: 3-Minute Film, Group presentation, 2 Final essays—typed.                                       |
HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ACTING FOR THE CAMERA
THEA COMM 4371

☑ Attend class
☑ Keep up with your syllabus—and work ahead. (There’s always a copy on Blackboard.)
☑ Read the assigned material in advance—and not 30 minutes before class.
☑ Use highlighters and make notes in the margins of everything you read, cut, rehearse...
☑ Contribute to class discussions.
☑ Rehearse your scenes aloud—never silently.
☑ Get someone to watch you—even if it’s you. (Use a smartphone and film yourself.)
☑ Watch film/television this semester with an analytical eye, turn down the volume, listen instead of watch, explore what the actors/directors are communicating through eye movement, camera angles, prop placement, composition, etc....
☑ Communicate with your groups / partners—exchange phone numbers, emails, and collaborate.
☑ Meet with your instructor during office hours if you need advice, assistance, etc... Alison.frost@tamucc.edu /

Alison.frost@gmail.com
I have read the entire syllabus for THEA 4371.001 ACTING FOR THE CAMERA, Spring 2015. I have read and understand the policies and requirements of the course particularly in regard to attendance, readings, exams, cheating, and assignments. I understand the fluidity of the syllabus and that all changes, updates and additions will be posted on Blackboard. I understand that any special provisions or accommodations must be presented in advance of any deadlines and that these accommodations will not be granted retroactively.

_____________________________  ______________________
Signature of Student          Date

Student Name (PRINTED)       ________________________________
Student TAMUCC Email          ________________________________
Student Preferred Phone       ________________________________

This sheet must be returned to Alison Frost at the end of the first class day.