USC School of Dramatic Arts

Course THTR250 Camera and Improvisation
Units: 2.0
FALL 2022—Friday—Time: 3:00PM-450PM

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: Shrine 105.

Instructor: Julián Juaquín Conde
Office: jconde@usc.edu
Office Hours: Friday 5PM-7PM
Contact Info: JConde@usc.edu

Course Description
Welcome to Camera & Improv! This course provides an introduction to the basics of being in front of the camera as well as behind the camera. You will learn the skills you need to create the world around yourself in the space of your audition. You will also be behind the camera and learn how to create story by writing filming and editing short films.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Apply basic concepts of creating an audition.
2. Develop a comfortable presence in front of the camera
3. Create your own film content from beginning to end

Prerequisite(s): THTR 220A or THTR 252A
Co-Requisite(s): N
Recommended Preparation: Get comfortable using a simple editing software like iMovie for Apple computers.

Course Notes
We will develop film and story telling content by just doing. A great deal of what we learn will be through trial and error experimenting in front of the camera as well as behind the camera. The more we practice the better we get.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required
Students will be asked to use their phones to film their content and have sufficient space on a hard drive. We will be editing on a basic software like iMovie. Please have a computer or iPad available and ready to work on.

Editing project. Students will gather footage and pictures of themselves and edit a one minute and a half story with narration.

Action sequence. Students will write an action sequence of one to two minutes long. They will shoot, edit and add music. The students have the choice to be in front or behind the camera, or both, for this project.

2 Page scene. Students will write a two page scene. They will then shoot the project and edit it into a final piece. Students have the choice to be in front or behind the camera, or both, for this project.

Grading Breakdown

Grades will be recorded in the Blackboard gradebook and updated weekly

Assignment	% of Grade
Editing project	20
Action Sequence	30
2 page film	30
Class participation	20
Final	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

Assignments are to be submitted either via google drive or Vimeo the day that they are due.

Grading Timeline

Grades will be given a week after projects are presented.

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.

Campus 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. (SeeSection 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 me as the instructor to offer any feedback on the course.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

Video projects will be uploaded to Vimeo or google drive and be reviewed in class the day they are due.

Understand that things may change depending on the progress of our class and the creative factors that are presented, be ready to switch gears.

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1	Course overview and acting goals.		

Week 2	Lecture: Understanding storytelling and how to incorporate it in our		
Week 3	Getting comfortable in front of the camera. we will do Informative auditions.	Gather your materials for your editing project.	
Week 4	We will watch your editing project.		*September 16th Editing project is due*
Week 5	We will do on camera Cold Monologues		
Week 6	We will review your cold monologue	Put your action sequence script together.	
Week 7	We will watch your action sequence.		*October 7th, Action sequence is due.*
Week 8	Off		
Week 9	You begin to develop your 2 page script		
Week 10	We will be doing cold read sides.		
Week 11	We will review your cold sides.		
Week 12	Off		
Week 13	Continue your work on the 2 page script.		
Week 14	Off		
Week 15	We will do a mock Chemistry read.		
FINAL	We will watch your final 2 page film project.		*Monday December 12th, 2pm-4pm* *Your 2 page script film is due.*

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.

***

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

***

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.