

Location: PED 207

Instructor: Katherine Burton  
Office: MCC 208  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Contact Info: burtonk@usc.edu

### **Course Description**

This course is “Auditioning for the Camera” which will include using scripts from film and television from the vast array of the entertainment industry: studio and independent features and network and cable television. We will determine what your type is and choose scenes based on that determination. We will cater our work to each student's individual needs, choosing material that both strengthens and stretches them. We will work on how to prepare scenes for an audition. We will discuss over preparing and under preparing, what to do in a cold audition and how to dress and present yourself. Our initial film scripts will be August, Osage County by Tracy Letts, Ladybird by Greta Gerwig and BlacKkKlansman by Spike Lee. This work should complement and enhance your previous acting classes and help you move to an understanding about the nuanced shifts that actors need to make when they are auditioning for the camera. We will also discuss the difference between auditioning for the film/television script and playing the role. Your professor is a working actor who will be giving you examples of what she is teaching you in real time. We will move on to television scripts and culminate the semester with 2/3 audition pieces from both media which will be filmed for your use.

### **Learning Objectives**

To prepare you to successfully audition for film and television projects.

**Prerequisite(s):** THTR 101 and THTR 252b

### **Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

Scripts will initially be provided electronically. You will be able to provide your own pieces as well.

### **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

After an initial group reading of the film script of August:Osage County, scenes will be cold read. We will then move on to group readings of

Ladybird and BlacKkKlansman and scenes will be assigned. These will be presented as audition pieces over two sessions; first read cold and then memorized. This will be our midterm. We will discuss the difference between auditioning for theater and film/television and possible the differences between auditioning for film and television. We will be using some of the language used in your other acting classes: making an active choice, overcoming an obstacle, following an objective. You can be working on your own outside of class but are welcome to work with partners if that is helpful. We will move to filming after the Spring break and will introduce some television scripts and scripts of your own choice. We will culminate the semester with 2/3 filmed scenes for you use. You will be assessed by how well you prepare for class and how you have fully realized your characters in preparation for your audition.

### Grading Breakdown

Film Scenes 30%  
Film midterm 10%  
**TV:Film 40%**  
**TV/Film final: 20%**

### Grading Scale (Example)

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

### Assignment Rubrics

As mentioned above, you will be assessed on how well you develop the character that you are auditioning for. I will expect you to be off book the second time you present the scenes from Ladybird and BlacKkKlansman. I do not expect you to be off book for August: Osage County. In the second half of the semester I expect you to be off book the second time you present any scene and ALWAYS when they are being filmed.

### Assignment Submission Policy

I will let you know at least a week before your assignment is due.

### Grading Timeline

I will give both midterm and final grades.

### Additional Policies

I expect all students to be on time and in class. I will provide a 20 minute break as we have a double class. I will allow use of computers when we are reading the full scripts but will expect you to print out your scenes for Ladybird and BlacKkKlansman and beyond. I will only accept emailed excuses for both illness or an emergency. After three excused absences your absences will be reflected in your grade.

### Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1	Introduction to your professor and the course. Students will introduce themselves.	No HW	
Week 2	MLK: No class	No HW	
Week 3	Begin Reading August:Osage County	No HW	
Week 4	Finish reading August	No HW	
Week 5	August: cold read of scenes.	<i>Read Ladybird and BlacKkKlansman</i>	
Week 6	President's Day: No class	Read Ladybird and BlacKkKlansman	
Week 7	Cold reads of Ladybird and BlacKkKlansman	Memorize assigned and printed out scenes.	
Week 8	Present memorized scenes from Ladybird and BlacKkKlansman	Memorize assigned scenes	
Week 9	Midterm:presentation of scenes	No HW for Spring Break	
Week 10	Introduce TV and other film scripts.	Memorize assigned scenes	
Week 11	No class:Professor OOT for event in NYC	Memorize assigned scenes	
Week 12	Continue with TV and film scripts	Memorize assigned scenes	
Week 13	Continue with TV and film scripts	Prepare scenes	

Week 14	Final presentations	Prepare scenes	
Week 15	Final presentations	Prepare scenes	
FINAL	Call Back	Prepare scenes	Monday 5/11 2-4PM PED 207

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITMENTS AND ISPS

Should you choose to participate in any extra-curricular project, such as an Independent Student Production, the SDA administration and faculty will not make allowances or exceptions for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, home work that is required as preparation for class, or lack of participation in class resulting from your extra-curricular involvement.

### 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" [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://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>.

#### Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) [ability@usc.edu](mailto:ability@usc.edu).

#### Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

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#### 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. [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://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. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](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. [engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://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: [sarc.usc.edu](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. [equity.usc.edu](http://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. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://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. [dsp.usc.edu](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. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](http://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. [diversity.usc.edu](http://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. [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

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

Provides overall safety to USC community. [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)