

School of Cinematic Arts
Writing Division
FALL 2017 CTWR 572 (19424D): PRACTICUM FOR DIRECTING ACTORS FOR FILM
TWO UNITS

Instructor: Wendy Phillips
Class Schedule: Monday/9 am - 12:50 pm
Class Location: SCA 214
Office Hours: TBD
Contact Information: secondstorygroup@yahoo.com

Course Objective:

1. To help you build a practical bridge between the disciplines of writing, directing, and acting.
2. To show you how to create, through collaboration, a consistent emotional reality in your work, to maximize your impact on the audience.

Course Description:

- An explanation of the similarities and differences between the major approaches to acting.
- An exploration of the actor's vocabulary.
- Participation in basic acting exercises involving character objectives, personal objects, emotional memory, sensory memory and imaginary circumstances.
- Division of the class into the roles of, writer and director for collaboration on written and performed scenes.

Course Reading:

Directing Actors: Creating Memorable Performances for Film and Television

Grading Criteria:

Written assignments can be emailed to Wendy Phillips at secondstorygroup@yahoo.com on or before the due date. Students should also bring a hard copy of homework assignments to use in class. All scene and monologue work must be memorized.

10% Memorization
15% Scene One
15% Scene Two
20% Final Project Performance
20% Final Project Screenplay
10% Participation
10% Final Exam

As per Writing Division policy the following is a breakdown of numeric grade to letter grade:

A	100% to 94%	C	76% to 73%
A-	93% to 90%	C-	72% to 70%

B+	89% to 87%	D+	69% to 67%
B	86% to 83%	D	66% to 63%
B-	82% to 80%	D-	62% to 60%
C+	79% to 77%	F	59% to 0%

Expectation of Professionalism:

All material is expected to be turned in on time and in the proper format. Assignments will be penalized for grammatical mistakes, spelling errors, format mistakes, and typos. Please proof your assignment prior to submission.

Writing Division Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. Two unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered by one full point (ex: A to a (A-)). A third unexcused absence will result in your grade being lowered another full point (ex: B to a (B-)). Your grade will be lowered by one point for every absence after. Two late arrivals equate to one full absence.

In order for absence to be excused the student must have approval from the professor and provide documentation at the next attended class session.

Please note that if you are a Writing for Screen and Television major/minor you must receive a grade of a C or better in order to receive degree credit. If you have any questions about the minimum grade required for credit please check with your home department.

If you have an emergency and must miss class please contact your professor prior to class or contact the Writing Division at 213-740-3303.

Laptop and Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phone use will not be permitted during classroom hours. No texting. Laptop computers may be used for note taking during specified periods only.

Class Schedule:

Please note that all dates are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Week 1: August 21

- Introduction of course, syllabus, expectations.
- Discuss terms: objectives, beats, actions.
- Personal introductions.
- Warm-up.
- Cold read scenes.
- Assignment: Group 1A scenes assigned. Due Week 2, August 28, & Week 4, September 18

Week 2: August 28

- Warm-up.
- Rehearse Group 1A scenes.
- Discuss terms & concepts.

- Assignment: Group 1B scenes assigned. Due Week 3, September 11 & Week 4, September 18. Group 1A directors assigned for Week 4, September 18.

Week 3: September 11

- Warm-up.
- Rehearse Group 1B scenes.
- Discuss terms & concepts.
- Screen film clip.
- Assignment: Group 1B directors assigned for Week 4, September 18.

Week 4: September 18

- Warm-up.
- Group 1A & 1B perform assigned scenes.
- Discuss performed scenes with actors and directors.
- Assignment: Group 2A scenes assigned. Due Week 5, September 25, & Week 7, October 9.

Week 5: September 25

- Warm-up.
- Rehearse Group 2A scenes..
- Screen film clip.
- Assignment: Group 2B scenes assigned. Due Week 6, October 2, & Week 8, October 16. Group 2A assigned directors for Week 7, October 9.

Week 6: October 2

- Warm-up.
- Rehearse Group 2B scenes.
- Screen film clip
- Assignment: Group 2B assigned directors for Week 8, October 16.

Week 7: October 9

- Warm-up.
- Group 2A perform assigned scenes.
- Discuss performed scenes with actors and directors.
- Discuss Final Project.
- Assignment: Final Project Group 3A – Due Week 9, October 23, Week 11, November 6, Week 13, November 20.

Week 8: October 16

- Warm-up.
- Group 2B perform assigned scenes.
- Discuss performed scenes with actors and directors.
- Screen film clip.
- Assignment: Final Project Group 3B – Due Week 10, October 30, Week 12, November 13, Week 14, November 27.

Week 9: October 23

- Rehearse Group 3A Final Project Scenes.

Week 10: October 30

- Rehearse Group 3B Final Project Scenes.

Week 11: November 6

- Camera Block Group 3A Final Project Scenes.

Week 12: November 13

- Camera Block Group 3B Final Project Scenes.

Week 13: November 20

- Film Group 3A Final Project Scenes.

Week 14: November 27

- Film Group 3B Final Project Scenes.

Week 15: December 11

- Screen Final Project Scenes. Written Final Exam.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. <http://dsp.usc.edu>

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>