

**THEATRE 381**  
**ACTING FOR THE CAMERA – SPRING 2018**  
**3:00 – 4:50 TUESDAY/THURSDAY; CAC 112**

**OFFICE HOUR: 2:30 – 3:30 FRIDAYS**  
**NFAC #171**

**INSTRUCTOR: STEPHEN TROVILLION SMITH**  
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***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- adapt the theatrical acting techniques acquired in Fundamentals, Scene Study and Period Acting to the specific demands of on camera acting work.
- work effectively as on camera talent in a studio situation.
- audition effectively for filmed media.
- work collaboratively using the working vernacular of the filmed media, including the titles and responsibilities of the production team, to facilitate achievement of these learning outcomes.

***COURSEWORK***

- We will examine the following types of on-camera work:
  - Commercials
    - Verbal
    - Non-Verbal
    - Cue Cards
    - Bite ‘n Smile
  - Industrial film (ear work)
  - TV Episodic/Feature Film
    - Terminology
    - Production Practices (hitting your marks, master/medium/close-up shots, wardrobe, etc.)
    - Close-Up Acting (monologue and edited scene)
- We will not study soap opera/sitcom/multi-camera/continuous action work as this is the closest to working on stage.
- You should prepare a monologue for use in the close-up acting segment of feature film and you will be writing the edited feature film scene.
- You will be expected to be an attentive audience during taping sessions when you are not talent and also to serve as crew (hair and makeup, etc.) as assigned.

## ACTING FOR THE CAMERA SYLLABUS CONTINUED

- There will be a test covering film terminology, including job titles and responsibilities as well as industry and technical terms. All terms will be covered in the textbook or classroom lecture or both.
- You must watch five of the “100 Greatest American Films” as defined by the American Film Institute. At least three of the films must have been made before 1980. A one page, typed response to each of these five films must be handed in for evaluation at the end of the semester (see handout). You should use the terminology and production practices knowledge you have learned in class when doing your evaluations.

### ***GRADING RUBRIC***

- Grading will be based on:
  - On-camera Work 60%
  - Classroom Attitude/participation 20%
  - Terminology Test 10%
  - Film Responses 10%

### ***ABSENCE POLICY***

- *You are allowed only two absences per semester. These excused absences are to cover illness or family emergency. These absences are in addition to official university holidays and university condoned religious holidays. Following the second absence, your grade will be lowered one grade level for every additional absence. Please note that camera logistics make it difficult if not impossible to make up missed work!*

### ***PLEASE NOTE***

- Cell phones should be turned off during class time, not simply silenced. A ringing cellphone can destroy a shot that has taken a long time to set up. No other electronic device may be used without specific permission.
- This class may require physical contact. You should know that you may be physically touched by others in the class and/or by me.

### ***SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS***

*Acting for the Camera* by Tony Barr

*I Could have been a Cabdriver...But I Became an Actor Instead*” by JoBe Cerny