

**School of Cinematic Arts  
The John Wells Division of  
Writing for Screen and Television**

**CTWR 572 (19383): PRACTICUM FOR DIRECTING ACTORS FOR FILM  
SPRING 2021**

Instructor: Wendy Phillips  
Class Schedule: Thursday/9 am - 12:50 pm  
Class Location: Online  
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:**

*To Be Decided*

**Grading Criteria:**

Written assignments can be emailed to Wendy Phillips at [secondstorygroup@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
5% Pop-Up Direction  
5% Book Report

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.

### **Internet Policy:**

Material discussed in the room is considered private and should not be blogged, tweeted, posted, snapchatted, or be posted anywhere else on the internet.

### **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.

### **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 five percent. Your grade will be lowered by five percent 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.

### **Class Schedule:**

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

Week 1: Jan. 21

- Personal Introductions.
- Discuss Concepts of "Objectives", "Beats", and "Listening".
- Warm-up.
- Cold read short scenes.
- Assignment: Group 1A scenes: due Week 2, Jan. 28 & Week 4 Feb. 11. Group 1B scenes: due Week 3, Feb. 4 & Week 5, Feb. 18.

- Discuss Pop-Up Directing.

Week 2: Jan. 28

- Warm-up
- Discuss Concept of Personalization.
- Assign Book Reports
- Rehearse Group 1A scenes.

Week 3: Feb. 4

- Warm-up
- 1 "Pop-up Scene".
- Rehearse Group 1B scenes.
- Discuss Concept of "Subtext".

Week 4: Feb. 11

- Warm-up
- 2 "Pop-up scenes".
- Perform Group 1A scenes.
- Discuss Concept of "Given Circumstance".

Week 5: Feb. 18

- Warm-up
- 2 Book Reports.
- Perform Group 1B scenes.
- 2 "Pop-up scenes".
- "Discuss Concept of Personal Objects".
- Assignment: Group 2A scenes due Week 6, Feb. 25 & Week 8, March 11. Group 2B scenes due Week 7, March 4 & Week 9, March 18.

Week 6: Feb. 25

- Warm-up
- 2 Book Reports.
- Rehearse Group 2A scenes.
- 2 "Pop-up Scenes".

Week 7: March 4

- Warm-up
- 2 Book Reports.
- Rehearse Group 2B scenes.
- 2 "Pop-up Scenes".

Week 8: March 11

- Warm-up
- 2 Book Reports.
- Perform Group 2A scenes.
- 2 "Pop-up Scenes".
- Discuss Final Project.

hurWeek 9: March 18

- Warm-up
- Perform Group 2B scenes.
- 2 Pop-up Scenes.
- 2 Book Reports.

Week 10: March 25

- Warm-up
- Complete any unfinished work
- 3 Book Reports.

Week 11: April 1

- Final Project.

Week 12: April 8

- Final Project.

Week 13: April 15

- Final Project.

NO CLASS APRIL 22

Week 14: April 29

- Final Project.

Finals Week:

## 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, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*  
[engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*Student Health Leave Coordinator – 213-821-4710*

Located in the USC Support and Advocacy office, the Health Leave Coordinator processes requests for health leaves of absence and advocates for students taking such leaves when

needed.

<https://policy.usc.edu/student-health-leave-absence/>

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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

[engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

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

[equity.usc.edu](https://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](https://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

*Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](https://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](https://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](https://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

**Diversity and Inclusion**

Diversity and Inclusion are foundational to the SCA community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all identities and backgrounds can flourish. The classroom should be a space for open discussion of ideas and self-expression; however, SCA will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation or violence against person or property. If students are concerned about these matters in the classroom setting they are encouraged to contact their SCA Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, <http://cinema.usc.edu/about/diversity.cfm>; e-mail [diversity@cinema.usc.edu](mailto:diversity@cinema.usc.edu). You can also report discrimination based on a protected class here <https://equity.usc.edu/harassment-or-discrimination/>

**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 for disruptive 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.