Acting IV-Advanced Acting (Acting for Film)
TH 4351.010 | Spring 2020

Instructor Information
Ashley Meyer, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate (ABD)
Ashley.meyer@angelo.edu
Office: Carr EFA | Room 164 | Direct line: 325.486.6191
Office Hours: | M/W 1:00 PM-3:30 PM, or by appointment

Course Meeting Information
Tuesdays and Thursdays | 12:30-1:45PM | Carr E/FA 241A

Required Text
*The Camera Smart Actor by Richard Brestoff (Smith and Kraus)*
Do not care which edition or format you choose.

Course Description
Focus on acting for the camera and alternative approaches to acting.

Course Content
This course will introduce the basics for film acting through readings, discussions, and film exercises.

Course Specific Expected Learning Outcomes
*Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:*
1) Audition for film
2) Put together a film acting reel
3) Understand the concepts and terminology of basic film acting

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes
This course will use a “point system” for all work, including tests and participation. There are 1000 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Assignments</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acting Journals</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Daily Exercises</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Project</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Reel Project</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The methods of assessment described below are followed by the correlating outcomes that they access.

1) **Acting Journals:** Worth 35 points each for a total of 140 points. Students will write about their in-class performances and their experiences with the exercises to assess goals and outcomes of the common acting exercises. The responses are an opportunity for the student to reflect on the experiences and for the instructor to follow individual progress more efficiently.

2) **Reading Quizzes and exercises:** Reading quizzes will be given. Ten (10) quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth ten (10) points, for a total of one hundred (100) points possible. The questions will be related to the assigned readings (textbook). Completing assigned readings will ensure success in these assignments. There will be one quiz for every chapter and pop quizzes during meetings with instructor. Acting Exercises will also count for quiz grades.

3) **Midterm Exam:** Worth 250 points. Students will film a short scene provided by the instructor.
4) **Final Reel Project:** Worth 300 points. Students will put together a final acting reel using the guidelines provided by the instructor.

5) **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class, including asking questions, answering questions, initiating classroom discussion, and participating fully in all classroom activities with a positive attitude. Students are also expected to demonstrate growth in all objective areas on a daily basis. (Handout to follow). If your final point count is between two grades, participation will be taken into account to raising or lowering the grade.

**Grading**

Grades will be calculated using a 1000-point scale. You must earn the number of points listed below to receive the grade you want.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-970</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>969-920</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>919-890</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>889-850</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>849-810</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>809-780</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>779-750</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>749-710</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>709-660</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>659-620</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>619-590</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>589-550</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>549-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Blackboard**

This course does utilize Blackboard.

**Content Disclosure**

Courses within the Department usually deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended on such grounds as sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department’s practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

**Electronics Policy**

Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom or during any class activity. Phones and other electronic devices are to be turned completely off (not just silenced) the moment you enter the studio and must remain off during the class period. Likewise, text messaging is prohibited in the classroom or during any class activity. Students utilizing the phone or messaging during class will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an absence for the day. Messaging during an exam/performance will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Computers and Ipads can be used in class for the purpose of note taking and research. Students misusing their computers (i.e. being on-line, or on social media) will lose their computer privileges for the duration of the course. Be physically and mentally present.

**Physical Contact Policy**

In drama, the actor becomes a medium as well as a creator of art. Stage life, which may involve actions such as touching, laughing, crying, kissing, dancing, flirting, threatening, dueling, and/or fighting, is not something the actor merely mimics, but necessarily experiences in and with his or her own body and mind. The ancient maxim of Horace, ‘in order to move the audience, the actor must first be moved himself,’ is as valid today as when Horace stated it two thousand years ago: stage performance involves not only the externals of body and voice, but also the internals of longings and emotions. Effective
teaching in the drama disciplines, therefore, may often involve physical and/or emotional interventions that can be demonstrative, suggestive, and/or challenging. This has been true as long as theatre has existed.

Course Work Load
According to the Angelo State University guidelines, students are expected to spend approximately two-three hours in preparation for each hour of lecture. The instructor anticipates that out-of-class work for this course will not exceed this guideline for most students.

Late Work: Because of the pacing of this course and performance-based nature of the work, performances, peer critiques, and exercises cannot be made up. Play reports will lose a letter grade for every day that one of them is turned in late. Pop reading quizzes must be made up within one week of missing a pop quiz.

Attendance Policy
Timeliness and presence are crucial to excellence in the performing arts. Each student is allowed two (2) absences before your final grade is affected. For each absence beyond these allotted absences, your final grade will be reduced by ½ a letter grade with each subsequent absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. General rule: If you arrive to class after attendance has been taken, you are tardy. Pop quizzes and tests must be made up within one week of the original date of the assignment. Performances and in-class rehearsals cannot be made up barring a medical emergency at the discretion of the instructor.

Medical emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Doctor’s appointments subsequent to an illness or injury will NOT count as an excused absence.

Please note: The only university-recognized excused absences are participation in official university business or for bona fide religious holy days. Participation in official university business must be documented by written notice from sponsoring faculty or staff member at least one week prior to the event.

Observance of a Religious Holy Day
Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

ADA Statement
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Office of Student Services at (325) 942-2191, Student Life Office, room 112 if you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising
The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication, Mass Media, or Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU's Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at (325) 942-2710.

Grade Appeal Process (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances)
A student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc
<http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc>
**Honor Code Policy**

Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at [http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf)

**Civility In the Classroom**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers, cellular phones or other text messaging devices, beepers, eating or drinking (except for water bottles), making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom.

In instances where a student is proved to be a distraction, the student will lose five points from their grade. Second occurrence will result in ten points removed. On the third occurrence, the student will be removed permanently from the classroom.

Additionally, in the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting.

In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class.

If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Dean of Students office.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

**Michelle Boone, J.D.**

_Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator_

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022  
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the _University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345._
The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.
Spring 2020 Syllabus Contract
Return this signed page to the instructor
Due January 15

I__________________________have read the TH 4351 syllabus and understand its contents. I will fulfill the requirements necessary for the grade I want.

____________________
Student Name

____________________                            ________________
Student Signature                                       Date