

**DC 449 Acting for Filmmakers
Spring Quarter 2018
R 5:45 – 9
14 East Jackson, LL107**

Professor: Shayna Connelly
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Office: CDM 504
Office hours CDM: see Bluestar

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide students who plan to work with actors in any aspect of cinema or interactive media, with a foundation in the actor's craft. This will be a hands-on, practical class in which all students will be required to participate fully in the exercises and scene work. Topics to be covered include: relaxation, concentration, trust, listening, sensory work, physical actions, improvisation, imagination, needs, circumstances, objectives, obstacles, scene analysis and scene work. The course will culminate in a staged scene to be presented in class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

LEARNING GOALS:

By taking this course, students will:

- develop an understanding of the craft of acting;
- acquire a critical eye and analytical vocabulary of acting;
- create an awareness of how actors use mind-body-voice to reveal character;
- analyze a monologue;
- prepare for and carry out monologues and rehearsals;
- understand the relationship between camera and performance.

TEXTBOOKS AND TOOLS:

Merlin, Bella, *Acting: The Basics*
Nicholas, Angela, *99 Film Scenes for Actors*
Smith, Marisa and Schewel, Amy (Ed.) *The Actor's Book of Movie Monologues*

GRADING

Grades will be given for each assignment. Late work will not be accepted for grading. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. In

my experience, students who neglect to turn in even one assignment have difficulty passing the class.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Attendance/In-class exercises	20%
Live Monologue	10%
Scene 1 On-camera audition	10%
Scene 1 Live Performance	10%
Scene 2 Exploratory Rehearsal	10%
Scene 2 Live Performance	10%
Scene 2 1-shot Scenes	10%
Written Preparation & Reflections	20%

A = 100 – 93, A- = 92 – 90, B+ = 89 – 88, B = 87 – 83, B- = 82 – 80, C+ = 79 – 78, C = 77 – 73, C- = 72 – 70, D+ = 69 – 68, D = 67 – 63, D- = 62 – 60, F = 59 – 0.

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1

Choose a monologue.

3/29 Introduction. Components of acting.

Homework: Choose and work on monologue & Bring a significant object

Read: Merlin, Chapter 1 & 2

WEEK 2

4/5 Actor's Preparation and Scene Analysis. Building Character.
Partnering: hot objects exercise.

Homework: Memorize monologue & actor's preparation

Read: Merlin, Chapter 3

Due in class: Bring a significant object

WEEK 3

4/12 Workshop monologues in class.

Homework: Develop monologues & revise actor's preparation after workshoping

Due in class: Off-book for participation credit

WEEK 4:

Pair up and choose final scenes

4/19 Perform monologues.

Homework: Choose 2 scenes with partner

Read: Merlin, Chapter 4

Due @ 11:59 pm: Actor's preparation for monologue

WEEK 5:

4/26 Auditions from the actor's perspective.

Homework: Actor's preparation scene 1

Read: Merlin, Chapter 5

Due: 2 scene choices with partner

WEEK 6:

5/3 NO CLASS MEETING

Record audition tape for scene 1 outside of class.

Homework: Film audition tape and actor's preparation for scene 2; watch *Michael Caine on Acting* on d2l

Read: Merlin, Chapters 6

Due: actor's prep scene 1

WEEK 7:

5/10 View and critique videotaped auditions.

Homework: prepare scene 1 for live performance

Due before class @ 5 pm: videotaped auditions

Due @ 1159 pm on d2l: actor's prep scene 2

WEEK 8:

5/17 Scene 1 performance

Homework: off book for scene 2

WEEK 9

5/24 Exploratory Rehearsal: scene 2

Homework: Final Reflection

Due in class: Off-book for participation credit

WEEK 10

5/31 Live final performance: scene 2

Homework: Record scene 2 final as one-shot scene

Due @ 11:59 pm: Final Reflection

WEEK 11/ FINALS WEEK

6/7 ***Upload final scenes to d2l: content > box uploads on 6/7 @ 11:59 pm***

COURSE POLICIES:

In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

DESIRE TO LEARN – The course uses D2l to post notes and assignments. Please visit <https://d2l.depaul.edu> and use your campus connect ID to enter the site.

FAQ DISCUSSION BOARD – Please post any questions you have about assignments, the course, logistics, etc. on the FAQ discussion board. Students are required to subscribe to this board (see d2l for instructions).

