



Course ID and Title: *Intro To Screen Acting*

Units: 2.0

Term—Day—Time: Wednesday 2:00pm-4:50pm

IMPORTANT:

The general formula for contact hours is as follows:

Courses must meet for a minimum of one 50-minute session per unit per week over a 15-week semester. Standard fall and spring sessions (001) require a final summative experience during the University scheduled final exam day and time.

(Please refer to the [Contact Hours Reference](#) guide.)

Location: SHR 105 **Instructor:** Ahmed Best

Office: N/A **Office Hours:** Avail by appt

Contact Info: aabest@usc.edu

323-381-0413 I will typically respond within 48 hours

Course Description

Students will learn screen acting and collaboration for film. They will learn to identify film set positions, personnel, and design to cultivate a personal process that will allow the actor to be an integral part in the overall filmmaking process.

Learning Objectives

The ability for actors to create a method for film has often been a trial and error process. The actor in the filmmaking process is often thought of last and not as someone integral in the design of filmmaking. You will learn that the actor is an essential collaborator with the ability to recognize how we should behave emotionally by where the camera is placed, where the light is focused, and how the production design is organized. This course will be integral in creating a film acting method tailor made for each individual actor.

Recommended Preparation:

“Good Will Hunting”- Gus Van Sant

“The Karate Kid” - John G. Avildsen

“Enter The Dragon” – Robert Clouse

“Notorious” – Alfred Hitchcock

Course Notes

“Night of The Hunter” – Charles Loughton

Conversations with Wilder – Cameron Crowe

Hitchcock/Truffaut – Francois Truffaut

Course Notes

This class will use group exercises and film analysis. These group exercises are participation heavy and intensely collaborative in nature. Full participation from all components being prepared and ready are imperative.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Students must own or have access to some form of a computer.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

N/A

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Grading Breakdown

Participation should be no more than 15%, unless justified for a higher amount. All must total 100%.

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 Submission Policy

It is imperative to turn in assignments on time and do your prep outside of class so that the group projects are not slowed down or prevented in any way by absences (unless absolutely necessary) or tardiness. Grading Timeline Final grades will be submitted within one week of class completion. Additional Policies Being late to class or set will count against your grade. Please do not miss classes and/or days on set. Missing days will not only prevent the group projects from being completed but will heavily count against grading. Do not use phones or eat in class while students are working

Grading Timeline

Final grades will be submitted within one week of class completion.

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

USC policy prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Course evaluation

Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. It is an important review of students' experience in the class. You should expect to receive an email update once the system has launched to provide your feedback on this course. In addition, you are always welcome to connect with with me as the instructor to offer any feedback on the course.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

Topics/Daily Activities Readings and Homework Deliverable/ Due Dates

Week 1	Intro, ways of seeing. favorite narratives.
Week 2	SHOTS SHOTS SHOTS SHOTS
Week 3	SLCDAE
Week 4	LIGHT
Week 5	COLOR

Week 6	COLOR
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WEEK 7	DEPTH		
WEEK 8	SHAPE		
WEEK 9	EMOTIONAL ENGINE		
WEEK 10	SPEED		
WEEK 11	DRAMA		
WEEK 12	RELATIONSHIPS		
WEEK 13	BREAK IT DOWN		

SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

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. 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 Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. OSAS is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for OSAS and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 814-4618 (Vidoe Phone), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) 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.

Health and Participation in Class

You are expected to complete your Trojan Check screener daily and, as your instructor, I may ask you to show your daily screening in class. Your health and safety, and the health and safety of your peers, are my top priorities. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you discover that you have been in close contact with others who have symptoms or who have tested positive, you must follow the instructions on Trojan Check. My hope is that if you are feeling ill or if you have been exposed to someone with the virus, you will stay home to protect others. I will ensure that you can continue to participate in class remotely so that your education is not disrupted.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, USC requires that face coverings (masks) be worn indoors including in classrooms. Face coverings must cover your nose and mouth and be worn throughout the class session. A mask with a valve is not considered an adequate face covering and should not be used, as it can expel exhaled air, increasing the risk to others. Eating or drinking during class is prohibited because of the risk posed by removing your mask for these activities. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in your being asked to leave the classroom immediately. Requests for accommodations related to the face covering and eating/drinking policies should be directed to the Office for Student Accessibility Services (<https://osas.usc.edu/>).

SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

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

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
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) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

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

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776
<https://osas.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 Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710
campussupport.usc.edu

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

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, 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

Non-emergency assistance or information.

