

CTPR 470 – 18572R  
Practicum in On – Screen Direction of Actors  
Monday 1pm – 3:50 pm RZC Stage A

Instructor: Steve Albrezzi  
[steve@stevealbrezzi.com](mailto:steve@stevealbrezzi.com), cell: 818 6676840

SA: Kyle Smithers  
[smithers@usc.edu](mailto:smithers@usc.edu), cell: 404 8951126

Text: Directing Actors by Judith Weston

Screenplays: Sideways, Blood Simple, Sex, Lies and Videotape

## **Course Description**

This class is oriented toward a deeper understanding of performance for the screen. The intention is to give comprehensive exposure to issues of working with actors. Scene study will provide students with experimental opportunities, as well as a tool box of directorial techniques from casting, through rehearsals, to on – set adjustments.

Each student will direct one scene from the following screenplays: Sideways, Blood Simple, and Sex, Lies and Videotape. All students will read and analyze all three scripts prior to scene work.

Students are required to read Judith Weston's DIRECTING ACTORS

## **Course Objectives**

Personal and creative discovery and growth

Scene Analysis – Develop your instinct to identify and communicate pertinent given circumstances and crucial events.

Directors vocabulary – deepen and sharpen your ability to equip actors with doable objectives.

Casting – Explore various approaches to the casting process.  
Evaluate Quality, Technique and Workability.

Examine various rehearsal and staging techniques.

The success of the class is contingent on the active participation of all students, thorough preparation, on time attendance and each students commitment to exercises and scene work.

Grading will be based on the detailed work, preparation, on time attendance and scene homework. All written assignments must be typed.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting academic accommodation based on disability is required to register a with Disabilities services and programs(DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodation can be obtained from DSP. DSP is located STU 301 .is open 8:30 to 5:pm. Monday through Friday ) 213) 740-0776.

ATTENDANCE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of class. Arrive late or leaving early except for a documented illness or emergency will constituted non – attendance for the session. Excluding the first class meeting you get ONE unexcused absence. It is important for your fellow scene partners and fellow classmates that you show up. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers pagers text messages etc. while in class.

20% attendance and participation  
50% In class assignments (scene work presented)  
30% Written and reading assignments (preparation)

Aug. 25 – Class 1  
Introductions  
Review syllabus  
Open Scene Exercise

Assignment: Read Directing Actors pp. 1–76  
ATTEND STA AUDITIONS (TBD)  
Choose a scene to work on from selected screenplays

Sept. 1 – NO CLASS – LABOR DAY

Sept. 8 – Class 2  
SCRIPT ANALYSIS – Objectives and Given Circumstances

Uta Hagen's six steps  
Harold Clurman's 3 column breakdown

Assignment: Watch The Graduate  
Read SIDEWAYS (on Drews Script o Rama)

Read Directing Actors pp. 77– 162

Sept. 15 – Class 3

Apply analysis to The Graduate

Read DIRECTING ACTORS pp. 163– 234  
Read Blood Simple (Coen Brothers)

Sept. 22 – Class 4  
CASTING PRACTICUM  
Discuss Blood Simple analysis

Assignments:

Cast your scene outside of class:

Reserve a room

Read Sex Lies and Video tape

Sept. 29 – Class 5

REHEARSING/STAGING – First read. Contact reading. Laying track. Events. Freedom and empowerment. Motivation vs Technical adjustments. Physical activities. The power of “print”.

Assignment Read DIRECTING ACTORS 234–307

Oct. 6 – Class 6

GROUP A SCENES – IN CLASS READINGS – review directors prep

Oct. 13 – Class 7

GROUP A SCENES – IN CLASS REHEARSAL  
(WITH ACTORS)

Assignment: CHOOSE SECOND SCENE

Oct. 20 – Class 8

GROUP B SCENES – IN CLASS READINGS – review directors prep

Oct. 27 – Class 9 – IN CLASS REHEARSAL

GROUP B SCENES – (WITH ACTORS)

Nov. 3 – Class 10

GROUP C SCENES – IN CLASS READINGS – review directors prep

Nov. 10 – Class 11 – GROUP C REHEARSAL (WITH ACTORS)

Nov. 17 – Class 12 – GROUP A and B, PREP/PERF MTGS.

Nov. 26 – 29      THANKSGIVING RECESS

Dec 1 – Class 13 – GROUP B/C PREP/PERF MTGS.

**\*\* ALL FINAL SCENES MUST BE FULLY STAGED, OFF BOOK, WITH APPROPRIATE PROPS AND WARDROBE.**

Required REVIEWABLE preparation:

Theme

3 Column breakdown – beat breakdown (objectives, adjustments and physical activities)

Given Circumstances

Weston Charts

Production notes on rehearsals

Visual inspirations

**\*\*\*ALL WRITTEN PREPARATION IS DUE UPON FIRST SHOWING  
STUDENTS GRADE WILL BE AFFECTED IF THIS DEADLINE IS NOT MET.**