School of Cinematic Arts
Writing Division
FALL 2016 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.
3. To introduce to you the techniques of the modern actor's process.
4. To have fun at work.

Course Description:

➢ A history and analysis of what is commonly referred to as "film acting."
➢ 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.
➢ Performance of scenes and monologues by students.
➢ Division of the class into the roles of, writer and director for collaboration on written and performed scenes.
➢ A study of acclaimed performances in film scenes to analyze the distinction between the contributions of the scripts and the performances.

Course Reading:

Directing Actors: Creating Memorable Performances for Film and Television
Grading Criteria:

Written assignments can be emailed to Wendy Phillips at seconstorygroup@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
10% Scene One
10% Scene Two
15% Final Project Performance
15% Final Project Screenplay
15% Monologue Performance
10% Participation
15% Final Exam

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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 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 equates 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:
- ➢ Introduction of course, syllabus, expectations.
- ➢ How work is to be formatted.
- ➢ How to memorize.
- ➢ Discuss terms: objectives, beats, actions.
- ➢ Personal introductions.
- ➢ Warm-up exercise.
- ➢ Cold read scenes.

- ➢   Assignment of scenes for Groups 1A and 1B. Due over the following four weeks.
- ➢   Assignment of monologue due dates.

Week 2:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise.
- ➢   Rehearse Group 1A scenes.
- ➢   Discuss term: personal object.
- ➢   Screen film clip demonstration use of personal object.

Week 3:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise.
- ➢   Rehearse Group 1B scenes.
- ➢   Perform two monologues.
- ➢   Discuss concept: blocking (illuminating scenic structure).

Week 4:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise.
- ➢   Perform Group 1A scenes incorporating blocking, all discussed acting terms, and directing.
- ➢   Perform three monologues.
- ➢   Discuss concept: subtext.

Week 5:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise.
- ➢   Perform 1B scenes incorporating blocking, all discussed acting terms, and directing.
- ➢   Perform two monologues.
- ➢   Screen film clip demonstrating use of subtext.
- ➢   Assignment of scenes for Group 2A and 2B. Due over the following four weeks.

Week 6:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise (sense memory demonstration).
- ➢   Rehearse Group 2A scenes.
- ➢   Perform three monologues.

Week 7:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise (sense memory demonstrations).
- ➢   Rehearse Group 2B scenes.
- ➢   Perform two monologues.
- ➢   Assign written subtext exercise due over the following two weeks.
- ➢   Discuss Final Project and assign deadlines.

Week 8:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise.
- ➢   Perform Group 2A scenes incorporating all discussed acting terms and directing.

- ➢   Perform two monologues.
- ➢   First draft of Group 3A Final Project Scenes due.

Week 9:
- ➢   Warm-up exercise.
- ➢   Perform Group 2B incorporating all discussed acting terms and directing.
- ➢   Perform two monologues.
- ➢   First draft of Group 3B Final Project Scenes due.
- ➢   Final draft of Group 3A Final Project Scenes given to actors.

Week 10:
- ➢   Reahearse Group 3A Final Project Scenes.
- ➢   Final draft of Group 3B Final Project Scenes given to actors.

Week 11:
- ➢   Rehearse Group 3B Final Project Scenes.

Week 12:
- ➢   Film Group 3A Final Project Scenes.

Week 13:
- ➢   Film Group 3B Final Project Scenes.

Week 14:
- ➢   Screen All Final Project Scenes.

Week 15:
- ➢   Study Week.

FINALS WEEK:
- ➢   Written Final Exam evaluating students' comprehension of core acting concepts and techniques including screening and critique of acclaimed film scenes. Held Dec. 12 between 11AM and 1PM.

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 Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. 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/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the *Department of Public Safety* http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate

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the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems
A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.htmlprovides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* *http://emergency.usc.edu/*will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Disruptive Student Behavior
Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible fordisruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.