HANDOUT & ASSIGNMENT COPIES – Handout and assignment copies are available on d2l.depaul.edu. Written assignments will be submitted to a folder on d2l.

FILE LABELING – You must put your name on your work. All files (.mov, mp4, PDF or word) must be labeled **last name_first name_assignment**. In addition, write your name on your paper or include a credit/slate with your name on any movie files.

READING ASSIGNMENTS – “The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.” – Mark Twain

STUDENT CLASS PREPARATION – Please dress in comfortable clothing you can move around in. Bring paper and writing utensils to every class for note taking and in-class exercises. Students are expected to complete all assigned work listed on the syllabus.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES – Students are responsible for all information given to them on the syllabus, assignment sheets, email updates and d2l (FAQ discussion, News Items, etc). This includes assignment specifications, procedures on how and where to submit work, how to label assignments and when dropboxes close. Students are expected to be pro-active, manage their time well and meet all expectations. **The professor will not remind students of assignments and deadlines.** In the event of an absence it is the student's responsibility to review information in the syllabus, assignment sheets, lecture notes if applicable and contact a peer for missed information. Deadlines will not be adjusted if a student misses a class.

INTERNET ACCESS AND EMAIL – Students must have 24-hour internet access and are responsible for reading all communications from the professor via email, news items and discussion boards. Update your email address in campus connect and check your junkmail box regularly.

DEADLINES – Late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor's discretion. You will not be eligible for an 'A' in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time. Deadlines are listed in multiple places and there is no excuse for not turning work in on time. No emailed work will be accepted. Uploading to d2l too close to the deadline may result in the dropbox closing before it finishes.

STALLING TACTICS – Submitting a blank document, incorrect document or corrupted document on d2l are thinly veiled ways to buy more time for an assignment. This will not be tolerated. If I cannot open your assignment, it is the same as not turning it in and it will receive zero credit.

ACCEPTED FORMATS – PDF and Word documents only. No JPEG, PNG or Pages files will be accepted. For film work .mov or .m4v files will be accepted. Test your exports on a Mac computer other than the one you created the project on before sending.

ATTENDANCE – Attendance and attention in class are mandatory. Any absence (missing more than 15 minutes of class time per session) will impact your grade. Each student is allowed ONE absence (equal to two tardies) before your grade is affected.

ILLNESS – Do not attend class if you are ill (heavy cough, fever, vomiting) or think you might be coming down with something. If you show up visibly sick, you may be asked to go home. In order to prevent a consequence with the attendance and deadline policies, contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me posted until you return. As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, allowances will be made for

your situation. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor's discretion. Students with long-term illnesses should contact the Dean of Students office to inquire about a medical withdrawal.

Absolutely no consideration will be given for those who request special treatment without advanced notice, even with a doctor's note.

INCOMPLETES – No incompletes will be given.

COMPUTER/SMART PHONE USE – I can tell the difference between using your laptop to take notes and using it for other purposes. Turn off your phone during class.

PLAGIARISM – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses. Students caught plagiarizing earn a failing grade and/or fail the course depending on the egregiousness of the infraction. All cases of plagiarism result in an Academic Integrity Violation. Students are expected to understand what constitutes original research and how to use proper citation methods. All papers are automatically run through anti-plagiarism software turnitin.com.

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY – I am **available** during my office hours, which are listed at the top of the syllabus and online. You may email me at any time. Please note that I check my email and d2l several times a day, however I do not keep student hours. If you need specific help with your work, give me at least 24 hours notice. I cannot help with last minutes questions. If you notice a problem on d2l (incorrect deadline, something locks before it should, etc.) or if you have a general question about an assignment or policy, post in the **FAQ discussion board**. Students who answer questions on the FAQ board earn extra credit.

ADDRESSING THE PROFESSOR – Please call me by my first name in both emails and in person. If my kids' friends call me Shayna (rhymes with Dana), you can, too. The only time you should address me as 'Professor Connelly' is if you are writing an email to multiple professors and are using titles for the others.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES – Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted:

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at +1 (773) 325-1677, Student Center #370.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS – This course includes instructional content delivered via audio and video. If you have any concerns about your ability to access and/or understand this material in its default format, please notify me within the first week of the course so accommodations can be made.

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted:

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